

# Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 1:00 pm mountain time

Attendees: Stephen Phillips, Chris Steffen, Tom Woolf, Martha Volkoff, John Wullschleger, Blaine Parker and Leah Elwell.

## Minutes

- A) Approval of October minutes. Stephen motioned to approve minutes, John seconds. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- B) Panel Business
  - QZAP 2.0 Action Items – Dennis Zabaglo via email; WRP submitted a recommendation to the ANSTF to conduct a traffic assessment to better determine WID stations to protect the West. The ANSTF Prevention Committee has been assigned this task and will need additional feedback from Ex Comm before moving forward. **Discuss on next Ex Comm call.**
  - Boat transport pathway // NSGLC report – Tom Woolf; A National Sea Grant Law Center 2021 report examined the legal implications of the sale of mussel fouled boats in Midwest transported to the West. Tim Campbell with WI Sea Grant is interested in this topic to pursue and wants to have an intern to explore more of this. He was asking if there is WRP funding for an intern. There is no WRP funding but PSMFC may have funding to support. **Leah to get paper and circulate to Ex Comm. Leah will connect Stephen and Tim.**
  - Future projects with supported funding. Are there places that WRP is able to submit funding with the assistance of ISAN in the future? Getting feedback from Barak on suitability from QZAP sources is needed. Chris and Stephen support the idea. It would help WRP complete products. **Next step is to identify what if any next projects may be which would be led by committee feedback. Feedback from Barak is needed as well.**
- C) Legislative update – Stephen Phillips
  - The HR5692 Stop the Spread of Invasive Mussels Act, new bill introduced by Manchin. It has a Bureau of Reclamation cost-share with state/tribal partners where federal agencies may enter into partnership on implementing WID. On Thursday there will be hearings for many bills, including this. Next year it may get picked up and moved.
  - Federal budget – unlikely that the government will shut down, but not clear if the budget will get approved by the end of the year. The Build Back Better bill will influence the budget approval.
- D) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
  - Annual Meeting Committee - Leah Elwell; Discussion on next steps for 2022 meeting – both hosting in Alaska and online. Because WRP is a subcommittee of ANSTF, FACA rules apply. Currently per FACA rules, FACA committees are not allowed to meet in-person, and if WRP does meet there may be requirements for vaccination proof, limits on total numbers, and locations. Initial discussions with Visit Alaska staff suggested that if WRP moved forward with a hotel/meeting space contract and then had to cancel, it would likely be honored in 2023 rather than financial penalties. Blaine suggested WRP move forward with some planning, and identify a go-time date. Possible “Friends of the WRP” scenario was also suggested. Leah will visit with Tammy/AK state agency willingness to host for 2022. Survey membership at some point in 2022 on willingness to travel etc.

Martha suggested a hybrid event but this will require balancing on-site logistics. Leah will get proposals from AK facilities to be able discuss more on next meeting. **Leah will assemble the agenda team in January.**

- Coastal Committee – Chair Chris Scianni; Glenn Dolphin Liaison. No info shared.
- Decontamination Think Tank Committee – Chair Robert Walters; Tom Woolf Liaison. Met last week to discuss plant decontamination protocol. Robert represented at ANSTF Meeting in November to get the BMPs on the two protocols approved. They were approved with minor adjustments during the ANSTF meeting.
- Membership and Communication Committee – Chair John Wullschleger. Have not met since the last call. Leah assembled bylaws with language including the SOP acknowledgement, and the survey monkey for membership voting on this inclusion. Leah will circulate with SOPs document for vote tomorrow by the membership. This will all be finalized before the end of the year.
- Outreach Committee – Chair Monica McGarrity; Barak Shemai Liaison. Project contracted to the Texas A&M researcher is on target for completion. Leah will submit interim report this week, as fiscal administrator of the grant to contractor.

E) WRP Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons

- eDNA – Chair Adam Sepulveda; Martha Volkoff Liaison. Martha reviewed the charge of the workgroup to better understand the next steps for the workgroup. The workgroup was established by membership vote in October 2018 and original intent was to inform members on decision making and eDNA principles related to dreissenids. The workgroup profile was last updated in February 2019. The workgroup goals were to 1) host webinar (completed) that educated WRP member on eDNA use and principles, 2) draft white paper on eDNA updating old ISAC white paper which provides definitions etc. (instead a Fisheries and Oceans Canada paper was recommended). FO Canada developed a research document in 2021 on “guidance” which was proposed as providing the white paper need. This was approved by Ex Comm. John asked does this paper get what the WRP needs as envisioned with a white paper. 3) Draft a list of research dreissenid eDNA projects to direct future efforts (no efforts to accomplish this yet). 4) Develop standards for field and lab protocols (not completed). This has not been a realistic objective due to difficulties in standardizing and proprietary issues within the lab.

Currently the workgroup has moved into a series of invited speakers Oct-May; with next generation eDNA, Canada Fisheries and Oceans research developments in European green crab, lots of USGS SERC presenters. The presentations have strayed into all things eDNA, which is not consistent for original intent.

Do we seek getting an update from the chair? Are there are concerns with scheduled presentations? There has been a shift in very technical participation and little management participation. Ex Comm is requesting a status on the list of research projects, and if the standardized field and lab techniques is tabled. Without a clear goal for the group, there does not seem to be any value for the group.

- Fire Equipment Decontamination Procedures – Chair Kate Wilson; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison. Cynthia Tait replacement has not been hired.
- **Dennis to request updates from both of the workgroups. January call discussion.**

F) ANSTF

- Recap ANSTF Meeting – Leah shared a few items of interest from the ANSTF meeting. Stas Burgiel shared that in 2022 they will begin to re-instate ISAC. Also the Mid-Atlantic

Panel is creating an Enforcement AIS Task Force on their region. There may be some possible synergy for the future.

- Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Participation Discussion
  - Prevention - Chair James Ballard; Barak Shemai Liaison
  - Early Detection and Rapid Response - Chair Wes Daniels, USGS; John Wullschleger Liaison. Research priorities approved by ANSTF.
  - Control and Restoration - Chair Kim Bogenschutz, Iowa and AFWA; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison. Discuss QZAP management plan contact as ISAN and Leah. Dennis suggested that Leah should act as the plan contact. Most were in agreement. **Finalize this discussion on December call.**
  - Research - Chair Susan Pasko, USFWS; John Wullschleger Liaison
  - Education and Outreach – Tim Campbell, Wisconsin Sea Grant; Monica McGarrity (Confirmed?)
  - Bylaws and Operations (Ad-Hoc) - Chair Susan Pasko, USFWS; John Wullschleger Liaison

G) Coordinating the Coordination update

- PNWER
- NAISMA
- NMMA, ABYC, WSIA
- DOI Safeguarding the West
- ACOE (WRDA) – Stephen reported that they have been working on work plans for monitoring, WID and flowering rush almost submitted for CRB; west-wide the agreement likely not to be ready by January. Chris stated that the USACE has not even been in touch on the Arkansas Basin. WY and NV will be added to the CRB states as partners to be managed by PSMFC.
- WGA (winter meeting Dec 2021, Coronado)
- AFWA / WAFWA (Winter Meeting January 2022, Tucson)
- WISCE – Federal vaccine requirements were discussed as it is likely that federal contractors will be required to have vaccinations. It is not clear if we should expect similar strings for all federal money.

H) Announcements – ALL

I) Next call will be December 20 at 1 pm Mountain time.