

# Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

March 27, 2023 at 1:00 pm mountain time

Attended by: Tom Woolf, Dennis Zabaglo, Martha Volkoff, John Wullschleger, Robert Walters, Stephen Phillips, and Leah Elwell

## Minutes

- A) Approval of February minutes; Dennis motioned to approve, and Stephen seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- B) Panel Business
  - QZAP 2.0 Action Items
    - A continuation of review of objectives for progress (began in section B) where specific progress or follow-up is captured within the spreadsheet in the Shared Drive. Several items were identified that could be included in a poll to understand what adoption or progress has been made (these include B.7 and B.13, others may be identified as the review continues). A poll may be generated later in 2023 to compile this information. Leah will follow up with National Sea Grant Law Center regarding B.10. During April Ex Comm will pick up review in section B.
    - DOI progress items – Prior to next Ex Comm call, all will review the table that Hilary Smith provided and discuss on next meeting.
  - Coordination Contract and ISAN Agreement – Susan Pasko will need a letter to show any changes in how WRP intends to utilize the USFWS funding (i.e. coordination) when changes are initiated. The document that outlines fiscal sponsorship continuation by ISAN for WRP has been given initial “approval” by the ISAN BOD. Leah will circle back in May after the ISAN BOD meeting if there are any other outstanding needs/issues on the document.
  - Discussion on suggested committees/workgroup – sampling/monitoring – Kate Dukette (AZ) has completed and submitted the required committee outline that proposes the creation of a Field Sampling and Monitoring Committee. Stephen made motion to approve, Dennis seconded. All in favor. Leah will reach out to Kate requesting milestones for each item and last milestone might be a presentation to membership on final completion of items.
  - Mid-year webinar – April 18<sup>th</sup> 1 pm – The agenda was finalized to include very short presentations on various topics including USGS READI-net, European green crab ANSTF and NZMS Management Plan revisions, and CA traffic study. There is no need to have an update from the eDNA workgroup from the agenda, as there is no update since Fall 2022.
- C) Legislative update – Stephen Phillips –
  - Manchin and Barroso co-sponsors on bill for Americas Outdoor Recreation Act. This has the 75/25 cost share for WID.
  - Recovering Americas Wildlife Act will be reintroduced again likely soon but there is still a need to determine how it will be funded.
  - Stamp Out Invasive Species Act has been repeatedly introduced by Stefanik (NY). Administratively there is also an effort to get the USPS to do some type of stamp on invasive species as well.

- D) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
- Annual Meeting Committee - Leah Elwell; The planning team met earlier in the month. The call for abstracts is open until May 1. Leah is communicating with staff with UT Division of Wildlife Resources to see what AV needs they can support with. A first round sponsorship letters have been sent to past sponsors. So far Istonish has pledged to provide lunch and MTS will support at \$1000.
  - Coastal Committee – Co-Chairs Chris Scianni and Christine Moffitt; Stephen Phillips/Leah; No new information to share. There may be a possibility that the committee meets at Pacific States Ballast Water Group this week.
  - Decontamination Think Tank Committee – Chair Robert Walters; They met in February and have a final draft of the full decontamination procedure. Process for finalizing the document. Next step will be to bring to Ex Comm and then share with membership; then with the other panels.
  - Membership and Communication Committee – Chair John Wullschleger – Nothing new and will be drafting a letter of invitation to tribes for next call.
  - Outreach Committee – Chair Monica McGarrity; Barak Shemai Liaison. The committee will meet tomorrow.
- E) WRP Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
- eDNA – Chair Adam Sepulveda; Martha Volkoff Liaison –Discussion on what is the next step for workgroup. Adam has expressed that he would like to query the workgroup members for possible actions for the workgroup. However, is a hub needed in WRP or should WRP share the information when it is provided? There are information needs for eDNA such as: eDNA for T and E species information, eDNA methodology, and external efforts may be fulfilling the initially identified needs for WRP. What is the return for the WRP? Is there a need for co-chair to help balance the management/research needs. Is there a need to re—visit the workgroup template. Ex Comm needs to articulate the task. Put on next month agenda to call for a vote to determine if the workgroup should be dissolved.
- F) ANSTF
- Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Participation Discussion
    - Prevention - Barak Shemai Liaison
    - Early Detection and Rapid Response - Chair Wes Daniels, USGS; John Wullschleger Liaison. Rapid Response template almost in final draft.
    - 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
- G) Coordinating the Coordination update
- PNWER
  - NAISMA
  - NMMA, ABYC, WSIA
  - DOI Mussel Coordination Group – Mussels MOU is updating the resources list of who can do what in terms of equipment and staff (Hilary coordinates this effort).
  - ACOE (WRDA)
  - WGA
  - AFWA / WAFWA

- WISCE – On their last call had Wes Daniels of USGS NAS Database to discuss and ask questions on sharing data and development of eDNA website. There is an openness for communication and it will take state engagement to address data concerns.
- H) Announcements – Robert provided information the eradication effort on the Highline Reservoir in Colorado. The waterbody has been dewatered 75%; two applications of Earth Tech QZ and doing 3<sup>rd</sup> application this week, and they are using Asian clams as sentinels which there is little known. Will resume recreation once the water level is launchable with mandatory decontamination. Timeline of mussel detection: September 14<sup>th</sup> single adult zebra mussel, followed by 14 adults in various places in reservoir; not many more seen on the rocks. Survey in outlet Mac Wash where the wash leads to Salt River then the Colorado River. There is limited public access to do sampling and difficult to access beyond the wash. Two mussels were found in wash, and cannot go off label on EarthTech to treat in flowing water, plus there are listed species in Wash. CO will continue with rigorous monitoring regime to understand the presence of mussels and approach a possible delisting in 5 years.
- I) Next call April 24th