

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

June 27th, 2022 at 1:00 pm mountain time

Attended by: Blaine Parker, John Wullschleger, Barak Shemia, Glenn Dolphin, Martha Volkoff, Tom Woolf, and Leah Elwell

Agenda

- A) Approval of May minutes. Blaine moved to approve, and Barak seconded. All in favor - Minutes approved.
- B) Panel Business
 - QZAP 2.0 Action Items –Federal agencies are looking at the tasks within QZAP 2.0 and are discussing who can address various tasks by different agencies.
 - Ex Comm election – Leah put an announcement in the June newsletter with a deadline of August 19th. A discussion on how to conduct the election during the annual meeting established that understanding if there will be a quorum at the meeting will determine if it will be an in-person ballot election. Snail mail-in suggested by Martha. Blaine suggested to do via survey monkey prior to and announce at the meeting. The group will re-visit in July once we have registration numbers. The preference was for simplicity.
- C) Legislative update –
 - Barak shared several items of interest, including:
 - i. House of Representatives passes the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act that expands conservation activities eligible for funding under the Endangered Species Recovery and Habitat Conservation Legacy Fund of Title III to include efforts to manage, control, and prevent invasive species and disease.
 - ii. H.R. 6936, the Stamp Out Invasive Species Act, sponsored by Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY-21); Ranking Member Cliff Bentz (R-OR-2) expressed support for H.R. 6936, noting that it would advance a creative solution to raise funding for invasives species control. Rep. Jennifer González-Colón (R-PR-AL) discussed the impact of invasive species, including green iguanas, lionfish, mongooses, and feral pigs, in Puerto Rico. She asked about the challenges impacting the effectiveness of current invasive species programs and asked why awareness and public education are key components of any effort to address invasive species.
- D) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
 - Annual Meeting Committee - Leah will be circulating the opportunity to host 2023 next week. Feedback on the current workshop topics resulted in some good suggestions. Including modifying HACCP to a truncated workshop. To this it was suggested 1) reading or pre-work might be a way to get things started, or 2) take through half of the process. People could identify areas where HACCP could be developed and give an examples. (Suggestion of overview 20-30 minutes and example of HACCP plan to the end, go thru what it looks like what when you go out to do, find ways to interact with the group). No HACCP certification would be offered. Theresa and Colleen will do the workshop with Barak. He will tell Leah by July 10th. Leah reported that now the day-1 lunch will be

sponsored by Istonish. The planning team is navigating how to address invited speakers who now cannot attend in person. Prioritization was given to in-person speakers.

- Coastal Committee – Co-Chairs Chris Scianni and Christine Moffitt; Glenn Dolphin Liaison. Met in May for the first time in a while; Discussion on off-shore energy development and biofouling which ties into the mobile marine infrastructure outreach in development by the committee. The group is also discussing aspects of aquaculture and disease.
 - Decontamination Think Tank Committee – Chair Robert Walters; Tom Woolf Liaison; no updates from the think tank. The email list of participants for the group do communicate on issues with new boats during the summer on issues and problem boats. It serves as a type of group therapy on challenging work.
 - Membership and Communication Committee – Chair John Wullschleger. He is initiating a poll to meet in July. This committee could use some recruitment. Brainstorm session on membership participation and effectiveness suggestions. Tammy Davis, Kelli Stockton-Fiti and Elizabeth Brown are current members of the committee. Tribes are the perennial issue of participation which could be a focus. Blaine suggested that he could chat off-line to give ideas, tribes in general don't have the depth of staff to participate in groups like this. Making the invitation correctly and asking the right person is the challenge – Blaine offered to join the next committee call.
 - Outreach Committee – Chair Monica McGarrity; Barak Shemai Liaison. No new information.
- E) WRP Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
- eDNA – Chair Adam Sepulveda; Martha Volkoff Liaison; summer hiatus
 - Fire Equipment Decontamination Procedures – Chair Kate Wilson; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison
 - Review of template document to provide to membership. First step is to have Kate address the edits from the Ex-Comm. There was discussion on the need for the document to be properly socialized with the right people in fire to ensure it gets used in fire community. It could be shared with others in fire – Mike Illmini of Forest Service may review or have suggestions. Regional forest service staff have commented but it is limited. Having another step of review and getting broader feedback is needed. Ex comm comments to Leah by end week and then will send on to Kate.
- F) ANSTF
- Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Participation Discussion
 - Prevention - Chair James Ballard, GSARP; Barak Shemai Liaison, no new information. The subcommittee (OIT group) has a proposal is in the works to look at contamination issues in pet trade. A current list of regulations from Federal, state, tribal on organism are needed for industry and, models are being looked at. There is an incomplete process for informing people when contaminants are found. Contaminants in shipments have been called out.
 - Early Detection and Rapid Response - Chair Wes Daniels, USGS; John Wullschleger Liaison; The subgroup tackling rapid response plans are in the process of drafting an outline and will meet next month.
 - Control and Restoration - Chair Kim Bogenschutz, Iowa; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison. No information.
 - Research - Chair Susan Pasko, USFWS; John Wullschleger Liaison – peer reviewed paper is being discussed to disseminate research priorities.

- Education and Outreach – Tim Campbell, Wisconsin Sea Grant; Monica McGarrity Liaison. No information.

G) Coordinating the Coordination update

- PNWER - Calgary July 25th
- NAISMA - Fort Myers, FL November
- NMMA, ABYC, WSIA -
- DOI Mussel Coordination Group
- ACOE (WRDA)
- WGA
- AFWA / WAFWA
- WISCE – The group took a deep dive into hatchery standardized hatchery guidelines. Re-initiated effort and engaging fish health and hatchery staff this time. The goal of the guidelines is to provide a base standard to AIS inspections in hatcheries. How are these formalized with WAFWA or AFWA is to be addressed in the future. Challenges with hiring, but operations are going well in the WID landscape. Will try to meet in advance of the Annual Meeting.

H) Announcements – ALL; federal partners may assemble for a pre-meeting at the WRP pending who is registered. Leah can share registration contacts with John and others.

I) Next call July 25, 2022 at 1pm (Barak will be absent).