

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

June 26, 2023 at 1:00 pm mountain time

Minutes

Attended by: Dennis Zabaglo, Stephen Phillips, Martha Volkoff, Tom Woolf, John Wullschleger, Barka Shemai, Robert Walters and Leah Elwell. Absent: Blaine Parker, Chris Steffen.

- A) Approval of May minutes. Dennis moves to approve, John seconds. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- B) Panel Business
 - QZAP 2.0 Action Items: review of objectives for progress. Section D was reviewed. For the next meeting Leah will compile all follow-up items that could be queried by survey to membership etc. to share with Ex Comm. Next review will begin in section E.
 - Address suggested edits to the Wildland Fire Decontamination document. ANSTF Prevention subcommittee provided minor comment to address basic information on veligers for the reader. To be continued, once we hear from the subcommittee then we may anticipate approval from ANSTF possibly.
 - Ex Comm election – 5 seats open for election. Announce after July 4th.
- C) Legislative update – Stephen Phillips –
 - Sen Bennett introduced BOR cost share bill similar to previous ones. This bill is related bill is the Manchin bill, however both have the language that mentions that waterbody inspectors may not be present but launching is still allowed.
 - The appropriations process for 2024 is underway. Because of the dept limit agreement congress needs to get a budget done or there is a 1% mandatory cut. Already in the proposed APC-WID, the WID has been reduced from \$17M to \$7M. This cut may have come because in previous years, the funds have not been spent fully. Several of the other basins are nearly complete and will be tapping into the APC-WID funds very soon. There is a possible funding “earmark” that has been submitted for the Metlakatla Indian Community to manage European green crab.
 - There is an effort to break NOAA away from the Department of Commerce which is unlikely.
- D) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
 - Annual Meeting Committee - Leah Elwell; Leah will launch the registration early July. She gave a full overview of the current draft agenda which also will be released soon once some of the speakers are confirmed. Several sponsors have confirmed and provided funds. Leah will continue to solicit and query for support for the meeting. The announcement to host for the 2024 annual meeting will be released shortly. At the last meeting Kansas mentioned that they might be interested in hosting.
 - Coastal Committee – Co-Chairs Chris Scianni and Christine Moffitt; Stephen Phillips/Leah. They will meet on June 28. Lots of coastal related activities are going on outside of committee efforts, but there are several committee project items to be finalized related to biofouling. Martha mentioned that Dominique Norton could be called on for a support role if needed.
 - Decontamination Think Tank Committee – Chair Robert Walters. Next meeting will be post-Labor Day.

- Field Sampling and Monitoring Committee – Chair Kate Dukette. Leah will be encouraging participation in the new committee via the list serv to get more people.
 - Membership and Communication Committee – Chair John Wullschleger – He has drafted the letter for tribal engagement and plans to get the committee together in July or August.
 - Outreach Committee – Chair Monica McGarrity; Barak Shemai Liaison. Met last week. A fact sheet summarizing Dr. Kyle’s work is underway and Wildlife Forever will be formatting. The rest of the discussion was on QZAP proposals that were submitted.
- E) ANSTF – July 1 recommendations are due for the ANSTF meeting July 18-19. **A better idea would be to have recommendations for October Meeting.**
 - Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Participation Discussion
 - Prevention - Chair TBD; Barak Shemai Liaison. Meeting in early July and one of the topics is the Wildland Fire Decontamination document.
 - Early Detection and Rapid Response - Chair Wes Daniels, USGS; John Wullschleger Liaison. R2T3 team is meeting tomorrow to review the rapid response template.
 - Control and Restoration - Chair Kim Bogenschutz, Iowa; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison. Meeting in July. The committee has been reviewing the EGC and Mud Snail plan revisions. Martha is nearly ready for informal review by the panels.
 - Research - Chair Susan Pasko, USFWS; John Wullschleger Liaison. Committee has not met.
 - Education and Outreach – Chair Tim Campbell, Wisconsin Sea Grant; Monica McGarrity Liaison. Committee has not met.
- F) Coordinating the Coordination update
 - PNWER – Boise meeting for their summer gathering.
 - NAISMA – Omaha Nebraska in October
 - NMMA, ABYC, WSIA - no
 - DOI Mussel Coordination Group – no news
 - USACE APC WID -
 - WGA – no news
 - AFWA / WAFWA -
 - WISCE – USGS information sharing and eDNA has been the focus of the discussions.
- G) Announcements – ALL- New publication for AFS on decon of gear is forthcoming. Barak, Leah and others have been working together to revise and finalize that journal article.
- H) Next call July 24th