

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

May 22, 2023 at 1:00 pm mountain time

Minutes

John Wullschleger, Tom Woolf, Blaine Parker, Robert Walters, Martha Volkoff, Chris Steffen, Barak Shemai and Leah Elwell.

- A) Approval of April minutes. John motioned to approve. Blaine motioned to second. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- B) Panel Business
 - QZAP 2.0 Action Items: review of objectives for progress (begin in section C). Several items were identified for Leah to reach out and follow up for section C.
 - Address suggested edits to the Wildland Fire Decontamination document. – Hold until Dennis can address as he was not present during the call. Barak understood that there were comments to be captured from the ANSTF Prevention Committee to include on the document. Dennis was facilitating that process. Follow up with Dennis.
 - Submission coordination NOFO. Leah shared the project and budget narrative, plus a draft letter stating that WRP intends to coordinate with Leah Elwell beginning in FY2024. Leah will submit to Grant Solutions ASAP.
- C) Legislative update – Stephen Phillips –
 - Americas Recreation Act (Manchin) – This is the BOR cost share program, one item of concern/limitation language: “shall not prohibit access to water in absence of an inspector” (issue for some states like Colorado). It has passed out of committee with this language. Bennett bill is similar but without the “issue” which may be able to address the problem.
 - Rubio just reintroduced the Lacey Act bill that would address the previous ruling on constrictor snakes.
 - Hawaii invasive species bill has been introduced. Most of the bill is terrestrial related.
 - Budget/Debt Limit increase is focus; Appropriations process has begun in the House and are currently voting on several of the bills (Defense, etc.). Proposed FY2024 numbers coming out of the House are lower than the current budget.
- D) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
 - Annual Meeting Committee - Leah Elwell – The planning team has met to review abstracts and is actively creating a draft agenda that should be ready for circulation in June. AV needs are secured with Utah Division of Wildlife. Leah will continue to do follow up with sponsors and solicit payment from those that have pledged. Pre-meetings are being planned with Tom Woolf for WISCE and John/Barak will serve as the leads for planning the federal meeting on the 19th; The meeting is September 20-22 in SLC. Leah will share the draft agenda next time.
 - Coastal Committee – Co-Chairs Chris Scianni and Christine Moffitt; Stephen Phillips/Leah; The committee has not met in many months. Stephen believes that there may be a need to have part-time staff to help get the committee moving again. Leah will reach out to the committee chairs to ask if they want to continue as chairs. It may be possible to look to the committee for replacements.

- Decontamination Think Tank Committee – Chair Robert Walters – They have not met recently but are waiting for final review on Decontamination Protocol and then will be ready for approval.
 - Field Sampling and Monitoring Committee – Chair Kate Dukette – Kate plans to hold the first committee meeting this summer. Leah will relay QZAP items in C Strategies for committee to consider on monitoring standardization.
 - Membership and Communication Committee – Chair John Wullschleger – letter for tribal engagement; John is hoping to have time to create the letter very soon.
 - Outreach Committee – Chair Monica McGarrity; Barak Shemai Liaison; The committee met last week and had a presentation by a professor on alternate social media platforms. The summary information from the effectiveness outreach research has been distilled and USFWS is giving a small amount of funds to create professional looking document by Wildlife Forever. This will be ready soon for circulation.
- E) WRP Workgroup Updates – no active workgroups – remove this from the agenda for next time.
- F) ANSTF – The next ANSTF meeting will be virtually on July 18 and 19; Susan will be on detail starting in June (minimum 60 days maybe 120)
 - Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Participation Discussion
 - Prevention - Chair James Ballard, GSARP; Barak Shemai Liaison; Wildland fire doc comments will be shared with the WRP. The committee is seeking a new chair. They are discussing expanding into some broader topics. The seaplane risk assessment project has been awarded to Creative Resource Strategies. The subcommittee on Organisms in Trade has been discussing contaminants including crayfish in goldfish feeder shipments to pet stores. The subcommittee is being led by USFWS Kristen Sommers.
 - Early Detection and Rapid Response - Chair Wes Daniels, USGS; John Wullschleger Liaison; The committee met last week to review the workplan. A subcommittee is working to finalize a rapid response templated. The subcommittee to develop guidelines on federal/national rapid response funding has almost completed this document.
 - Control and Restoration - Chair Kim Bogenschutz, Iowa; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison – no information to share.
 - Research - Chair Susan Pasko, USFWS; John Wullschleger Liaison – no information to share.
 - Education and Outreach – Tim Campbell, Wisconsin Sea Grant; Monica McGarrity Liaison – no information to share.
- G) Coordinating the Coordination update
 - PNWER
 - NAISMA
 - NMMA, ABYC, WSIA
 - DOI Mussel Coordination Group
 - ACOE (WRDA) - The Upper MO and CO basins will be ready to go soon with funding; trying to streamline their process but internally it is not smooth
 - WGA – They met last week in Bozeman. None of the topics were focused on AIS.
 - AFWA / WAFWA
 - WISCE - Tom reported everyone is busy inspecting boats. The hatchery inspection guidelines are ready to be moved forward; Josh Leonard (WY) is taking up his chain of command to introduce to AFWA for endorsement.

- H) Announcements – ALL – NPS is dealing with another round of results of eDNA at Amistad. Zebra mussel DNA is coming up and are struggling to find adults. Link to USGS eDNA efforts.
- I) Next call June 26