

# Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

October 24, 2022 at 1:00 pm mountain time

Attended by: Stephen Phillips, Barak Shemai, Dennis Zabaglo, Blaine Parker, Martha Volkoff, John Wullschleger, Robert Walters and Leah Elwell. Absent: Tom Woolf and Chris Steffen.

## Minutes

- A) Approval of August minutes. Stephen motioned to approve the minutes. Dennis seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- B) Panel Business
  - QZAP 2.0 Action Items - The Ex Comm will review QZAP 2.0 objectives for progress and prioritization over the next 2 calls. Leah will re-circulate the spreadsheet that reflects the last review of the objectives.
  - Ex Comm chair and vice election. Stephen nominated Dennis to serve as the chair and Tom to serve as the vice chair for 2022-2023 term. John seconded. All in favor. Motion approved. Discussion – sharing the load of tasks between chair and vice specifically, Dennis and Tom agreed that Tom will take on QZAP duties as needed.
  - Action items from Anchorage Annual Meeting: Discussion on suggested committees/workgroups – Two committees were suggested at Anchorage for possible consideration of formation. These were research and sampling/monitoring. Research priorities have been discussed with recent dreissenid prioritization projects in PNW and Midwest and there may be a need for more dialog on this. Barak suggested a role that a research committee could be to develop a priority list that is approved by the WRP. The creation of a research committee would align with current ANSTF committees and could serve as a communication connection to the ANSTF on this topic. Monica was the person who suggested the research committee. The re-invigoration of a monitoring/sampling committee to address new developments in monitoring and other species besides dreissenids has come up. Kate Dukette, Tammy Davis and Tom Boos were all proponents for the committee. To move forward with either committee the Ex Comm will need a point person, defined goals, and a clear need for each committee. Leah will reach out to get email to them for ideas of need.
  - Website review – Leah encouraged everyone to take a look at the website and make any suggestions or improvements. Leah will ask committee chairs for feedback. Leah will work with Monica to include files and information from the recently completed EOC project. Leah recently made some changes to the website regarding the annual meeting.
- C) Legislative update – Stephen Phillips - Waiting to see with the elections how the 2023 budget may change, however it is likely to be a Continuing Resolution. National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) contains: WRDA and Coast Guard bill, and RAWA. The limitation on passing RAWA has been how the bill will be paid for. NDAA is likely to get passed and include WRDA and CG bills.
- D) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
  - Annual Meeting Committee - Leah Elwell – de-brief AK (virtual moderator, feedback, payments) and UT hosting locations etc. For future meetings, we need to be clear about expectations for virtual portions. It was challenging and a different meeting to have COVID expectations about virtual participation and have a robust meeting in the room. Overall the meeting went well. There could be some simple IT improvements (lapel

microphone, “owl” camera of room, stream only), but sufficient budget is always a issue. It was difficult to do the committee meetings and workshops virtually and it was suggested that only the conference talks would be offered virtually. Just the talks for virtual. Leah will do one last request to fill out the post-meeting survey.

- Coastal Committee – Co-Chairs Chris Scianni and Christine Moffitt; Liaison needed – Stephen Phillips will do and Leah will share additional information as needed.
  - Decontamination Think Tank Committee – Chair Robert Walters. The committee is prioritizing the full decon procedure revision. In AK the group talked about pushing those forward to the ANSTF once done. They will be meeting every 2 weeks until the end of the year to get that done. Spring 2023 meeting to hopefully bring to the ANSTF. Reminder: this will have to be vetted through the other panels prior to the request for ANSTF approval.
  - Membership and Communication Committee – Chair John Wullschleger – Leah reported that there is a new WAMPS representative. She will circulate membership list to request any updates etc. John has no new information but will put the committee together before the end of the year. Dennis will now serve on this committee.
  - Outreach Committee – Chair Monica McGarrity; Barak Shemai Liaison. No new information and doodle for the next meeting for early November.
- E) WRP Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
- eDNA – Chair Adam Sepulveda; Martha Volkoff Liaison. No information at this time. Martha will check in with Adam.
  - Fire Equipment Decontamination Procedures – Chair Kate Wilson; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison – document finalization/ circulated 10/10. Dennis will share information. Blaine pointed out that there is no evidence of DRY in the document. What is the discussion of the raw water decontamination. Dennis would like to review document. Re-visit for finalization in November.
- F) ANSTF
- Recommendations – Leah will send reminder to committees to submit feedback. The Ex Comm to make decisions in November. Submit by Dec.
  - Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Participation Discussion
    - Prevention - Chair James Ballard, GSARP; Barak Shemai Liaison. Upcoming meeting out for doodle. OIT and AIS Commerce project was presented during their meeting, Tim Campbell is developing a training directed at pet store staff on contaminants.
    - Early Detection and Rapid Response - Chair Wes Daniels, USGS; John Wullschleger Liaison. R2T3 subgroup is developing a response plan template that is due November 14. Rapid Response Fund Working group is working to create a guidance document for funding distribution.
    - Control and Restoration - Chair Kim Bogenschutz, Iowa; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison. They met last week will likely see presentations on lionfish. Working on a decision process to determine when plans should be revised. In 2019 a list of outputs was generated for projects. Martha added information on the New Zealand Mud Snail plan revision - small groups have been tackling sections. Next stage of content will be to prioritize actions within the plan.
    - Research - Chair Susan Pasko, USFWS; John Wullschleger Liaison. Working on follow up survey and talking about a publication to make researchers aware of the priorities.

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

G) Coordinating the Coordination update

- PNWER -
- NAISMA -
- NMMA, ABYC, WSIA -
- DOI Mussel Coordination Group – Hilary Smith has initiated the creation of an federal interjurisdictional rapid response team working group
- ACOE (WRDA)
- WGA -
- AFWA / WAFWA – WAFWA does not currently have chair for their AIS committee, which may explain the minimal AIS activity of late from WAFWA.
- WISCE – They are planning an in-person meeting for end of January in Las Vegas.

H) Announcements – ALL; Barak shared the amounts and recipients of next QZAP awards – UT - \$350K; Portland Monitoring – \$155K, Pyramid Piute – \$490K, ISAN - \$108K, U of AK – dreissenid – \$150K, KS monitoring eDNA -\$90K, WDFD WID \$192K, and \$200K interagency transfer to SD at Pactola. \$50K to HQ for seaplane assessment, and FWS Region 7 inspection.

I) Next call November 28 at 1pm – The group will stick with the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 1 pm mountain time. Leah will circulate several calendar invites.