

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Thursday September 10th, 2015; 10 am MDT

Attended by: Elizabeth Brown, John Wullschleger, Stephen Phillips, Beth Bear, Bob McMahon, Dennis Zabaglo, Joanne Grady, and Leah Elwell.

Minutes

- A) Approval of Previous Call Minutes - Leah Elwell. John motioned to approve, Bob seconded. All in favor.
- B) Chair and Vice-Chair Election and Discussion. Stephen nominated Dennis for Vice-Chair, Joanne seconded. Joanne motioned for Elizabeth Brown as Chair, and Dennis as Vice-Chair, Beth seconded. All in favor.

Discussion: Beth commented on current process for Ex Comm rotations, possibly having terms, or some way to better encourage new people in Ex Comm. Institutional knowledge is important. Suggested to examine American Fisheries Society Ex Comm rotations with vice chair, chair and past chair. Purpose is to spread out the burden. Stephen agreed, and suggested Membership Committee compile options and how we could potentially change in the future. We want to encourage new participation. We could still have different leadership call in for reports that are not on Ex Comm. There could be possible 6 year term limit, with committee chairs reporting in. We don't want to lose momentum. Bob McMahon suggested 4 year term limits. He agrees that others should be rotating into Ex Comm. Elizabeth stated she was first Ex Comm, then vice and then chair. The same was true of Karen McDowell before her. Eileen Ryce served six years as Chair, Karen Served two and Elizabeth is now starting 4th year as chair. Other organizations she has participated in with the three year President-Elect, President and Past-President rotation have suffered because the organization truly has no leadership when they have a new leader every year. It's impossible for form meaningful and effective relationships, and accomplish projects, in that short time frame. It does take a while to get good at being chair, and might struggle with new leader each year. Term limits are probably a good idea. Other than being on Ex Comm, or being Chair or Vice-Chair, how do we get other people involved? Most committee chair roles are filled by Ex Comm members currently. Those committee chair roles could be filled with others interested in leadership roles. James Dominguez and Tom McMahon should be running committees since they want to be involved but did not get elected to Ex Comm. It would give them exposure and experience. On another note, Joanne noted that Ex Comm has had have a liaison instead of chairs of committees reporting to Ex Comm. There are not any "rules" about the balance in Ex Comm for coastal, inland, state, federal etc. There is nothing formal in place for leadership profiles. Elizabeth cautioned about putting too many rules or terms because then may run the risk of not being able to fill our seats. Right now we are very productive, relevant and meaningful because of the leadership in place so people want to be involved. That hasn't always been the case and in years past, we struggled to fill seats on ExComm. Coastal, Federal, Research profiles are needs. Joanne wondered if this is more of a recruiting need than bylaws change? Beth struggles with the division on coastal vs. inland.

Elizabeth – Coastal committee is the best it has been in a long while despite not having anyone on Ex Comm the last two years. Bob stated the most important thing for Ex Comm is that people really want to be on it instead of limiting who should be on it. Elizabeth would like to find leadership role to give James and Tom, and others who are interested in participating and dedicating their time to the WRP. Dennis stated that Tom has an important role in DC visits. Still opportunities where they are giving an active role in something important. NISAW committee report? Dennis stated if we do term limits, and no one else wants to participate how do we make exceptions? We don't want empty slots. Beth thinks that if people knew the term election, we might see more participation. Bob suggested in the 2017 bylaw revision we could increase the number of slots on the Ex Comm. Dennis asked if there are any ANSTF requirements; what do the other panels do? Elizabeth stated that we need the state/federal representatives for membership, but there are no rules on the size of the Ex Comm. Membership committee to explore and bring back to Ex Comm for further discussion.

