

# Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

January 25<sup>st</sup>, 2021 at 1:00 pm mountain time

Call number: 712-770-5581

Passcode: 770367#

Stephen Phillips, Nate Owens, Allison Zach, Martha Volkoff, Glenn Dolphin, Elizabeth Brown, Blaine Parker, John Wullschleger

## Agenda

A) Approval of December minutes – **VOTE – Stephen motions to approve, John seconds. All in favor. None opposed. Motion is approved.**

B) Legislative update – Stephen Phillips

- Transitioning into the Biden administration. Hosting events for NISAW, but no one is travelling.

C) Panel Business

- QZAP 2.0 Work Plan/Utah - next steps?
  - How can we move QZAP forward? Nate Utah update—call in early December. Many members of Ex Comm were present. Utah has been over capacity for the last two years. WRDA has come around for funding. Some fish chiefs did not play a significant role in development. The efforts could bring people to the table. Need larger buy-in at leadership level to make headway. Most of the QZAP goals are going to require approval at the director level. Development of annual work plans. Utah plan could take off if there is a prioritizing of certain action items within QZAP 2.0. How do we get all of the groups and documents that are currently in works to be part of a cohesive plan moving forward? Many members of WRP are not under a fish chief or state agency. A truly collaborative effort is going to have to account for Federal partners. Many federal partners were not able to attend the Utah meeting but are willing to collaborate moving forward.  
The nexus for the Utah effort is the overwhelming situation at Powell. With Safeguarding the West winding down, QZAP 2.0 is likely considered to be the main game moving forward, and it could be an opportunity to integrate all of the organizations and entities working on invasive species issues in the West. QZAP has everything we need to be working on for the next ten years but there first step is developing a strategy.  
Objective one is having a body to coordinate the QZAP which could be Army Corp or DOI. A survey should be sent to membership to establish a baseline for where the membership is at and how we can build from that. How do we support the idea of a Basin team? There has to be approval through the ranks. There could be work group built around the QZAP 2.0. Utah present to the CO Fish and Wildlife Council in March. Right now there is nothing that will come to fruition to impact on-the-ground function this year... Want to start a conversation between basins over the next few months to put into place next spring. The draft CO river plan and WRDA report for the basin— could these be completed and used to advocate for resources moving forward?

With new secretary of the interior, make sure to keep it state-focused to protect Utah. There has to be a way to disperse the workload to other locations outside of Powell. They have to be able to take that workload or it will backfire if other waters get infested. Arizona could bear some of the workload at Powell.

Is there something specific that the Panel can do to help Nate and Utah? Urges Ex Comm to begin thinking about how they would interface with a CO river basin group...what does that look like? Is that a separate committee made from Basin reps? Or space of Ex Comm for basins? Could establish a QZAP Committee formed from representatives from different basins. How do we go about instigating a conversation with the states and the people who have authority to implement these action items.

- Next steps are working group and developing a survey. Ex Comm reviews the objectives and comes prepare to focus on the do-able actions items moving forward. Special Ex Comm meeting focused on QZAP 2.0. If AR river basin team pops up do we include them in WRP happenings.
- 2021 Annual Meeting Location
  - Likely going to be hosted at the Farmington Bay Nature Center. It is about ½ an hour north of Salt Lake City. As an agency, there are people who could provide shuttling services. To limit exposure, we want to have limited in car travelling. Hopefully, the majority of people will have had a vaccine.
- Member Survey
  - Survey could ask where are you at today and what do you plan to do moving forward? And what are your needs from others? Start with the metrics table—tangible things we want to track to make sure we are achieving goals. Ask some projections where are you at and where do you hope to be? There was a building consensus survey.
- Mid-year Teleconference/Webinar series
  - Morning two hours and afternoon is two hours. Membership will want to know about Utah roll out, where are we on QZAP? Hosting webinar serious during NISAW going to give a webinar on QZAP. There are some openings for monthly webinars through NAISMA.
- Committee Template and Updates
  - Quarterly updates – then
- Reformatting Agenda/Ex Comm Meetings
  - Will be discussed on the Febraury call

#### D) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons

- Annual Meeting Planning Team - Mason Parker
- Coastal Committee – Chair Chris Scianni; Glenn Dolphin Liaison
  - No updates
- Decontamination Think Tank Committee – Chair Robert Walters; Tom Woolf Liaison
  - Continuing down the decon protocol route. Join meeting with Decon Think Tank.
- Membership and Communication Committee – Chair John Wullschleger
  - Bylaws revision for 2021 Annual Meeting
  - Have not yet met. Reached out to former group member to see who is interested. Had some conversation about a=how to select chair and membership. If folk have thoughts on this, please let John know. Would be good to have some guidance for the discussion
- Outreach Committee – Chair Monica McGarrity; Allison Zach Liaison
  - Developing proposal for researcher. This will be circulated soon.

E) WRP Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons

- eDNA – Chair Adam Sepulveda; Martha Volkoff Liaison
  - eDNA committee met in the end of November. There are efforts to develop national protocol and they are on stand-by to wait to see the quality of these protocols. When a task is complete, the work group is dissolved. Meeting calnderd for February 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Fire Equipment Decontamination Procedures – Chair Kate Wilson; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison

F) ANSTF

- Liaisons?
- Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Participation Discussion
  - Prevention - Chair James Ballard; John Wullschleger Liaison
    - 1. No update
  - Early Detection and Rapid Response - Chair Wes Daniels, USGS; John Wullschleger Liaison
    - 1. No update
  - Control and Restoration - Chair Kim Bogenschultz, Iowa and AFWA; Dennis Zabaglo
    - 1. No update
  - Research - Chair Susan Pasko, USFWS; John Wullschleger Liaison
    - 1. No update
  - Education and Outreach – Tim Campbell, Wisconsin Sea Grant; Allison Zach
    - 1. Put together an action plan.
  - Bylaws and Operations (Ad-Hoc) - Chair Susan Pasko, USFWS; John Wullschleger Liaison
    - 1. No update

G) Coordinating the Coordination update

- PNWER – Stephen Phillips
  - Including new watersheds. Big Sky, MT in August.
- NAISMA – Allison Zach
  - Monthly free webinar. Outreach committee is working on Plya Clean Go website.
- NMMA, ABYC, WSIA – Dennis Zabaglo
- DOI Safeguarding the West – John Wullschleger
  - DOI MOU – It includes all DOI bureaus, FS, and ACOE. Are there coordinating opportunities within the WRP? It is a large question. Perhaps there is a need to touch base with this once the River Basins get established. Working as a tribal facilitator nothing stuck out to Blaine. There are many items but will they get checks stations and boots on the ground? Cold have Stephen take a look at this because he would be the person who can call what would work vs. what would not. This is something that DOI was charged by congress with doing. QZAP workgroup might be a good place to talk about how the WRP can be involved with the MOU.
- ACOE (WRDA) - Stephen Phillips
  - No update
- WGA - NEED LIAISON
  - No update
- AFWA – Dennis Zabaglo (?)
  - No update
- WAFWA – Allison Zach

- No update
- WISCE – Allison Zach
  - No update
- Great Lakes Panel - Used boat discussion - Tom Woolf
  - No update

H) Announcements – ALL