

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

September 16th, 2019 at 2:30 pm mountain time

Call number: 712-770-5581

Passcode: 770367#

Elizabeth Brown, Stephen Phillips, Glenn Dolphin, Joanne Grady, Mason Parker, Leah Elwell, Erin Raney, Dennis Zabaglo, Martha Volkoff, John Wullschleger

Agenda

A) Approval of August minutes. Erin motions to approve, John seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.

B) Legislative update – Stephen Phillips

Energy and water appropriation made it out. Hopefully budget will make it out. House 50 million for WRDA. Senate has 5 million. There is a decent chance for the 50 million from the house. Of all the spending bills, the house has the best shot. Senate is going to roll out federal bills this week. There is funding from the BOR and Army Corp of Engineers. There was language for the FY2018 specifically speaking to quagga and zebra mussels. This language may not be in the FY2020. All eyes on appropriation to avoid a government shutdown.

C) Panel Business

a. Updated Recommendations for QZAP – Elizabeth Brown

We surveyed membership in January on priorities moving forward and are not going to repeat that now. Rather, we will compile the feedback gained in all discussions over the last year and put together a draft set of recommendations for membership review and discussion.

b. WRP Website – Mason Parker

Add whereas on the TA agreement concerning intellectual property concerning the content.... Unless otherwise attributed to someone? How does the intellectual property work within the website? When attributing ownership of photos. The content, in as much as it was created for the website. "Upon transfer, all content will remain intact."

We should talk to FWS about the process of transferring archival information to the new website.

c. Ex Com Election – Mason Parker

There are five available positions, with three seeking re-election. We have a few applications for vacant seats with Barak Shemai, Allison Zach, and Blaine Parker being the new nominees.

d. 2021 Annual Meeting Hosting Bid – Mason Parker

Put out a final announcement by the end of the month. The only bid for hosting received to date is Salt Lake City, UT from UT DWR.

D) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons

a. 2019 Annual Meeting – Mason Parker

Does it change the dynamic that we will have this streamed? Live streaming on YouTube.

GoToMeeting? There are concerns about livestreaming the presentations. Is there way to livestream away from YouTube? At a place where only WRP members can see this? Could we have it recorded and use the videos later? Private link on YouTube?

Business Meeting—should we take out FWS presentation to break up the flow of the business meeting? Could we put this s a preview for next year. We could put the dreissenid management somewhere so that it doesn't interrupt the business meeting. We need to update those speaking on dreissenid in case they need adjust their travel plans. We added the committee planning block 4-4:30. We could remove this because a report out could be done in writing. We could ask committee chairs if they have something they want to address, and it can be discussed in the next session. We can send out committee report forms to figure out what they would like to discuss during this block. Work groups are supposed to be project specific, so they have projects that are completed and then move on. Accomplishments should be acknowledged. Primary question is whether we leave dreissenid management where it in the business session... we should move dreissenid tow beginning or end. More people will stay if dreissenid is toward the end. Decision to move Dreissenid section to the end of the second day.

b. Coastal Committee – Chair Chris Scianni; Glenn Dolphin liaison

Hawaii had a grant for the publication of a front and back rec card. There is a limited amount of money in the grant for printing and distribution. August 22nd conference and feedback since has gone toward wordsmithing. There is some conversation about what WRP should put into their publications concerning AIS vs. ANS. According to WRP bylaws, publications must be approved by the ExComm. The coastal committee wants these to be printed to be handed out at the Annual Meeting. The next thing to discuss the wording of the publication. Coastal committee would prefer aquatic invasive species, but the name of the WRP on ANS cannot be changed. For the sake of consistency, much of the documentation released has been ANS. If the committee wants to use AIS, that is not a problem. **Stephen made a motion to approve publication of the biofouling document. Glenn seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion was approved.**

Pacific Coast states are working through VIDA. VIDA included a section stating that the EPA would go into direct consultation with states concerning ballast water standards. There was some concern from the ANSTF that the current EPA standards are not meeting proper standards in accordance with legislation.

Coastal committee wants to ask ANSTF to ask the EPA to live up to the standards that have been set. The conversations are much higher than the ANSTF right now. If the coastal committee is interested in providing something, make sure they have to most recent information from Allen and Nicole. There is not currently a rep from the EPA in the WRP. Do we know who the right person to contact at the EPA? If there is contact with the EPA already, then the WRP and ANSTF may not be the best avenue for contacting them on VIDA and EPA.

Recommendations that go to the task force are often sent repeatedly with no resolution. There could be some merit to sending these questions in paper. ANSTF is listed in the VIDA language now as a coordinating body. The recommendation can be sent anyway.

c. Decontamination Think Tank Committee – Chair Robert Walters; Elizabeth liaison

Meeting was in Montana. Finalized Volvo documentation.

d. Membership and Communication Committee – John Wullschleger

The membership committee has three new members. There should be a call planned before the annual meeting. In general, not a lot of support for the idea of making standing committee chairs all ExComm members. There will be a presentation on this at the annual meeting to get feedback from the attendees at the meeting.

