

# Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

Thursday September 8, 2016; 10 am MDT

Attended by: Elizabeth Brown, Stephen Phillips, Mark Sytsma, John Wullschleger, Beth Bear, and Leah Elwell.

## Minutes

- A) Approval of August minutes - Leah Elwell – Beth moved to approve August minutes, Stephen seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- B) Coordinating the coordination update - Elizabeth
  - a. Next week Stephanie Showalter Otts and Elizabeth will be presenting with Boat USA at the North American Boating Law Administrators Conference in Seattle, WA.
  - b. In total, Elizabeth will be doing 5 presentations over the next 2 months on WRP.
  - c. She has been invited to speak next week at a gathering of US Bureau of Reclamation, US Dept of Agriculture, and US Army Corps of Engineers Invasive Species Leadership Team meeting to discuss federal engagement on invasive species. She has been posed the questions of “What are the agencies not doing?” or “What can agencies do better?” The obvious answers are increased funding, legal authorities and mechanisms to provide support. Most of these things require legislation, so what can be done without legislation? Requesting that their regional staff participate in WRP membership was one suggestion. Suggestions can be sent to her before 9/13/2016.
  - d. Stephen talked with Idaho State Invasive Species working group, and Council of State Governments - West on Building Consensus.
- C) Legislation update – Stephen
  - a. The state of Colorado was able to secure an amendment into WRDA which authorized an additional \$25 million and expanded geographic boundaries. The Columbia River basin was included in the 2014 WRRDA; with funds appropriate in FY 2016 and we are hoping to see funds on the ground by spring 2017? If 2016 WRDA passes with the Senate language intact the CRB will also receive USACE funds for stations in the 4 CRB states outside of the basin itself. In other words, areas like Eastern Montana, and Southern Oregon would be eligible for funding. Monitoring funding was also proposed in the FY 2017 Senate energy and water appropriations bill.
  - b. VIDA update –alternate language (“compromise bill”) has just been introduced that removes of the concerns that VIDA raised on the freshwater side. The NDAA, where VIDA is amended, will not be dealt with until post-election lame duck
  - c. Appropriations – how long would a continuing resolution last? Sounds like it will be a ~3-month CR that will allow a FY 2017 budget negotiations to be taken up after the election (lame duck). Current Interior appropriations budget has \$3.7 million for state plans, a significant increase over FY 2016.
  - d. DC hill visit group during NISAW will meet next week for their first call. Rapid response funds might be a good request to bring to legislators.

- D) Membership election update –The current names on the ballot will be Dennis Zabaglo, John Wullschleger, Tom McMahon, Jeff Adams and Tammy Davis.
- E) Threats to the West – Leah – Leah gets requests for these brochures periodically. Now there is a finite number of these left. The last revision was in 2012. Beth and Stephen still use, but several folks do not. What are options for the brochure when they are all gone? WRP could provide print ready files to those that need it. Stephen feels there is value in having a catch all brochure for the west. WRP will query participants in Jackson what their future interests in the Threats brochure might be. John suggested WRP could make something smaller or re-do it, or increase the prevention message and reduce the number of species. It is going to take some effort to do a change. Follow up: Leah has the final print ready files digitally and the PDF file is 30 MB.
- F) ANSTF reporting form – Elizabeth – Susan Pasko provided a PDF reporting form for the ANSTF members and panels. The form is great in terms of functionality and purpose. The ANSTF will use the form to provide a report to Congress annually. The 2015 GAO report called for the need of better reporting by the ANSTF. The way the form is currently structured requires activities to be linked to the ANSTF strategic plan and funding. WRP has a conflict in how to report activities in the form. If the WRP reports based on funding, then the output will list coordination only, and would not reflect the work of the Coastal Committee, Building Census efforts and more because there are no direct WRP funds associated with those activities. In November, Elizabeth will report back on the discussion at ANSTF.
- G) Ex Comm meet in October prior to Jackson? - yes
- H) WRP Committee/Working Group Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
  - a. Annual Meeting 2016 Committee – Beth – pre-meetings and workshop space is secured; room block for hotel sleeping rooms has been modified 2 times. The agenda is set.
    - i. WAFWA + Building Consensus– Elizabeth/Beth – queried the state people on a call last week for topics to discuss on October 18 and it comes down to containment and to have a discussion highlighting the good stuff that QZAP has supported at Lake Mead and Lake Powell; and then get down to the root of why containment is not happening in other places (e.g. Arizona). What are the barriers? What can WAFWA and WRP do to facilitate implementation? Data sharing? What are the barriers to not coming online? Mark Fowden might be best to send the details to the Fish Chiefs that are participating. Beth will clarify with Mark.
    - ii. Sponsorship updates; AV contract – Leah – In addition to lunch, Istonish wants to sponsor a happy hour Wednesday evening. Leah will follow up. Leah stated that Hughes Productions will provide the speakers/mics on day 2 will need a deposit of half of the estimate. Stephen moved to allow Leah to secure service with a down payment, Beth seconded. All in favor of deposit for the AV.
    - iii. Workshop – 15 for each workshop are registered; Leah is drafting up an exit survey for participants.
    - iv. Registration numbers – As of today there are 70 for wed/thurs and 51 for field trip (capped at 60)

