

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

April 24, 2023 at 1:00 pm mountain time

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

Minutes

- A) Approval of March minutes – Stephen made a motion to approve the minutes, and John seconded the motion. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- B) Panel Business
 - QZAP 2.0 Action Items
 - review of objectives for progress. Section B was completed for review discussion. The group will begin with Section C on the next call.
 - DOI progress items – Hilary Smith recently provided a progress update to the QZAP 2.0 objectives list with corresponding DOI agency accomplishments. This may be used later to correlate to overall QZAP accomplishments.
- C) Legislative update – Stephen Phillips
 - Save Our Seas Act amendment relates to flotsam/jetsam and possible invasives.
 - DOI Press Conference on Friday announced that there will be \$125 M to restore the nation's lands and waters. \$17.9 M to advance rapid response: \$1M for pilot for RR funding in 2023 with \$4M total project period of 4 years.
 - There is much discussion on the Debt Limit which could delay the FY24 appropriations process.
- D) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
 - Annual Meeting Committee - Leah Elwell – The call for abstracts is open until May 1. A tour bus was just secured for the field trip. CD3 would like to sponsor happy hour; all agreed that this would be fine. Leah asked for feedback on the welcome portion of the agenda regarding tribal engagement. Previously, the agenda included a welcome from an appropriate local tribe. However, the planning team was discussing what is best to include and was a land acknowledgment needed? Blaine commented that generally reaching out to a local engaged tribe is the best. Things like an invocation or blessing if it is done by a local tribe can be good. Bottom line: look to the host tribe for any kind of welcome, if not involved in the arena of AIS, then it may not be appropriate. At a minimum, WRP could reach out to see if they want to attend. Leah has been working closely with UT DWR to line out the AV needs. UT DWR will live stream on the WRP YouTube channel and provide push to talk mics for day 2. Some additional contracted AV will be needed like projectors and screens.
 - Coastal Committee – Co-Chairs Chris Scianni and Christine Moffitt; Stephen Phillips/Leah. The committee has not met recently but need to maintain momentum.
 - Decontamination Think Tank Committee – Chair Robert Walters – The committee is still revising the full decontamination protocol for final review.
 - Field Sampling and Monitoring Committee – Chair Kate Dukette. Leah has reached out to Kate who provided more information on next steps for the committee.
 - **July 2023:** First meeting of subcommittee, review goals and existing documents. Determine best steps to address updates, new sections/species of consideration

beyond QZM. Determine if eDNA needs to be added to the protocol. **Fall 2023:** Update to dreissenid protocols complete. Begin working on incorporating other species.

- Leah will send a request out via the list serv and monthly update to join.
 - Membership and Communication Committee – Chair John Wullschleger. He is working on a letter to encourage tribal engagement.
 - Outreach Committee – Chair Monica McGarrity; Barak Shemai Liaison; they will be meeting in May.
 - Mid-year meeting – April 18th - 55 people in attendance. The recording is posted to the YouTube channel.
- E) WRP Workgroup Updates – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
- eDNA – Chair Adam Sepulveda; Martha Volkoff Liaison –Martha proposes that the workgroup be dissolved until the WRP has a clearly articulated need. There are opportunities to report to the membership on eDNA at the annual meeting and mid-year meeting if needed. Tom agrees. We are fortunate that Adam is a member of the WRP which lends itself to share information, and the connection remains. There are other forums, like the Genetics Community of Practice, within DOI that are active right now. Martha made a motion to deactivate the committee until further needed. Blaine seconded. All in favor. Motion carried. Martha will reach out to Adam.
- F) ANSTF
- Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Participation Discussion
 - Prevention - Chair TBD, GSARP; Barak Shemai Liaison – They will meet this week.
 - Early Detection and Rapid Response - Chair Wes Daniels, USGS; John Wullschleger Liaison – They are still working on the rapid response plan template, but progress is being made. The rapid response fund group meets Friday.
 - Control and Restoration - Chair Kim Bogenschutz, Iowa; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison. No new information.
 - Research - Chair Susan Pasko, USFWS; John Wullschleger Liaison. No new info.
 - Education and Outreach – Tim Campbell, Wisconsin Sea Grant; Monica McGarrity Liaison. No new information.
- G) Coordinating the Coordination update
- PNWER
 - NAISMA
 - NMMA, ABYC, WSIA
 - DOI Mussel Coordination Group – Hilary Smith shared a federal rapid response resource document with DOI and other agencies outlining staff and resource availability. Leah will circulate to the Ex Comm. John noted that the NPS will have \$4.5M on QZ for the next fiscal year, with \$.5M going to Lake Roosevelt.
 - ACOE (WRDA APC-WID) – Still working to get the Missouri and Upper Colorado Basins into the system for funding.
 - WGA -
 - AFWA / WAFWA -
 - WISCE – State coordinators are tracking the USGS eDNA effort and making sure info is being shared appropriately. They meet all year long.
- H) Announcements – QZAP RFP open and close mid-June. CRB Meeting will be June 6-7 in Boise.
- I) Next call May 22