

# Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

January 23, 2023 at 1:00 pm mountain time

## Minutes

- A) Approval of November minutes - Stephen motion to approve, Dennis seconded. All in favor  
Minutes approved.
- B) Panel Business
  - QZAP 2.0 Action Items - review of objectives for progress – reviewed highlighted items from initial 2020 discussion; The group will continue to review of all objectives that were not previously flagged for prioritization for any follow up (starting with Objective B.) All notes are captured in the File: QZAP 2.0 Progress Update 2022-2023 in Share Point.
  - Coordination Contract – Leah outlined the multiple roles that ISAN has played as the recipient of the \$50K/annual panel funding, including coordination of operations, event planning, website management, fiscal management of meeting sponsors, fiscal management of reimbursement travel, and website hosting. The panel funding agreement with ISAN is until 9/2023. Because of the fiscal needs for the WRP, the Ex Comm would like to explore a continuation of ISAN holding the grant agreement where Leah may provide coordination services as a subcontract, and ISAN remains as the fiscal manager and website host. Other suggestions of the creation a 501 c3 which is the NE Panel model (which was not preferred) or if a coordinator could assume all the fiscal responsibility outside of a non-profit umbrella (also not preferred). Can we split it up as an agreement for fiscal piece and coordination piece? Leah will communicate ideas to the ISAN board and report back on next call.
  - Discussion on suggested committees/workgroup – research and sampling/monitoring – placeholder for post WISCE meeting
  - Budget update – Reviewed the current status of the savings account balance (of \$9059.83 as of 1/13/2023). This reflects the final balance after payment of annual meeting costs. A net of \$698.30 was gained from the remainder of all sponsor income balanced by meeting expense. Detailed spreadsheet of meeting expenses and savings account are in Share Point.
  - Set mid-year webinar – The webinar will be April 18 1 -3 pm. Leah will reach out to the committee and workgroup chairs to confirm their availability ASAP.
- C) Legislative update – Stephen Phillips –
  - Stefanik (NY) has introduced yet again the Stamp out Invasive Species Act, which has been introduced multiple times. This stamp would generate a few \$100K and could be an add on to a bill. It would be good for outreach and education.
  - Language in the Interior Appropriations for European Green Crab coordination between USFWS and NOAA, which is good for engaging NOAA.
  - RAWA did not get passed at the end of the year but may be introduced yet again. However, with the debt ceiling being very high, this could affect decisions on funding bills etc.
  - Everything that was gained in the last few years will likely stick for AIS. PSMFC is trying to actively get NOAA more engaged at the HQ level, and monitoring all the BIL funding as it rolls out.
- D) USGS EDRR effort tracking– Tom Woolf is staying in contact with the USGS leads who are assembling a platform and tools on eDNA and EDRR. One important area are the mechanisms

for reporting new detection data. USGS staff (Ian McPherson, Wes Daniels, Adam Sepulveda etc). are getting a communication plan developed for communications of eDNA detections. Currently, there is not a communication plan for observations that are run by the USGS database (e.g. moss ball was reported to the NAS Database and reporting alert system without the state of Washington knowing).

E) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons

- Annual Meeting Committee - Leah Elwell – SLC 2023, shared AK exit survey. The agenda team met a few weeks ago to begin planning. They stressed that they would like to see a live stream rather than full virtual meeting. It is a balance between equipment needed for people to hear with mics for all, expenses, and people power. Live stream is the best we can do. Being very clear with virtual attendees on expectations for participation will be very important. Live stream could incentivize to come in person. Being able to have speakers remote deliver is of value. Leah expressed difficulty in finding a hotel/meeting location. SLC is a very popular location for fall conferences, federal per diem has been difficult to get over the full conference dates. The Eccles Nature Center in Farmington is still a good option. People could utilize the commuter train to get to Farmington and UDWR would assist with shuttle between the hotel and Eccles Center. Leah will look harder at dates in October, and August, other locations. Ogden, DOI building.
- Coastal Committee – Co-Chairs Chris Scianni and Christine Moffitt; Stephen Phillips/Leah – no information to report.
- Decontamination Think Tank Committee – Chair Robert Walters; The group has met 2 x in December. They have a draft of full decon procedure in review.
- Membership and Communication Committee – Chair John Wullschleger – He has a poll out and trying to schedule to meet in early Feb. Add Dennis and Leah.
- Outreach Committee – Chair Monica McGarrity; Barak Shemai Liaison – A meeting is coming up. Barak will communicate discussion topic from earlier QZAP 2.0 objectives and encourage the use of the recent outreach message analysis in active programming west-wide.

F) WRP Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons

- eDNA – Chair Adam Sepulveda; Martha Volkoff Liaison – She has connected with Adam and learned that the group has not reconvened recently. The intent is to pick it up soon and discuss future goals for the workgroup. It has largely been whittled down to the practitioners and less managers. Is it possible that a different chair (facilitator) could serve the potential interests of eDNA for the WRP? Is the workgroup the right way to funnel that info into the WRP? Re-group after WISCE. Retaining the flow of information on eDNA is very important, but there might be a need to modify the workgroup functionality.
- Fire Equipment Decontamination Procedures – Chair Kate Wilson (has moved on to a different job and stepped down as chair); Dennis Zabaglo Liaison – **document finalization**/ step down workgroup. Dennis votes to approve the document, Barak second. All in favor. John votes to leave fire group dormant until a need arises. Dennis seconded. All in favor.

G) ANSTF

- Highlights from January Meeting – all who attended – no information shared.
- Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Participation Discussion
  - Prevention - Chair James Ballard, GSARP; Barak Shemai Liaison
  - Early Detection and Rapid Response - Chair Wes Daniels, USGS; John Wullschleger Liaison

- Control and Restoration - Chair Kim Bogenschutz, Iowa; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison
- Research - Chair Susan Pasko, USFWS; John Wullschleger Liaison
- Education and Outreach – Tim Campbell, Wisconsin Sea Grant; Monica McGarrity Liaison

H) Coordinating the Coordination update

- PNWER
  - NAISMA
  - NMMA, ABYC, WSIA
  - DOI Mussel Coordination Group
  - ACOE (WRDA)
  - WGA
  - AFWA / WAFWA
  - WISCE – Will be meeting in Las Vegas January 31
- I) Announcements – ALL – DOI Mussels funding workgroup will be talking this week, historically have supported database and WID in recent years.
- J) Next call February 27<sup>th</sup> (Barak will be absent).