**Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call**

November 28, 2022 at 1:00 pm mountain time

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

**Minutes**

1. Approval of October minutes. Stephen made a motion to approve the minutes. Dennis seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.
2. Panel Business
   * QZAP 2.0 Action Items – In 2020, a spreadsheet with all the objectives was prioritized and areas were identified for follow up. The intent today was to review the objectives for any progress. The discussion will pick back up in January with objective B.4. Dennis suggested to start with highlighted items to streamline discussion.
   * Coordination Contract – Leah shared long-term plans for her employment at ISAN. The WRP coordination grant agreement is a 5-year agreement that closes 9/2023. Leah intends to coordinate under this agreement until that date. After that Leah intends to leave ISAN. She expressed very high interest in continuing as WRP coordinator beyond 2023. Several agreed they would like her to continue. ISAN has played a pivotal role being the fiscal sponsor for the WRP. Moving forward there are many options for fiscal sponsorship to explore. Dennis suggested WRP could continue an agreement with ISAN to hold funding for meetings etc. Another entity like PSMFC could serve fiscal role. Leah will prepare a list of things to resolve coupled with a budget report in 2023 for the Ex Comm to further discuss and resolve options on fiscal sponsorship.
   * Discussion on suggested committees/workgroup – Leah was tasked with information gathering in the possible creation of a research committee and sampling/monitoring committee. Tom reported that the WISCE group is interested in the sampling/monitoring and will be meeting in January to flesh this out. Kate Steigler (AZ) expressed interest in leading. This committee may review existing protocols for QZ and species once that is completed. This may be best suited as workgroup. A research committee creation is less clear. Because of factors as such it being so broad, uncertain how to focus on taxon, who would champion were discussed. As well as if it should be brought to the membership. QZ research doc will be done soon. Funding is a direct need. Soliciting needs for management direction is a key to this. The group agreed to table this suggestion to create this committee for now.
   * 2022 Meeting expense finalization. Leah received the final bill from the Anchorage hotel in early November. After review and discovery of many errors, a revised bill was accepted, and ISAN will make payment this week. Tracking of income and expenses can be found in the shared folder. In general, the WRP came out in the black for the meeting. A full budget report will be shared in January 2023.
3. Legislative update – Stephen Phillips –
   * Currently in the Lame Duck session now and it is unclear if the FY23 budget will be approved or if a continuing resolution instead to get through the year will occur.
   * National Defense Act is moving through Congress, and it includes WRDA re-authorization, Coast Guard authorization and possibly Recovering America’s Wildlife Act (75% chance of passing).
4. WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
   * Annual Meeting Committee - Leah Elwell – SLC 2023 – Leah will begin planning the agenda with a volunteer team in January. She has requested bids from many downtown hotels, instead of being hosted the Eccles Center north of the city. There has been limited response from hotels. One could accommodate but the dates of Wed-Thursday were not available. Would a different schedule for a week work – generally everyone agreed schedule of the week was less important and good location is more important. Also looking at separate meeting space from hotel as an option.
   * Coastal Committee – Co-Chairs Chris Scianni and Christine Moffitt; Stephen Phillips/Leah. No new activity.
   * Decontamination Think Tank Committee – Chair Robert Walters; The committee has been meeting 2x/month until finished with review and update to the Full Decontamination Protocol.
   * Membership and Communication Committee – Chair John Wullschleger. No activity.
   * Education and Outreach Committee – Chair Monica McGarrity; Barak Shemai Liaison
     + Last meeting featured ISAN non-motorized boating outreach to date.
     + The committee provided draft language for a recommendation to be considered to the ANSTF. “The Western Regional Panel on ANS encourages the ANS Task Force to seek to coordinate development, maintenance, and promotion of a single online national resource similar to https://www.wildlifeforever.org/protect-the-west/

Protect The West – Wildlife Forever for communicating watercraft inspection and decontamination requirements, procedures, and state program contacts to boaters before they travel between states to aid in preventing the spread of AIS and encouraging compliance.” It was determined that this concept has a long-range vision and sharing this now to begin a process to explore would be valuable.

The group agreed that a national website for information would be helpful. Other information like the call before you haul work etc. should be included in this as well. Questions of how this will occur or be hosted are not to be suggested only that there is a need for the information. Leah will draft into recommendation template and share with Ex Comm.

1. WRP Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
   * eDNA – Chair Adam Sepulveda; Martha Volkoff Liaison. Martha will follow up for next meeting.
   * Fire Equipment Decontamination Procedures – Chair Kate Wilson; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison – Step down workgroup discussion in January. Final review of document is due by December 23 and vote in January via email. Highlight the final comments and give approval to finalize the document.
2. ANSTF
   * Discussion on Recommendations for January ANSTF meeting – Leah will draft and circulate ASAP.
     + Increase coordination to panels amount to $100,000.
     + QZAP at fully appropriated authorized level to support QZAP priorities.
     + Education committee suggestion from above.
   * Updates from All Panels call in November – Leah and Tom attended this meeting in early November. The items of note include; WRP will provide an update on the fire protocol during the January meeting; all panels agreed that continued vacancies for individual panels will not be recommendations but included in regular update to highlight the deficiencies; the ANSTF bylaws will be revised in 2023; follow up to the WRP’s recommendation to create better connections/relationships with the boat industry will require conversations rather than a revision of the T-32; Susan agreed follow up with ABYC and possible report out on incorporation of boat manufacture changes was in order.
   * WRP participation at January 11-12 meeting. Dennis will attend in person. Leah and Tom will attend virtually. John will also be there in person.
   * Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Participation Discussion
     + Prevention - Chair James Ballard, GSARP; Barak Shemai Liaison - no information covered
     + Early Detection and Rapid Response - Chair Wes Daniels, USGS; John Wullschleger Liaison – no information covered
     + Control and Restoration - Chair Kim Bogenschutz, Iowa; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison – no information covered
     + Research - Chair Susan Pasko, USFWS; John Wullschleger Liaison 0 no information covered
     + Education and Outreach – Tim Campbell, Wisconsin Sea Grant; Monica McGarrity Liaison – this committee has not met in many months
3. Coordinating the Coordination update – no updates included
   * PNWER
   * NAISMA
   * NMMA, ABYC, WSIA
   * DOI Mussel Coordination Group
   * ACOE (WRDA)
   * WGA
   * AFWA / WAFWA
   * WISCE
4. Announcements – ALL
5. Next call January 23 – NO DECEMBER CALL