

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

November 27, 2023 at 2:00 pm mountain time

Minutes

Attended by: Barak Shemia, Tom Woolf, Robert Walters, Stephen Phillips, Vanessa Salazar, Josh Leonard, John Wullschleger, Dennis Zabaglo and Leah Elwell.

- A) Approval of October minutes – Stephen moves to approve, Dennis seconds. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- B) Panel Business
 - QZAP 2.0 follow up items and review – Previously Leah had created a short list of possible follow up for QZAP that may involve a survey or update to WRP members. Discussion on how best to advance any follow up and finalize the progress of QZAP 2.0 determined that the Ex Comm will finish the review, Leah will clean up the review file and then the group will determine next steps. Barak stressed that tracking the progress of the QZAP is very important and providing metrics is needed. Overlap with the ANSTF legislative committee to leverage a better response from the members, discussions may impact future funding for management plans. Conducting follow-up on QZAP progress requires bandwidth and considerable work, is it possible to strategize a recommendation to the ANSTF that is it not an easy lift for the panel to take on.
 - GLP Carp follow up – Leah has reached out to the Great Lakes Panel to understand how they may need WRP to assist in contacting members etc.
 - Sharepoint access and files – Leah determined Sharepoint for group access will work. She will create access for all Ex Comm. The historical files and current agendas, minutes and annual meeting information will be housed there. Leah will still directly email agendas/minutes prior to each monthly meeting.
- C) Legislative update – Stephen Phillips – Hearing on WRDA this week addressed partnership agreements. On the Legislative side - two drop dead dates 1/19 need to pass an agriculture and Corps budget, the other important dates for passing budgets are 2/2 for Commerce and Interior. RAWA Outdoor recreation legislation still has the BOR cost share language, whereas the Manchin/ Barrasso version has the cost share language and the federal limitation for access language. This legislation also has authority for inspection and decontamination for federal agencies. Recovering America's Wildlife Act has been quiet.
- D) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
 - Annual Meeting Committee - Leah Elwell; Leah provided minutes from the September Business meeting for review. Motion for approval from Stephen, second from Robert. All in favor. September minutes approved. Leah has been in contact with CA partners who will host (CDFW, State Lands and State Parks). The CA hosts are encouraging holding the meeting at State Park Asilomar which is in the Monterey area. Leah is seeking bids from other properties in the Monterey area as well as Long Beach. She will begin agenda calls in January.
 - Coastal Committee – Co-Chairs Chris Scianni and Christine Moffitt; Stephen Phillips/Leah liaisons. No other info.
 - Decontamination Think Tank Committee – Chair Robert Walters – Full decon and ballast tank procedures have been finalized by the committee and approved by the Ex Comm. They are posted on the website now. Should they be shared with the other panels?

Share with the intent of getting feedback and ultimate goal of getting the documents eventually approved by the ANSTF. Ask for feedback by the end of January. Leah will circulate to Panel Principles asap for review.

- Field Sampling and Monitoring Committee – Chair Kate Dukette; Tom Woolf liaison. Reviewing the previous document and in early stages. They are slowly moving forward.
- Membership and Communication Committee – Chair John Wullschleger. John would like to continue to pursue membership and contact with additional Tribes. John suggested that there may be changes to make in the bylaws related to encouraging tribal participation and process. The committee will meet in 2024 multiple times. Leah will double check the timing for the Bylaw revisions. John will share the list of Tribes he has already contacted in Sharepoint, and the letter that has been sent as well. Putting the letter out for as an FYI is good. Tom has contacted the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe to encourage their participation. Can the committee look at the application? Do we need to re-structure how the panel deals with Tribal participation; we would benefit from their engagement. Another active and interested Tribe on AIS is the Pyramid Lake Paiute.
- Outreach and Education Committee – Chair Monica McGarrity; Barak Shemai Liaison. They will meet tomorrow. They finalized the Dr. Kyle study fact sheet, and Ex Comm approved. It is now on the website. Elizabeth Brown was awarded a QZAP grant to create a social media tool kit for the project results.

