

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

January 31th, 2022 at 1:00 pm mountain time

Attended by: Martha Volkoff, Glenn Dolphin, Stephen Phillips, John Wullschleger, Tom Woolf, Dennis Zabaglo, Chris Steffen and Leah Elwell.

Minutes

- A) Approval of December minutes. Stephen moves to approve, John seconds. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- B) Panel Business
 - QZAP 2.0 Action Items – Dennis Zabaglo. James Ballard/Prevention Committee of ANSTF would like to hear more about the recommendation WRP brought to the ANSTF to assist. Dennis will determine what is needed from the Ex Comm. The Dreissenid Research Workshop is next week that will address some items from QZAP.
 - Budget Update – Leah; \$8,338.21 is the current balance of the savings account. Because there have been no expenses incurred on the savings account for the past 2 years (no travel or meeting expense), this has only gained a nominal interest amount and no decreases. ISAN currently serves as the fiscal agent to process the QZAP grant managed by the WRP Education and Outreach Committee. The total project is \$88,000 and project is targeted to be fully expended by 9/2022. The grant has a project balance \$58,785.
 - Mid-Year Teleconference – Discuss setting a date and content. April 13th 1-3 pm; Content suggestions include Committee Updates, Call before you Haul boat transport and Dreissenid Research, legislative update, QZAP 2.0 progress update, and recommendations for ANSTF. **Leah will reach out to committee chairs to confirm their availability.**
 - Bylaw vote finalization – During the December Ex Comm call it was determined that the ballot should remain open to secure a majority vote. There were a total of 27/46 votes and all in favor of the bylaws and SOP minor language changes. The vote was approved.
- C) Legislative update – Stephen Phillips
 - On January 20, the House Natural Resource Committee passed Recovering Americas Wildlife Act (RAWA) out of committee, not clear how it is going to be paid for. It would be big positive for the AIS community.
 - WRDA 2023 reauthorization is underway. A request to consider changing the 50/50 match to 75/25 match was suggested for this current reauthorization. Many of the states are having a hard time with the match.
 - Appropriations – Feb 18th is the deadline for passing an omnibus bill. There is an attempt to re-boot Build Back Better legislation. A Continuing Resolution could affect rolling funds out as it would revert to previous budget amounts.
- D) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
 - Annual Meeting Committee - Leah Elwell; no new information from ANSTF on assembling for in-person meetings. We have received several bids from Anchorage, AK hotels to host, and the federal hotel per diem is \$229. The Agenda Planning Team has started discussions. Ex Comm expressed willingness to consider a balance of typical conference style with other social aspects during the agenda line-up. **Leah will explore**

possible AV options with AK agency staff. Ex Comm agreed that some form of virtual participation would be included to increase participation.

- Coastal Committee – Chair Chris Scianni; Glenn Dolphin Liaison. Chris Moffitt expressed interest in being chair when Chris S. is ready to step down.
 - Decontamination Think Tank Committee – Chair Robert Walters; Tom Woolf Liaison. The group is currently reviewing the specifics of plant decontaminations, and discussing the ongoing theme of ever increasing complexity of boats and with inspection staff trying to keep up. It could be that WISCE or Think Tank could bring forward new recommendation/communication to address industry in order to get ahead of these complex changes. Side note: the new national AIS Commission has been discussing how to encourage better communication with industry. This is a customer service issue. **Dennis will reach out to ABYC and NMMA** to let them know what is being experienced within WID programs and see what feedback he gets.
 - Membership and Communication Committee – Chair John Wullschleger. No new information, he is open to any suggestions for the committee to address.
 - Outreach Committee – Chair Monica McGarrity; Barak Shemai Liaison. No new info.
- E) WRP Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
- **Dennis will reach out to each of the workgroup chairs.**
 - eDNA – Chair Adam Sepulveda; Martha Volkoff Liaison. There was another speaker on the series of presentation being held by the workgroup. Dennis will check in with Adam about the goals and the purpose of the workgroup. Depending on the results of that, the Ex Comm will determine if it should remain. Based on the current summary, some of the workgroup goals have been met or decided that they were not realistic to accomplish under their umbrella. From existing profile, it could be ready to be retired, unless Adam has new goals. If there is direction that needs to occur, it should come from Ex Comm/membership.
 - Fire Equipment Decontamination Procedures – Chair Kate Wilson; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison. A clarifying purpose or a need is helpful at this time. What is the issue or what needs to be done in wildfire? Be cognizant that Fire Community will need to be approached in a specific way if items come from outside of their communication landscape. There are opportunities in this issue. Recommendations that come out of the WRP should be done in coordination with the Fire Community. **Dennis will reach out to Kate and report back for next meeting.**
- F) ANSTF
- **Leah to get dates for submitting on recommendations to allow committees and Ex Comm ample time to vet and discuss.**
 - Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Participation Discussion
 - Prevention - Chair James Ballard, GSARP; Barak Shemai Liaison. They have not met since the last Ex Comm call.
 - Early Detection and Rapid Response - Chair Wes Daniels, USGS; John Wullschleger Liaison. Working on revising the work plan which will include enhancing the National AIS Experts Database, a survey went out to all of the panels to understand rapid response training needs.
 - Control and Restoration - Chair Kim Bogenschutz, Iowa; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison. They are still securing leads and liaisons for the species-specific management plans. However, Martha will be lead, Dennis liaison for the NZMS. Work plan was submitted last month. Ted Grosholz will be the lead, Theresa Thom is liaison for European Green Crab. Because QZAP is a different management

plant, the committee wants a contact (rather than a liaison) for QZAP. Leah will serve that role. Overall WRP participation will be needed.

- Research - Chair Susan Pasko, USFWS; John Wullschleger Liaison. Priority list is complete and Susan will announce that list soon. A survey will be created to address those priorities. Interested in expanding the participation of committee. Finalizing their work plan.
- Education and Outreach – Tim Campbell, Wisconsin Sea Grant; Monica McGarrity (Confirmed?). **Leah will reach out to see if Monica can serve in that role.**

G) Coordinating the Coordination update

- PNWER
- NAISMA – Belle is stepping down. NISAW is virtual. Feb 28-March 2.
- NMMA, ABYC, WSIA
- DOI Mussel Coordination Group – There is interest in QZAP 2.0 and what the DOI agencies can do to take on some of those priorities. Hilary has reached out for the QZAP 2.0 spreadsheet and Leah has provided. All DOI is operating under CR. NPS is only spending a percentage, and waiting to see what happens next.
- ACOE (WRDA)
- WGA
- AFWA / WAFWA (Winter Meeting January 2022, Tucson). AFWA invasive species committee is meeting tomorrow.
- WISCE – Met for 2 days last week virtually, Leah facilitated and trying to determine next steps – update or identify issues? Working group to get standardized AIS hatchery inspection protocols to take to the next steps and adoption.

H) Announcements – ALL – AIS Commission is being headed up by the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. Boat US, Monica McGarrity is involved. The focus is access and angling rather than resource protection which is a different mindset. Focus is to encourage better coordination at federal level. Tanner Johnson is a consultant out of DC managing the group. Other participants include: Jordan Smith, NMMA, Yeti, Great Lakes Committee, TU, Yamaha and Chris Coulsi.

I) Next call February 28th