

# Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

August 22nd, 2022 at 1:00 pm mountain time

Attended by: Dennis Zabaglo, Tom Woolf, Martha Volkoff, Glenn Dolphin, Chris Steffen, Barak Shemai and Leah Elwell.

## Agenda

- A) Approval of July minutes. Dennis moved to approve. Barak seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- B) Panel Business
  - QZAP 2.0 Action Items – Dennis Zabaglo.
    - Barak shared that the deadline for recent QZAP funding closed, and there may have been some issues with Grant Solutions. There will be a merit review of the proposals in mid-September (Merit Review Team: Heidi McMaster, Theresa Thom, Aaron Martin, Joanne Grady, Barak Shemai). DOI to address progress on each item of QZAP 2.0 in an objective-based tracking table.
    - In October, the Ex Comm do an update on the table of the objectives.
    - Chris commented that for the Invasive Carps funding the states have an initial workshopping of projects that then go up a level to a federal review. QZAP attempts to address a broader level of possible funding requests which is different from the carp funding.
  - Ex Comm election – finalize election method. The candidate information will be sent out on September 8 (two weeks prior to the business meeting in Anchorage). There will be an accompanying survey that will be open for that two weeks and will close September 21. The results will be announced in Anchorage.
  - Awards....? There is no award to make this year. Could share Elizabeth's award info in Anchorage because it was made during pandemic year?
- C) Legislative update – TRPA held a federal summit last week with all CA NV senators. Erin McCarthy was keynote and focused on the Inflation Reduction Act which had money for climate change and resiliency. \$121 Million will be made available 2022-2026 for USFWS to address weather event etc. with some funding for invasives.
- D) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
  - Annual Meeting Committee - Leah Elwell – final agenda review; Because if WRP affiliation with ANSTF FACA rules/Alaska is currently high Covid rate/WRP meeting will be more than 50 people, WRP is being asked to submit a form to allow the meeting to proceed. In addition to that, WRP must ask all attendees to provide proof of vaccination or confirmation of a recent negative Covid test. COVID protocols might vary come September if medium Covid. Leah will send a separate email to registrants and verify verbally. Put in as much info as possible to avoid follow up questions. Include “If you are not feeling well, please don’t come”. An Ex Comm dinner will be determined on the fly. As per Ex Comm request, Leah reached out to see if UT would still like to host 2023 meeting. Bruce Johnson has verbally confirmed yes. Leah has also gotten questions from NM. Barak mentioned Santa Fe as a great location for the meeting. Member report deadline September 9<sup>th</sup> with photos.
  - Coastal Committee – Co-Chairs Chris Scianni and Christine Moffitt; Glenn Dolphin Liaison no information to share at this time.

- Decontamination Think Tank Committee – Chair Robert Walters; Tom Woolf Liaison - summer break.
  - Membership and Communication Committee – Chair John Wullschleger – On the last call there was discussion on tribal participation and had some good suggestions for how to move forward. Blaine Parker had significant feedback including that with recent Infrastructure Act funding this may be a good time for tribes to engage. Outreach to tribes without recruiting was the final suggestion. Martha suggested that we ask about tribal participation in the other panels. John will draft a few questions and Leah can share with panel principals to get understanding of broad tribal participation. Tahoe is preparing to work with local Washoe tribe and may have feedback on better participation in the future.
  - Outreach Committee – Chair Monica McGarrity; Barak Shemai Liaison. No new information. Waiting on the final report from Dr. Kyle on the outreach project.
- 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 – recap on document finalization – The NW Regional Fire group released a document that was very similar to what WRP was going to finalize. In order to differentiate the documents and how best to use the “template”, Kate will make some additional edits that guide document users. Some suggestions will include how to customize the document depending on the state, federal, tribal, or private entity that may use it, including geographic references to local AIS. Kate will provide revised document in the coming weeks.
- F) ANSTF – Next proposed meeting dates are January 11 and 12, 2023
  - Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Participation Discussion
    - Prevention - Chair James Ballard, GSARP; Barak Shemai Liaison; The committee has not met recently but the NW Regional fire document was provided to the committee. The OIT Subcommittee met recently to discuss: the funding of a OIT Large landscape project that will look at non-food animals and water plants in terms of model provisions and best management practices; Tim Campbell is developing training to pet store staff in how to deal with contaminants and other AIS; a case study of a non-compliant water garden center in Arkansas highlighted multiple issues with biosecurity.
    - Early Detection and Rapid Response - Chair Wes Daniels, USGS; John Wullschleger Liaison. The subcommittee R2T3 is in the process of creating template for a rapid response plan. A new rapid response funding group has met to help make criteria determinations should federal funding become available for rapid response activities.
    - Control and Restoration - Chair Kim Bogenschutz, Iowa; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison; Martha led a recent meeting on the mud snail plan revision. She has divided the plan revision into background/objectives/action items.
    - Research - Chair Susan Pasko, USFWS; John Wullschleger Liaison. No new information
    - Education and Outreach – Tim Campbell, Wisconsin Sea Grant; Monica McGarrity Liaison. The Responsive Management research report on outreach program of Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers, Clean Drain Dry and Play Clean Go is complete and hope to be able to circulate that broadly in the near future.
- G) Coordinating the Coordination update

- PNWER – Their annual meeting was just held in July in Calgary where several from the WRP presented on various topics including dreissenid management, and organisms in trade.
- NAISMA - Their annual meeting is the first week of November.
- NMMA, ABYC, WSIA - AIS Blue Ribbon Commission had a meeting last week. Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership consultant is leading the effort; heavy focus on boating, angling and access. Dennis, Stephen, Monica, and Elizabeth Brown participate, but will continue to be involved in the report to make sure the document is accurate in terms of invasive species. More to come.
- DOI Mussel Coordination Group
- ACOE (WRDA)
- WGA
- AFWA / WAFWA
- WISCE – The group will meet the day before WRP annual meeting; major topic of discussion is the Pactola Reservoir positive detection. In SD their biggest challenge is staff. This waterbody is a critical location for containment and protecting the west. Statutory authority is not there to take mandatory steps.

H) Announcements – ALL

I) Next call October 24th at 1pm –