E) ANSTF

- Next meeting January 23-25, 2024, in DC area // Panel recommendations due mid-December. Tom plans to attend. He will not request WRP funds to travel, instead MT FWP funds will be used to attend the meeting.
- Review of recommendations submitted by Coastal Committee and other suggestions.
 - Recommend federal engagement outreach/meetings being scheduled to accommodate time zones for all parties, including Pacific Territories (SUBMIT)
 - Request support for increasing the amount of funding for the AIS USFWS Rapid Response Fund given the importance of rapid response and the need for development in this field. (Flag to verbalize at ANSTF meeting)
 - Recommend multi-panel coordination committee/group on green crab issues. Discussion: For the Westcoast region there may be a need to have a coordination group for European green crab; but a national cross panel through the ANSTF might be a better fit. Pivot to suggesting a National Management Plan coordinator – structured management plan implementation. Track metrics on plans and whose responsibility it is. Do not lose sight of the implementation of the plans. Request annual funding to track plans. QZAP and EGC, NZMS. Our recommendation should build on the management plan to include adequate resources for advancing accountability and a road map towards measurable performance outcomes. (SUBMIT revised idea)
 - Recommend support for specific green crab funding in the Senate's FY24 Interior-Environment and Commerce, Science, and Justice appropriations legislation (S. 2605 and S. 2321). Specifically:
 - \$300,000 – Willapa National Wildlife Refuge and Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge for European green crab eradication efforts
 - \$800,000 – U.S. Geological Survey's Biological Threats and Invasive Species Research Program for European green crab research

- \$2,000,000 – Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Agriculture and Rangeland Program to address European green crab
 - \$2,000,000 - National Marine Fisheries Service’s Habitat Conservation and Restoration Program for management, intervention, and mitigation of invasive European green crab
 - The specific recommendations will be put into the required format for submission. Leah will reach out to Chris with discussion results.
 - Is there a need Boat movement recommendation?
 - eDNA there is concern from states for communicating on eDNA results from federal sampling. Communication and coordination are critical and would like to improve the communication between state-tribes-researchers-federal government have this promising technology move forward. eDNA – DNA panel that is in collaboration with USGS and USFWS to develop a lab network to develop validation, lab results, this will be a vetted process. The Genetic Community of Practice group will be approving. There is an NCTC meeting in January where the group will be meeting to make some of those decisions. A lot of data is being called up for species and validation that is currently going on. A cross jurisdictional communication strategy is needed but how best to apply that across the landscape is not clear. There needs to be strong coordination with the management agency of said state. There is the National eDNA Strategic Plan that is also ongoing. Hold any next steps on this.
 - Barak mentioned that an eradication and control NOFO from DOI coming soon. One time only.
 - Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Participation Discussion
 - Prevention - Chair Joseph Kreiger, NOAA; Barak Shemai Liaison. FY23 Accomplishments will be shared.
 - Early Detection and Rapid Response - Chair Wes Daniels, USGS; John Wullschleger Liaison. A group of proposals are being reviewed for the initial amount of funding for the EDRR Rapid Response Pilot funds. The new round will be announced soon.
 - Control and Restoration - Chair Kim Bogenschutz, Iowa; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison
 - Research - Chair Susan Pasko, USFWS; John Wullschleger Liaison
 - Education and Outreach – Chair Tim Campbell, Wisconsin Sea Grant; Monica McGarrity Liaison
- F) Coordinating the Coordination update (identify liaison for each/review list below). The group determined that if there were specific updates, they can be offered up rather than review this list each month.
- PNWER
 - NAISMA
 - NMMA, ABYC, WSIA
 - DOI Mussel Coordination Group
 - ACOE (WRDA)
 - WGA
 - AFWA / WAFWA
 - WISCE – They are still engaging the National EDRR Framework, Jon Amberg, and will be providing comments on the draft communications plan. 150 list of priority waters were identified to send to Corps for boater movement study. Not known when this will be completed.

G) Announcements – ALL

- GAO report on ACE – Leah will forward.
- QZAP will be announcing a NOFO prior to funding being allocated, likely in early January.