

# Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 1:00 pm mountain time

Attended by: Barak Shemai, Stephen Phillips, Tom Woolf, John Wullschleger, Martha Volkoff, Dennis Zabaglo, Monica McGarrity and Leah Elwell.

## Minutes

- A) Approval of August/September minutes. John motioned to approve minutes. Tom second. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- B) Panel Business
  - QZAP 2.0 Action Items – Dennis Zabaglo
    - Action Item F.3 // Monica McGarrity, EO Committee Chair was invited to the call to discuss possible follow up on this action item. *F.3: Conduct a standardized, regional, multi-state, survey of motorized boaters in the West to determine if a correlation exists between current WID processes, compliance, and customer experience; make improvements accordingly, evaluate and reassess compliance and customer experience to determine where improvements can be made to incentivize compliance.* The practicality and if should be tackled jointly with WID Committee was discussed. Non-compliance might more be related to legal policy, or laws. There is a lot of variability between states programs and will be hard to assess with a broad brush. In areas where there are long wait lines that will create bias. How do you correlate processes with boater experience? Lack of reciprocity or consistency between programs creates some of the noncompliance/satisfaction. We don't need more data to reinforce reciprocity across the region. The Ex Comm determined that the committee shall not address this item. EO committee could encourage gathering information within others individual programs to gain compliance. A step down grassroots survey could be more helpful.
    - Discussion on completion of QZAP 2.0 action items and tracking. It is possible that some action items may not be completed due to changes in perspective and priority. What flexibility does WRP have in changing course or interpretation? Recording progress is needed. This should be an internal document. Leah will document and make sure it is in the Teams folder.
    - Boat transport pathway // NSGLC report – include in November agenda.
  - Ex Comm Chair and Vice Chair Election. Dennis self-nominated for chair, Tom seconded. Stephen nominated Tom for Vice chair, Dennis seconds. All in favor. Dennis Zabaglo and Tom Woolf shall serve as chair and vice chair respectively for a one-year term.
  - Membership Changes - Leah Elwell; Kris Starr is now the voting member from Nebraska Game and Fish. In most recent election WRP lost Stephanie Showalter Otts as legal/law enforcement representative. For the November call, discuss the current non-federal vacancies and who might be able to fill those.
  - Wen Baldwin Award; Dennis would like to get a plaque for Elizabeth Brown for this award made in 2020. The Wen Baldwin award only given when truly worthy. John suggested that it might be good to set aside funding for awards separately. The group determined to use WRP savings account funds at a modest amount to purchase a plaque. Dennis will finalize plaque purchase with Leah.

- C) Legislative update – Stephen Phillips – Infrastructure and reconciliation are ongoing and once finished there will be a budget. Anticipating good progress in the next couple weeks, but have until Dec 3 to get the new budget down. The Senate and House bills for appropriations are similar to last year's. On legislative end RAWA co-sponsor is under indictment, but it has many sponsors on both sides. Bennet bill (Mussel related) for cost share programs has not been dropped yet. There is a similar bill sponsored by Garamundi and there is conversation to combine.
- D) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
- Annual Meeting Committee - Leah Elwell; The exit poll from 2021 attendees suggests that the biggest influencer on attending a future meeting is pandemic conditions. Dennis will ask a colleague in AK Assembly if there is public space to meet. Leah will ask AK venues on policies etc.
  - Coastal Committee – Chair Chris Scianni; Glenn Dolphin Liaison – No report.
  - Decontamination Think Tank Committee – Chair Robert Walters; Tom Woolf Liaison. Committee is meeting regularly with boating season winding down. They are discussing new designs of large outboard motors where current flushing tools are not adequate to address needs. They will likely develop standards to address those. ABYC is curious about onboard head decontamination process. These new larger motors are coming out without AIS in mind. A continued conversation with the industry is really needed. Dennis will communicate with ABYC for re-engaging dialog with industry.
  - Membership and Communication Committee – Chair John Wullschleger - Finalize text addition to bylaws. The committee proposed simple language be added to the bylaws to note that the SOP exists and is used to help guide operations. John will send language to all. Leah will insert into bylaws and will circulate to membership for electronic vote as soon as possible.
  - Outreach Committee – Chair Monica McGarrity; New Liaison needed. Barak agreed to fill that in the future once returned from paternity leave. Monica shared update on project. Dr Kyle has talked to all of the western states with the exception of NM. The project is going well. Conducting focus groups/individual interviews 17 boaters from 6 states and expected to have 35 by the end of the month. Developing the survey questionnaire that is to be guided by the interviews. Dr Kyle is communicating with the contractor who is examining national campaigns and there has been good feedback and sharing between two researchers.
- E) WRP Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
- eDNA – Chair Adam Sepulveda; Martha Volkoff Liaison. The group has resumed with invited speakers every month from October to the spring. Martha proposed to revisit the scope for the workgroup – is it to provide information. Now the workgroup seems like a captive audience to the utility of eDNA. Put on for future agenda discussion, she will share the one-page purpose of the group to take a fresh look if the goals are being accomplished.
  - Fire Equipment Decontamination Procedures – Chair Kate Wilson; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison. Kate is on a fire communication crew in her day job. Getting leadership from the federal level is really needed on this topic in general. Leah circle back to determine if there is a new Cynthia Tait coming or not. Re-examine the goals for the workgroup on upcoming Ex Comm call.
- F) ANSTF
- Recommendations due November 2 – can continue to promote the funding idea. Ask Glenn to reach out to the coastal committee, and look at the QZAP spreadsheet to pull.

Missing federal voting membership on the WRP could be a recommendation, Leah will check with Susan on appropriateness. Is the disconnect on the Fire issue an appropriate recommendation idea? By the end of the week Leah will circulate draft document.

- Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Participation Discussion
  - Prevention - Chair James Ballard; Barak Shemai Liaison. The committee has endorsed the WRP WID protocols for approval. WRP protocols are advancing to be approved by ANSTF on next meeting.
  - Early Detection and Rapid Response - Chair Wes Daniels, USGS; John Wullschleger Liaison. CRB Moss ball after action report was discussed. A lot of discussion on ICS, looking into trying to provide training and a survey may be forthcoming on assessing the need.
  - Control and Restoration - Chair Kim Bogenschutz, Iowa and AFWA; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison. Species management plan conversations for assigning a lead for those plans.
  - Research - Chair Susan Pasko, USFWS; John Wullschleger Liaison; There is a final list of priorities and that will be up for approval at the fall meeting. Now discussing the work plan for 2022.
  - Education and Outreach – Tim Campbell, Wisconsin Sea Grant; New liaison needed. Dennis will reach out to Monica do determine her ability to serve on the ANSTF committee and share back with Barak.
  - Bylaws and Operations (Ad-Hoc) - Chair Susan Pasko, USFWS; John Wullschleger Liaison. No new information, however the modified bylaws will likely be approved at next meeting.

G) Coordinating the Coordination update

- PNWER
- NAISMA -
- NMMA, ABYC, WSIA
- DOI Safeguarding the West – will meet in November
- ACOE (WRDA)
- WGA (winter meeting Dec 2021, Coronado)
- AFWA (recap on Sept 2021 meeting) / WAFWA (Winter Meeting January 2022, Tucson) Flag discussion for items to bring to WAFWA for next time.
- WISCE – They have been working on outreach with commercial boat haulers and encompassing the smaller haulers, as well as a discussion on illegal fish introduction species. Several of the states are interested in this topic. Colorado had a record 107 mussel boats captured this year, ID and MT had record years as well. Vaccination mandate has affected staff in CO.

H) Announcements – ALL

I) Next meeting November 29.