

# Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

February 27, 2023 at 1:00 pm mountain time

Attended: Dennis Zabaglo, Chris Steffen, Martha Volkoff, Tom Woolf, John Wullschledger, Stephen Phillips, Barak Shemai and Leah Elwell.

## Agenda

- A) Approval of January minutes. John move to approve, Dennis seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- B) Panel Business
  - QZAP 2.0 Action Items - review of objectives for progress – The group will hold further discussion until the March meeting and will pick back up in section B.
  - Coordination Contract and ISAN Agreement – Leah circulated a draft agreement that outlines the fiscal management services proposed for ISAN to provide for WRP. Minor changes were incorporated to clarify communication by coordinator to ISAN. Leah has also circulated this version to the ISAN BOD chair and will visit with them prior to next WRP Ex Comm call. The coordination portion: Dennis will reach out to Susan to understand and communications that need to be provided for next agreement.
  - Discussion on suggested committees/workgroup – The research committee that was brought up at the Anchorage Annual meeting does not have a clear goal or a leader, at this time the Ex Comm agreed to table it. The committee for sampling/monitoring was discussed among WISCE members during their in-person meeting in January. Kate Dukette, AZ Game and Fish AIS coordinator has agreed to lead and is assembling a draft committee profile for review by the Ex Comm. Tom will circle back with Kate on the timing of the draft profile.
  - Mid-year webinar – April 18<sup>th</sup> 1 pm – agenda discussion – Leah shared a draft agenda with various updates suggested. For the remaining time, the group agreed to poll members for feedback. Leah will query members. It may be relevant to mention the completion of the wildland fire equipment decontamination document and the new sampling committee during the webinar. Save the date has already been circulated.
- C) Legislative update – Stephen Phillips
  - He is tracking the roll out of the BIL money with USGS and eDNA effort.
  - Stamp out Invasive Species Act is the one invasive species legislation that has been introduced recently.
  - Limited dialog but there is on-going related to European Green Crab management.
  - Would have been in DC this week in the past for NISAW but there was not significant legislation to educate on. Not a lot of hearings on invasives at this time; mostly focused on climate change. Tahoe partners will be going to DC soon.
- D) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
  - Annual Meeting Committee - Leah Elwell – SLC 2023, Leah has secured a contract with DoubleTree Hotel downtown and shared a save the date on the listserv. Leah and Bruce Johnson will be circulating the sponsorship letter requests soon. No changes to the sponsorship letter were needed for 2023. Barak indicated that the FWS will likely contribute \$2500. Leah will begin tracking expenses/income in a share point spreadsheet.

- Coastal Committee – Co-Chairs Chris Scianni and Christine Moffitt; Stephen Phillips/Leah. They have not met in a bit. Often, they met with Pacific Ballast Water Group meeting but may not in 2023. Leah will reach out to the chairs.
  - Decontamination Think Tank Committee – Chair Robert Walters. Robert absent.
  - Membership and Communication Committee – Chair John Wullschleger. The group met recently and discussed tribal involvement. John has not had time to digest the next steps which are to identify tribal contacts and welcome them to the meeting. There are limits to folks participating and funding that is a reality for meaningful participation from tribes.
  - Outreach Committee – Chair Monica McGarrity; Barak Shemai Liaison. Met recently and discussed next steps with the Dr. Kyle’s report and the information coming out of it. Barak is feeling encouraged about the activity. They will refine results and put together visual 2-page document that can be easily distributed and digestible and work with Wildlife Forever to do the layout and design of it (\$1500 of QZAP funds will be given to them to accomplish). Also a template/tool that could be used by others to advance effective messaging. The goal is for the 2-pager will be completed done by the annual meeting. Other mechanisms to share the results were also discussed including requesting a NAISMA webinar, and Leah suggested that there could also be a stand-alone WRP webinar. Barak will convey WRP webinar possibility.
- E) WRP Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
  - eDNA – Chair Adam Sepulveda; Martha Volkoff Liaison; Recap from previous discussion: Adam wants to revisit the scope of the committee, however he is very busy with emerging eDNA USGS initiative. The committee could be tabled, if there is not a definable need at this time. Adam could be a “special advisor” on eDNA to the WRP. There may not be a demand for additional information associated with this workgroup; conversations are happening outside of the WRP at this time on eDNA. Next step: Communicate to Adam that the intent is to table the working group and relive him of his obligation to lead it, until such time that the WRP can articulate a defined need. There is always the forum of the WRP available for this topic. Tom and Dennis will craft an email to communicate. Dennis will reach out to Adam.
- F) ANSTF
  - Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Participation Discussion
    - Prevention - Chair James Ballard, GSARP; Barak Shemai Liaison; there has not been a meeting recently.
    - Early Detection and Rapid Response - Chair Wes Daniels, USGS; John Wullschleger Liaison; finalize the template next steps; Barak - \$2.7 is supposedly coming down for RR. There is a scramble to figure out how to get funding distributed (what is the mechanism (e.g. grants)). It will go through Financial Assistance. Currently Barak is on a committee to streamline how funds will get disbursed. He is suggesting an “Open and Continuous grant announcement” that could be applied to at any time and evaluated when requests are received. Ad hoc merit review team could be assembled.
    - Control and Restoration - Chair Kim Bogenschutz, Iowa; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison; Martha shared that the NZMS plan revision progress is on track with a goal to get a draft by April.
    - Research - Chair Susan Pasko, USFWS; John Wullschleger Liaison – not met in 2023

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

G) Coordinating the Coordination update

- PNWER -
- NAISMA - Their annual meeting will be in Lincoln NE in October 2023.
- NMMA, ABYC, WSIA - no new information; Dennis requested the physical report conducted by E. Brown for the boat industry investigation of adoption of AIS prevention design.
- DOI Mussel Coordination Group – During their last call, the group assembled items from various DOI agencies that target QZAP. There is likely to be a report later in the year. Barak suggested that the Ex Comm look at the fed version of the spreadsheet with the 2.0 once the Ex Com is done with their review. FWS recently reviewed each objective for FWS actions and labeled each objective with: n/a, nothing to report, actions was done for FWS. This is based on FY.
- ACOE (WRDA) - Upper Missouri/Colorado Basin agreements will hopefully be ready by spring; waiting for agreements from WY, CO those should be signed soon. US-Canada one is still early in the discussion phase. The USACE is continuing to move along, and is putting agreements in place with a 18-month windows to reflect fiscal. The entire program is an outlier within USACE which may explain some of the mechanics. GAO is looking at the watercraft inspection agreement language, associated with data sharing in particular.
- WGA
- AFWA / WAFWA
- WISCE - Gathered at the end of January and conversation was robust.
- CRB meeting will be June 6-7 Boise ID

H) Announcements – ALL

I) Next call March 27th