

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

July 26th, 2021 at 1:00 pm mountain time

Minutes

Attended by Barak Shemai, Tom Woolf, Glenn Dolphin, Stephen Phillips, Martha Volkoff, Allison Zach, John Wullshleger, and Leah Elwell.

- A) Approval of May minutes - Stephen moves to approve, Barak seconds. All in favor. Motion carries, minutes approved.
- B) Legislative update – Stephen Phillips -
 - a. Last AIS e-news housed on the westernais.org website highlights the following:
 - i. House appropriations budget for Interior/ Land, Water and Commerce notes amounts of \$17M for WID, \$3M for monitoring; flowering rush was mentioned. USFWS budget went up to \$45 mil, some went to Lake Tahoe. Likely not to have a completed federal budget until after October 31. House is packaging lots of appropriations bills. Senate is to begin appropriation hearings.
 - ii. Bennet bill in Congress to give authority to NPS, BOR, BLM to conduct inspections going in/out of federal waters. The current bill uses much stronger language than has been seen in the past, this should be dropped soon. Match requirement in grants to states and tribes at 25%.
 - iii. House natural resources subcommittee, Americas Recovering Wildlife Act (RAWA) has had multiple introductions over the years. This might be the year that it is successful.
 - iv. Infrastructure bill has some sections where invasive species are mentioned. There is a lot of discussion on creating modern Conservation Corps focused on climate, some projects would include invasive species.
- C) Panel Business
 - Protocols for guests on Executive Committee calls – Tom suggested that prior to each meeting Ex Comm would be made aware of / approve of guests who would be on the meeting. Typically, short reports from committee chairs, or subject matter experts would take place at the start of the meeting to all participation and then allow Ex Comm to proceed with the remainder of the call. Including information on these guidelines to the SOP document.
 - Virtual Streaming platform – Leah would like to use the GoToWebinar platform again for the annual meeting. The cost to renew the subscription is roughly \$1200. PSMFC can support the renewal fee.
 - QZAP 2.0 Action Items – Hold until next call in Dennis’s absence.
 - Ex Comm election - Leah Elwell – Terms for Allison, Barak, Stephen, Blaine, and Martha expire in September 2021. Allison not running as she does not NE state representative. Barak plans to run again. Logistically – Leah will release information for members to run for Ex Comm early August, with submission deadline in late August. Election materials will be circulated prior to the annual meeting and will hold election through annual meeting and announce at the business meeting.
 - Member reports and new members - Leah Elwell –
 - Tom will send out the member report solicitation; Martha will share the previous email etc.

- There are two new state AIS coordinators: Kevin Netcher with NDOW, Kathrine Shrag with OKFG.
 - Leah will also circulate the membership application ASAP for all non-appointing organizations. Every 4 years these members must reapply.
- D) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
 - Annual Meeting Committee - Leah Elwell – Specific feedback on the business meeting for the virtual meeting was discussed. John wanted discussion on formalize the role of the SOP in the bylaws (i.e. roles and responsibilities of the Ex Comm in the SOP); use time to talk about the few priorities from QZAP, present the survey data and how moving forward from there, express some of the challenges are seen and compel participation, could evolve post meeting, QZAP 2.0 next steps is going to need another survey that has better participation, and will need staff time to continue to make progress. Include a list of organizations that participated in the survey and did not. At least 45 minutes and move it forward in the agenda. The QZAP discussion should go early in the business meeting. Include time for committee chairs to report on accomplishments. Leah will fix up the agenda and recirculate asap for their approval. Leah will launch the registration in August.
 - Coastal Committee – Chair Chris Scianni; Glenn Dolphin Liaison. Biofouling document completed and now posted to the website – PSMFC will print 10K; Chris is seeking a chair to replace him.
 - Decontamination Think Tank Committee – Chair Robert Walters; Tom Woolf Liaison. No meetings no new information to share.
 - Membership and Communication Committee – Chair John Wullschleger – They have not met recently since the last meeting in spring. Typical discussion is chair/vice succession and now have suggested this should lie within the SOP. John wants to revisit his notes, and discuss with chairs going forward with the annual meeting. He would like to include information in the bylaws for transparency. Language will have to be circulated by the end of August to allow the membership to see and vote on in September.
 - Outreach and Education Committee – Chair Monica McGarrity; Allison Zach Liaison - Dr Kyle with Texas A and M. The timeline is 6/1-6/31/2022. Is already talking with AIS coordinators, and he is already becoming familiar with surveys and is sharing information focus groups, putting together the design of doing the actual focus group, interim progress report is due in October.
- E) WRP Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
 - eDNA – Chair Adam Sepulveda; Martha Volkoff Liaison - On hold through summer
 - Fire Equipment Decontamination Procedures – Chair Kate Wilson; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison - no information to report
- F) ANSTF
 - Recap from July Meeting – many on the Ex Comm participated, feedback is covered in committee reports below.
 - Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Participation Discussion
 - Prevention - Chair James Ballard; Barak Shemai Liaison – The last meeting on the 14th of June. Pathway risk assessment that was spearheaded by Wes and Delores was not funded. One goal is to make OIT info better available and better providing that information between enforcement and FWS AIS Branch. US Coast guard document is getting ready to be sent to Congress which will have a comment period. VIDA final rules are being discussed. 3 applications on the seaplane NOFO and a review team has been assembled, were not able to make