There are a lot of questions to be answered before proposing anything solid. For example, Do you get pushed through the voting cycle if you are nominated to be Chair since you are committing to a 3-4 year cycle? This means you would elect chair and vice chair for each committee. Current Committee and Workgroup Chairs are volunteers, not elected. These are drastic changes to the organizational structure being discussed that require careful consideration. The details remain to be worked out on how the election of chair and vice chair are nominated and elected. Most people spend time getting acquainted with the functions of all of the committee before stepping up to chair role, or they volunteer when the committee/workgroup is created. There should be participation on committees prior to being elected to ExComm or Chair/Vice-Chair of WRP so they are prepared for the job.

e. Outreach Committee – Chair Allison Zach; Elizabeth liaison

Outreach webinar is coming up on the 24th 1-3 pm.

E) WRP Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons

a. Building Consensus – Chair Joanne Grady

No updates

b. eDNA – Chair Adam Sepulveda; Nate liaison

There will be dialogues in MT. An email was sent out to committee members. Adam is working on an opinion piece. He has asked the committee to review before publication. Adam is proposing in the paper that there be a decision tree concerning the interpretation of eDNA data. MT invasive species council had a similar conclusion from the science panel.

c. Lab – Chair Yale Passamenek; Elizabeth liaison

No updates.

d. Seaplane Inspection and Decontamination – Chair Elizabeth Brown

Had webinar on September 10th. Committee finished the inspection protocol. There will be no update in Montana, but this material will be available at the annual meeting.

There will be some further work on the document but then the seaplane committee will take break and participate in the upcoming UFWWS national risk assessment on seaplanes.

Stephen made a motion to approved the amphibious aircraft inspection protocol. The motion was seconded by Erin. There was no further discussion and the motion was approved.

Elizabeth will email out the final approved protocol.

e. Fire Equipment Decontamination Procedures – Chair Beth Bear; Nate liaison

No update.

F) ANSTF

a. Workgroup Updates – On hold until further notice

- b. Current status of the coordination grant – Leah
The grant has been finalized and the paperwork has been done.
- c. All Panel Meeting – November – Elizabeth
All panel meeting the day before the taskforce... there is no agenda, it will be an open conversation. One of the hot topics is eDNA.

G) Coordinating the Coordination update

- a. PNWER – Stephen Phillips
This will be in Big Sky, MT next July.
- b. NAISMA – Leah Elwell – September 30-Oct 3 Saratoga, NY
There is a panel of all the panels. WRP has been allotted 5 minutes to give an overview. Susan Pasko is giving a broad overview of the panels as an opener. There is a particular a format for PowerPoints.
- c. NMMA/ABYC – Dennis Zabaglo
Talked to Bryan Goodwin. Working with industry folks to update them on AIS issues. NMMA was in CO and Tahoe. They are focusing on where money goes at the federal level and if it is better spent at the state level. John Michael Donahue thought it may be good to have a united front with industry reps.
Note - Separate NMMA and ABYC in future WRP ExComm meeting agendas.
- d. WSIA – Elizabeth Brown
They are proposing to test different technologies for ballast tanks. There remain questions about who is going to do the testing and who is going to pay for it.
- e. DOI Mussel Initiative – John Wullschleger
There was a phone call to recap the WGA mussel forum. There was some thinking that the mussel forum may lead to the sun-setting of Safeguarding the West, but that doesn't appear to be happening. Looking forward to where they may go from here.
Some people were engaged but uninformed. The question is how to engage those involved effectively.
Eyes are looking at QZAP 2.0 and the direction we will be going.
- f. WGA - Elizabeth Brown – ZQM Forum August 27-28, Las Vegas
The call for WGA on the morning of 9/16 that Leah, Stephen, Erin attended. Many were confident in the way the event turned out but not all. There were question about where to go after the WGA event. There were questions for Bill Whitacre about what they do next. Should they work through the governors? It is difficult to nail WGA down or long-term commitments. The Western invasive species council, there were questions if they will be involved in that. The group from Las Vegas should continue to meet. There could be a working group. 18 months ago there was talk about having a working group focused on the lower Colorado, so that BLM has a chance to manage it and get funding from the FY2020 budget. There should be something in place where the group from Vegas gets together and begins to problem solve. Much of what happened in Vegas was bringing those present up to speed. There lingering question is whether the WGA is going to remain involved.

The WRP can remain the hub for communication with the WGA to ensure that we, as the larger western ANS community, remains united and does not fragment given DOI and WGA focus in Lower Colorado River and ACOE activity in newly named basins from WRDA. The WRP can be there to help this leadership group in WGA get going if it chooses to. The entities within the basin that are newly named in WRDA-2018 are wandering and looking for some direction. The Columbia River Basin is as strong and productive because of coordination by PSMFC and continual federal funding.

Where will the notes from the WGA be sent? These will be circulated to those who were present at the meeting in Vegas in August. Unless there is an action item for WGA, Bill said that they are done... there are some italicized action items. There was little representation from the governors' staff at the event. WGA's commitment was to provide a venue and bring people to the event. There are other opportunities similar to the WGA, such as through AFWA and WAFWA.

g. AFWA – Elizabeth Brown

No update

h. WAFWA – Elizabeth Brown

No update

i. WISCE – Elizabeth Brown

Met last week over the phone. WISCE will be working on QZAP 2.0 in Montana.

H) Announcements – ALL

Notes for Mason:

- Update outlook appointment for ExComm to be for two hours.
- Send out an invite to prospective ex com members to notify of the dinner in Montana.