- C) Budget Discussion – Bob Wiltshire, Invasive Species Action Network (fiscal manager for the panel) gave fiscal overview of where the WRP is financially and current trajectory. At this time the WRP will not fully expend the USFWS contract funds. That contract deadline can be extended to August 2017 but would not carry us through another meeting. There are a few pathways: 1) withdraw all of the appropriate costs from meeting from USFWS funds and at same time put the sponsorship funds into a newly created WRP bank account; 2) run through the 2016 meeting and see what is left and come up with a plan to use funds (e.g. mini grant, etc.) This would not allow any sponsorship money be able to be utilized for future annual meetings. Stephen – who will be the fiscal oversight of the bank account? Bob W – As the current fiscal manager and fiscal sponsor it would be ISAN. A monthly report can be provided to the Ex Comm, and a bank statement provided. Stephen - What if ISAN goes away? Bob W – ISAN will coordinate with WRP as to what you want to do with money. Stephen supports setting up WRP account, and utilize USFWS grant in full. Bob W –cannot set up “WRP” account because it is not a legal entity. ISAN can create a separate account within and can hold the account. If WRP wants to own their own account they will need to create their own 501c3. Elizabeth would like to continue with as ISAN as fiscal manager, and possibly explore the “friends of” idea in the future. Stephen suggested in the future PSMFC may be able to assist WRP if looking for an administrative entity. Elizabeth would like to set up a dedicated call just to talk about finances for 2-3 hours as an Ex Comm. John motioned that ISAN set up WRP fiscal account. Bob McM seconded. All in favor.
- D) Coordinating the coordination update – Elizabeth – Travis Ziehl, Teton County Weed and Pest, did try to help get dialog going with the Clean, Play, Go group (without much success since the reply stated their steering committee is full) and thinks the outreach committee needs to work on this if the AIS community wants to adopt this campaign. This will need to be coordinated through Western Invasive Species Coordination (WISCE) and ANSTF. Joanne – Clean, Drain, Dry trademark issue update. Wildlife Forever has submitted the words “Clean, Drain, Dry” to be trademarked. She has initiated a call today on trademark issue seeking advice from attorneys from Sea Grant Law Center and others. There is a \$300 cost to file opposition to a trademark.

Texas Parks and Wildlife is looking to send letter to Wildlife Forever (WF) threatening to oppose if they do not withdraw. WRP may be looking at getting a non-profit to submit a compiled opposition letter. Beth – has there been direct communication with WF on this topic? Joanne – Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies meeting is next week and WF is on the agenda for the invasives committee. Elizabeth is not sure who else is opposing; Forest Service is funding WF, BLM is funding WF. WF has a different perspective on it. Joanne –we can collect signature oppositions, and we can alert them of the current use. The concern is that WF says that managing agencies can use the CDD without any consequence, but relying on that it is simply someone’s word. John – how do they trademark if we don’t know who developed it? Joanne will learn more on the call today.

- E) Legislation update - Stephen Phillips – Government shutdown is being talked about across the country this week. Congress does not have that many days left and they will be looking at the FY 2016 budget. A Continuing Resolution seems likely? Hopefully a deal can be worked out that would include the gains made this year in appropriations (i.e. increase in ANSTF grants to states and Water Resource and Reform Development Act watercraft inspection funding for the Pacific Northwest).
- F) Annual meeting 2015 Debrief– Leah and Dennis – Overall the group was pleased with the 2015 meeting. Dennis felt that the final discussion on “what is invasive species” should have planned better and that it did not have an objective and outcome for that portion. He suggests that these types of discussion in more of a building consensus type situation. Possibly next steps or action items would be good. Thanks to Bob for putting it together. Group agreed that ISAC definition was the best. Bob suggested the dialog could be an opening for another or further discussion and consensus. Felt it was an educational session for those who may not have dealt with it previously. John – not a trivial question and something managers wrestle with. Major management implications on defining invasive species.
The meeting participation numbers include; 102 people for registered participants, and additional unknown number of people walked in. There were 45 people registered for the field trip; 18 of those were voting members. Leah is assembling a post meeting survey. Beth is looking at continuing education instead of field trip for the 2016 meeting. All agreed that a field trip is important for making connections and enjoy them. Bob felt that a part of the big number of attendees is location. Good location, right setting, appropriate AV and people will come. Jackson will be a good draw for that reason. Elizabeth felt that attendance is also a testament for how well the WRP is doing. Leah will send the survey out and committee participation sign up next week.
- G) ANSTF upcoming attendance and recommendations – Leah drafted “ANSTF Ongoing Activities and Recommendations” document for review. The Ex Comm will send comments to her by September 21. Leah will send back out for finalization with comments. Ex Comm agreed to send Leah to represent the WRP at the Fall ANSTF meeting.
- H) Announcements – ALL -