the decision prior to the July granting deadline so will be in Sept. John added that ANSTF to reach out to US Coast and EPA in creating a stakeholder group. The WRP WID protocols were brought for approval but the other members/panels had not reviewed and wanted to formally review. Likely to be approved at Fall meeting.

- Early Detection and Rapid Response - Chair Wes Daniels, USGS; John Wullschleger Liaison - basically in discussion on what training is needed for ICS and preparedness; previous 2 calls have had presentations from ISC folks, what does rapid response look like and what training is needed. Do not need a special ICS training and AIS ICS team necessarily because of the ICS functionality. A survey will be circulated to the states and panels for feedback on what people need for preparedness. Moss ball after action report has been funded and will be contracted and examined at a national scale.
- Control and Restoration - Chair Kim Bogenschutz, Iowa and AFWA; Dennis Zabaglo; At the ANSTF July meeting the committee reported that they have prioritized the revision of some of the species plans in the future.
- Research - Chair Susan Pasko, USFWS; John Wullschleger Liaison. The prioritization document is seeking feedback from the panels. Leah will share with Ex Comm for review. Comments are due by August 16th.
- Education and Outreach – Tim Campbell, Wisconsin Sea Grant; Allison Zach – USFWS will be contracting on an evaluation for SAH and others once awarded there will be 18 months for completion. Outreach materials are continually being added to the SAH! library online resources.
- Bylaws and Operations (Ad-Hoc) - Chair Susan Pasko, USFWS; John Wullschleger Liaison – Committee submitted document to the ANSTF and is now with the co-chairs for their review. Fall meeting approval likely.

G) Coordinating the Coordination update – Leah Elwell

- PNWER - Big Sky, Montana, and virtually - August 15-19, 2021; They are not covering AIS as a breakout session.
- NAISMA - Holiday Inn, Missoula, MT – Stephen virtually attending and Allison attending in person. September 27-30th
- NMMA, ABYC, WSIA
 - ABYC Educator Training Conference Takes Place July 20-22 - no knowledge if AIS was a part of the training.
- DOI Safeguarding the West - John: Moss ball update on the last call, working on the use of eDNA technology that will be going live at LAX and JFK in July. USFWS is not certifying products as mussel-free. Process of summarizing baseline activities and that would be available for rapid response. WID database use has been approved for use by NPS, BOR, BLM, and USFWS.
- ACOE (WRDA) - Flowering rush agreements have been finalized with the USACE and are working with agreements on rapid response with matching costs. Some folks are pushing for international waterways and boundaries WID progress that was included in the language of the bill for implementation.
- WGA - no new information; No one has seen any announcement to re-hire Bill Whitacre.
- AFWA - 87th Annual Midwest Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Directors' Meeting – Virtual, June 28-30, - No one attended
- WAFWA - 2021 Summer Meeting – Virtual, July 18-23 - No one attended

- WISCE – The group is looking to schedule a face to face meeting in the next 6 months. A survey to members where 13/21 responded; 6 people want to have a meeting in Vegas in January for 2 days.
- Great Lakes Panel - Used boat discussion - Tom Woolf – The efforts that PSFMC may catalyze to make progress in Midwest. MT has had 43 boats this summer so far from the Great Lakes – this is a very active problem.
- Hauler outreach and Lisa D trying to find ways to engage this group for dreissenid information (all aspects will be explored).

H) Announcements – ALL

- a. Welcome back Leah.
- b. John reported that NPS have had some mussel detections at Amistad via eDNA not found physically.
- c. Last Monday of each month is the schedule for August and September; September call will be to schedule call for the new Ex Comm. Leah will send calendar invite for September.