

# Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

August 21, 2023 at 1:00 pm mountain time

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

## Minutes

- A) Approval of July minutes. Barak Shemai made a motion to approve. Dennis Zabaglo seconded. All in favor. Minutes are approved.
- B) Panel Business
  - QZAP 2.0 Action Items: review of objectives for progress (begin in section G)
  - List of items to-date for follow up within QZAP 2.0 – permanent solution is to administratively address. Leah will take a closer look at what each item may entail and identify the associated effort. Robert volunteered to address WID items. Leah will also clean up the master spreadsheet for clarity.
- C) Legislative update – Stephen Phillips
  - The government will need a CR before beginning of next fiscal year, likely to be a short-term CR, will know more after Labor Day
  - 2 BOR cost share bills – Manchin (out of committee) and Bennett bill (not out of committee).
  - WRDA 2024 the process to draft that legislation is underway. Legislators have requested specific comments from PSMFC on Flowering rush and the USACE. Several of the basin funding efforts have been stalled.
- D) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
  - Annual Meeting Committee - Leah Elwell; Dennis requested a hotel rate memo be generated to help people with their travel requests as the rate is above per diem. There are several members/participants that will be retiring this year (Allen Pleus, Rick Boatner, Dee Davis). Dennis will plan to mention it during the business meeting. Hosts for 2024 – currently there are no bids to host. Kansas would like to host in 2025 and in conjunction with MRBP.
  - Coastal Committee – Co-Chairs Chris Scianni and Christine Moffitt; Stephen Phillips/Leah liaisons – PSMFC took multiple orders for rack cards printing from committee partners. Stephen suggested the committee create a document on wind energy and AIS for a future project.
  - Decontamination Think Tank Committee – Chair Robert Walters – They will meet this week to begin going back through the full decon protocol. They will also plan to discuss next steps for contracted WID person in the future and QAQC.
  - Field Sampling and Monitoring Committee – Chair Kate Dukette; Tom Woolf liaison – Not well attended for the first meeting, they will meet in SLC Annual Meeting.
  - Membership and Communication Committee – Chair John Wullschleger; Letter was shared with tribes that are active in AIS to encourage them to attend the meeting. John has reached out to staff level people. A draft of membership application for tribal entities (tribal organizations and tribes) has been created based on response from a specific tribe with interest. The letter and draft application will be circulated to Ex Comm for their review by Leah. Should the application be called a membership application or something different? John has had some contact with a few tribes. NAFW

is technically an organization, not a tribal consortium and should apply as a non-tribal seat. The committee should look at current language in the bylaws and see if there are timely edits to make regarding language on Tribes. Membership notifications – Kansas – Chris Steffen is stepping down and Vanessa Salazar will be primary, and Michael Parr alternate voting member. BOR – Jolene Trujilo has left job and Heidi McMaster is on 60-day detail in her position. BLM – Leah has had no response on specific member emails. John will reach out to BLM and find out who the best voting participant should be.

- Outreach Committee – Chair Monica McGarrity; Barak Shemai Liaison. The committee is still working on a 2-page report that summarizes the research by Dr. Kyle.

#### E) ANSTF

- Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Participation Discussion
  - Prevention - Chair Joseph Kreiger, NOAA; Barak Shemai Liaison. No information.
  - Early Detection and Rapid Response - Chair Wes Daniels, USGS; John Wullschleger Liaison – The RR plan template is being tackled and targeting later this year for finalization. Funding for pilot EDRR needs has just been released.
  - Control and Restoration - Chair Kim Bogenschutz, Iowa; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison. Nothing to report. Martha shared that the NZMS plan is still in development and next step will be to distribute to the panels.
  - Research - Chair Susan Pasko, USFWS; John Wullschleger Liaison. No info.
  - Education and Outreach – Chair Tim Campbell, Wisconsin Sea Grant; Monica McGarrity Liaison. No info.

#### F) Coordinating the Coordination update

- PNWER -
- NAISMA -
- NMMA, ABYC, WSIA – During the last ANSTF meeting Susan Keating mentioned that the AIS Commission will re-group.
- DOI Mussel Coordination Group – This group is still meeting quarterly, and discussing funding coordination.
- ACOE (WRDA) – Last week the PPA would be back from their division office this week and will send as soon as possible. Blaine asked if the inability to use federal funds for addressing federal waters issue ever been resolved? NO, Stephen is still tracking this.
- WGA - none
- AFWA / WAFWA –
- WISCE – met about next steps about Call Before You Haul, EDRR Framework is being discussed to make sure states are looped in on monitoring, rapid response etc. Meeting in SLC (12-5pm).

#### G) Announcements – ALL

- SD requested assistance for Pactola for inspecting moored boats in September. MTFWP will be sending staff to help with the effort.
- California might be able to host in 2024, but if others want to put their name in they would step aside. Could try to collaborate with State Lands Commission or other states (and possibly Tahoe).
- Quagga Dee has retired!
- SW Rivers Horizon scan request will be circulated by Barak soon. Forward on to folks that would be of value to the feedback of that group.

#### H) Next call TBD – September 18 is WRP meeting week / October 16 cannot work for Leah. Leah will doodle again for the year once the new Ex Comm is determined.