- b. Annual Meeting 2017 – Leah – California Fish and Wildlife contact has done a walk through on the 2 places we are looking at for the Fall 2017 meeting. The Hilton property just informed Leah that they are unable to host WRP because another meeting took the space. Leah will clarify with CA Fish and Wildlife and CA State Lands Commission with their financial commitment for the meeting. Leah will send the details on the preferred location Horton Grand Hotel in the gaslight district. WRP will need to secure a location soon.
  - c. ANSTF Meeting Spring 2017 – Leah has provided Susan Pasko with the recommended host hotel for Tahoe. The USFWS will sign the contract with the hotel as this is their meeting. This meeting space will need to be secured soon. Dennis is reaching out to Susan to encourage this to move forward.
  - d. Building Consensus Workgroup – Joanne Grady
    - i. WIDT Workgroup – Elizabeth – They will hold a trainer training next week at Lake Mead; and Dee and Elizabeth have discussed some good edits for the next version of training manuals.
    - ii. Legal – Joanne – The draft model regulation is to be finalized September 19<sup>th</sup> by the workgroup and presented to AFWA and NASBLA once ready
    - iii. Data Sharing – Elizabeth – She did a webinar last week with all of the active users and other partners. AZ will be using the system soon. She will be training with AZ to use the system.
    - iv. Outreach – Beth – no report.
    - v. Sampling Protocol – report from Chair Karen Vargas – She sent out form to capture how entities are sampling specific to dreissenids. This was due the end of August. Leah will remind Karen that they have agenda time in Jackson.
    - vi. Inreach –report from Chair Tammy Davis - no report. Leah will remind that they have agenda time in Jackson.
    - vii. Lab Standards – Elizabeth – This workgroup will be chaired by Steve Wells of Portland State University; no progress update; Wells has a clear idea of a final product for this effort.
  - e. Coastal Committee –report from Chair Nicole Dobroski – They will have a call in September to discuss recent new location discovery of European Green Crab and to develop recommendations for the WRP discussion in Jackson. They are waiting on final edits on the biofouling paper.
  - f. Membership Committee – Leah is trying to assemble a call prior to Jackson.
- I) ANSTF Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Liaisons
- a. Education and Outreach - Elizabeth – Susan Pasko, Doug Jensen and Elizabeth have edited draft language for all of the SAH! web pages and will have some committee volunteers to work on specific portions of the website; hope to have a draft product for ANSTF in November.
  - b. Recreational Boating Committee – Dennis and Joanne –Revised technical report from ABYC is now out for review. Monday October 3<sup>rd</sup> is the next committee meeting so

comments must be in before then. International Boat Builders Exposition 4-6 October. Dennis is presenting at IBEX and helping to staff the booth along with Elizabeth and Gene Seagle.

- c. Economic Committee – John – The committee met again since last Ex Comm. The committee is moving down the road to creating subcommittees to complete assignments.
  - d. QZAP – Stephen - They really don't need committee; but is it important to have an oversight group? Committee has always been separate from the funding process in order to achieve a higher level of input that might be helpful. What is the process in DC for involvement? Stephen will check in with Susan Pasko regarding the committee and purpose. 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian website will be transferred to westernais.org site. All the survey data from 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian will be saved as well.
  - e. NISAW –Dennis and Stephen – Last week of February – First of March; Scott Cameron with RISSC is working to do several seminars and lunches for staffers. Webinars will be assembled. Topics have been identified for the capitol hill briefing.
- J) Announcements – ALL – Oregon Invasive Species Summit in Salem, Oregon next week.