

# Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

May 23rd, 2022 at 1:00 pm mountain time

Attended by: Stephen Phillips, Tom Woolf, Blaine Parker, John Wullshleger, Chris Steffen, Martha Volkoff, Barak Shemia, and Leah Elwell.

## Minutes

- A) Approval of April minutes - Stephen moved to approve. John seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- B) Panel Business
  - QZAP 2.0 Action Items –
    - Traffic assessment // scope western or national, type of vessels – This item within QZAP was made as a recommendation to the ANSTF in 2021. The ANSTF Prevention Committee has been in touch with Dennis in trying to determine if the scope is western/national/which type of vessels. Today - what is the next step. Discussion on various aspects were shared, such as would an assessment be better for specific traffic assessments like Colorado River Basin, etc. Martha noted that it would be good to put some funding toward this to put data on management actions and make actions justifiable. There is interest by the USACE in better understanding how WRDA funded inspection stations are located in relation to traffic. Further discussions at basin level would be better. Barak said that a traffic assessment was not specified in the recent QZAP NOFO, however such a project could be eligible for that funding source. A lot of information is being collected at stations – is this a modeling traffic data exercise. Martha also mentioned that CA will be doing a state-based study on traffic and mandatory stations. If a traffic assessment is completed, what will this lead to? Are we advocating for a national inspection station locations?
  - Ex Comm election – 4 Ex Comm members are up for election. The terms for Dennis, Tom, Glenn and John will end in 2022. Leah will announce opportunity to submit for Ex Comm in June with a deadline of August. The election will be at the annual meeting.
  - ANSTF Recommendations
    - Response to previous recommendation to ANSTF. The recommendation responses from the ANSTF were briefly reviewed.
    - Future coordination session with other panels. Based on a recent all-panels meeting. Leah suggested it might be positive to have a meeting with only the panel principles prior to ANSTF meeting to find things to engage nationally on. All agreed that a short check in meeting would be a good idea.
  - Genetic biocontrol query from Great Lakes Panel. This panel is exploring this topic and information gathering. WRP is not currently working on this issue but has been following and having presentations at the annual meeting for many years. The WRP wants to stay informed as GLP moves forward with any suggested BMPs etc. US Staffers are making queries looking for estimations for cost feasibility that demonstrate the viability of QZ projects. Innovative tools are needed.
- C) Legislative update – Stephen Phillips –
  - Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act passed out of the House, with several lines of AIS funding.

- WRDA 22 Senate bill is out (House is already out). This bill includes new basins, Ohio and Lake Erie. It also adds *Hydrilla verticillata* as another species, *H. angustifolia* included. There is also mention of upgrades to the irrigation systems in NM.
  - American Outdoor Recreation Act – Manchin Barraso bill – adds the BOR cost share program for WID stations. Garmundi had a similar bill but did not have the same detail.
  - Appropriations there have been hearings on proposed 2023 budget, hearings are of interest to see what the White House priorities might be. FY 2023 House appropriations bill is of interest and will likely be coming out in a couple months.
- D) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
  - Annual Meeting Committee - Leah Elwell; The current draft agenda was discussed. The presenters have not yet been finalized. The planning team is trying to make the agenda a bit more interactive than previous years with workshops, and committee meetings. Leah will also release a Call for Hosting the Annual Meeting in 2023 with the aim to decide in AK.
  - Coastal Committee – Co-Chairs Chris Scianni and Christine Moffitt; Glenn Dolphin Liaison. The committee will meet today.
  - Decontamination Think Tank Committee – Chair Robert Walters; Tom Woolf Liaison. Nothing new to report with WID station season opening.
  - Membership and Communication Committee – Chair John Wullschleger. He will be scheduling a meeting for summer.
  - Outreach Committee – Chair Monica McGarrity; Barak Shemai Liaison. Performance period extension has been finalized for the contractor conducting the outreach evaluation project. Sam Chan has been discussing naming conventions and sharing information. The committee has been discussing the Protect the West website, where is this going and expansion for the future. It might better be held by westernais.org for the future.
- E) WRP Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
  - eDNA – Chair Adam Sepulveda; Martha Volkoff Liaison. Another monthly presentation took place during the workgroup meeting. The presentations are all hosted on the WRP website and Youtube page. The workgroup will take a field season break and will revisit the goals of the group in the fall.
  - Fire Equipment Decontamination Procedures – Chair Kate Wilson; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison
    - Finalization of template document. Kate has shared the workgroup’s document. Leah will circulate to the Ex Comm for greater review and then on to the greater membership for their review.
- F) ANSTF
  - New website - Posting of non-compliant documents // WRP website include state plans + species management plans. ANSTF’s new website is not allowed to host non-ADA-compliant documents. All agreed that the western state plans and all of the species’ plans should be hosted on the WRP website as soon as possible. Leah will make those changes.
  - Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Participation Discussion
    - Prevention - Chair James Ballard, GSARP; Barak Shemai Liaison. This committee is exploring eCommerce to investigate agreements with websites, possible funding from SFWS for OIT work, or new infrastructure funding. Seaplane RFP has been released, the first part of the project with Purdue University was immediately delayed because of staff deployment. Wes shared info on AIS

introductions. They have set up a sub-committee to address the e-Commerce issue.

- OIT group is very active due to contaminants in trade. A primary need is a list of regulated species for industry to access. Recently takeaim.org served that purpose but it has been orphaned. Who is going to maintain this kind of resources is always the issue? A big concern is providing support to the pet industry and looking for ways to help follow standard protocols.
- Early Detection and Rapid Response - Chair Wes Daniels, USGS; John Wullschleger Liaison. A sub-group (R23T) is working to develop a template, checklist and database of experts for rapid response. The committee will next meet on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, full committee June 10th.
- Control and Restoration - Chair Kim Bogenschutz, Iowa; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison. Green Crab revision is being let by Ted Grosholz who is actively moving to revise. Martha is kicking off the NZMS group next month.
- Research - Chair Susan Pasko, USFWS; John Wullschleger Liaison. The committee has sent letters to all agency leadership. They have plans to draft a peer reviewed paper that discusses research priorities. Also the group wants to track what work is being done that fits under the priorities.
- Education and Outreach – Tim Campbell, Wisconsin Sea Grant; Monica McGarrity Liaison. No new information.

G) Coordinating the Coordination update

- PNWER – July Calgary.
- NAISMA – November Ft Myers.
- NMMA, ABYC, WSIA
- DOI Mussel Coordination Group – not met recently. Discussing funds to NPS that will be transferred to USFWS and used to help support existing WID for training and database.
- ACOE (WRDA)
- WGA
- AFWA / WAFWA
- WISCE – Recent discussions were focused on challenges with hiring; Powell is almost dry, which means way less boating. The group has finalized hatchery inspection protocols. A recent hatchery, fish health, and AIS folks meeting was held to discuss. Next steps are to share this protocol with broader audience, and work with Robert Walters, CO Parks and Wildlife to standardize a training.
- John mentioned the Parks Service is exploring Port-Passport system and funding. Previous work has been done with such systems and funding provided to the state of UT to photo radar system (but not with Seacrest Family).
- CRB Meeting June 22-23. Virtual.

H) Announcements – ALL

I) Next call June 27, 2022 at 1pm. Conversion to Teams complete!