

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Minutes

Attended by: Stephen Phillips, Tom McMahon, Elizabeth Brown, Earl Chilton, Bob McMahon, Beth Bear Joanne Grady, and Leah Elwell.

- A) Approval of Previous Call Minutes - Leah Elwell - Bob made motion, Stephen seconded all in favor.
- B) Coordinating the coordination – Elizabeth Brown;
 - a. Letter to Rocky Plains Fish Pathology and AFS – RFPF met with AFS; and AFS did agree to take on the QA/QC under the fish health committee and the aquaculture subcommittee and is receptive to having a WRP representative; need our best fish minds, either from Ex Comm or member, to provide feedback and have a good working knowledge of what our challenges are. No information on when they will start meeting. Possibly put out at the annual meeting of who might be interested. Joanne – it is on the agenda at the BC on the 16th, so we could suggest at that time too. Elizabeth – yes, but recognize that the AIS state coordinators are strapped so could be someone else appropriate.
 - b. NAISMA – has two things going on right now of interest to our membership; release new AIS mapping standards; Elizabeth shared with the WRP last week for review and comments. It is very interesting how they are approaching it, it is general and could be adaptable and very plant based, not very applicable to zebra mussels; members and Ex Comm should be looking at and commenting on. Second item, creating national invasive species campaign. Had several meetings and put out a survey asking interesting questions, they were querying states, federal agencies, county etc. Would you use an all taxa campaign etc. Elizabeth shared with the WRP and others last week and hoping that people are providing feedback. We need to be paying attention to them. They did respond to the WRP query letter and would address our request at their August BOD meeting, but have not heard back from them.
 - c. RRISC folks are still trying to schedule a time in October; NALMS also would like to meet with WRP. She has not had any contact with AFWA, they have their meeting next week. Elizabeth’s boss, Greg Gerlich, will be presenting similar information that has been shared in the past with AFWA on AIS. WAFWA is on hold until we have discussion on perimeter defense strategy. Some further contact with WGA; Tom was working with them in providing economic information will be regrouping with them in October. It looks like they will be focusing on the cost of doing nothing, they do not want to talk single species on this topic which is a very global perspective but is a challenging, and we need to have a conversation about how we will approach this perspective. They talk in dollars and cents, and want to be able to define the problem from an economic perspective and communicate the solution in an all taxa format. Stephen – the message to them is we want something because we don’t have much. Thing to keep in mind is

that we are doing a lot of good things. States are only getting \$20K/year from USFWS grant program. It would be great if we could add some aquatics language to the Bishop bill – but likely we missed our chance on this as it has long since been introduced and has had a hearing, but maybe other legislation will come along. Elizabeth – need to tie what states are actually getting. Joanne – use caution when asking for money, it should be new money not re-directed money. Stephen – look at the Tahoe and Great Lake bills are stand alone bills and we need to de-couple from usual appropriations bills to get support. We have to set ourselves up in that position. Elizabeth – how do we go about getting the economic information that we really do not have? Stephen – will that information be shared? Tom – we came up with very little, Stephen was kind enough to share some past studies specific to AIS. Elizabeth – I have provided all that information to WGA already, all of the current available information which was insufficient. Stephen – Also, Hoover Dam has spent several years and several million dollars, Kansas spent \$400K in QZ abatement, and NWPPC put out document on prevention economic information. Elizabeth – what does prevention buy us? Stephen – linked to the calcium map, we can certainly take the economic data and package this to low, medium and high case and right now we are spending \$20M on Watercraft Inspection Stations in the west, if there is enough value we may be able to pull together a comparison, but we need more. Elizabeth - For every dollar you spend on prevention you save money in economic impact. Stephen - We have easily saved triple in the PNW. Elizabeth – Phase II of Colorado’s economic study is all funded from terrestrial perspective and need this specifically for QZ. By doing for QZ, we are also addressing other species. Need to be able to tell this story to obtain support. Bottom line is we need more specific asks for the WGA.

- C) Legislation update - Stephen Phillips –On Heller quagga listing bill, FWS/Heller staff have had discussions on the bill’s water provider exemption language; have not yet heard if there was any resolution. WRRDA will not likely have any immediate funding flowing (for FY 2015 at least). Will need to get a conversation going with the CORPS on WRRDA and prioritize getting that authorization out the door. Joanne – has not heard if there was any information on the Heller/USFWS quagga bill. Stephen - No news on the Tahoe bill has got Q listing language with the exemption; on the Lacey act there was a press flurry on Gillibrand/Slaughter bill, but unlikely action will occur in this congress. The budget deal on the CR is on hold for now. EPA released its final environmental statement on 75 ft. or less vessel permit which was tied to a lot of ballast water management language that many states oppose. Exemption is a big deal for many in the commercial fishing and boating community.
- D) WRP Annual Meeting
 - a. Finalize business meeting agenda – discussion on final revisions of the agenda.
- E) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons – all updates were held as the following week is the annual meeting in Houston Texas, where all committees will be providing an update.
 - a. Annual Meeting 2014 Committee– Earl Chilton/Leah
 - b. Building Consensus Workgroup – Joanne Grady

- c. Coastal Committee –report from Chair Sonia Gorgula
 - d. Membership Committee– Leah
 - e. Recreational Ballast Tank Research Workgroup – Stephen
 - f. Fiscal Sustainability Workgroup – Elizabeth
 - g. WIDT Workgroup - Elizabeth
- F) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
- a. Ballast Discharge – TBD
 - b. Lionfish – John Wullschleger
 - c. QZAP – Stephen Phillips
 - d. Snakehead – John Wullschleger
 - e. Strategic Plan / Action Plan – TBD
 - f. Education and Outreach - Elizabeth
 - g. SAH! Advisory Committee –Joanne Grady
- G) Announcements – ALL