

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

December 18, 2023 at 2:00 pm mountain time

Minutes

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

- A) Approval of November minutes. Leah noted that she had added additional detail on the recommendations that were submitted by the Coastal Committee to the minutes previously circulated. John motioned to approve and Barak Seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- B) Panel Business
 - QZAP 2.0 follow up items and review. Completed the review of all the objectives. Leah will clean up the spreadsheet of information and compile a list of follow up items for discussion in January.
 - GLP Carp follow up – next discussion will be January 23, 2024, at all panel’s meeting.
 - SharePoint access and files – everyone in? Some folks are still unable to access. Leah will try sending it again. Robert, Tom and Stephen are able to access.
- C) Legislative update – Stephen Phillips – The thing to follow is the appropriations process specifically that there is a two-step process and two deadlines (early Jan, early Feb). With an election year, he is optimistic that budgets will get finalized on those mentioned deadlines. The AIS bills that are being actively followed will be moved into 2024. WRDA 2024 looks positive. If we do end up with a Continuing Resolution as a budget, then it is not clear what happens to grant roll outs, it may be only funds available up to 90%. The numbers for invasive species on the Department of Interior budget currently look similar for 2024.
- D) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
 - Annual Meeting Committee - Leah Elwell; Update on Asilomar and Monterey options. Leah has gotten quotes from various Monterey and Long Beach hotels, and none are able to offer federal per diem rates for September. Asilomar, which is a CA State Park concession run facility will offer federal rate for lodging and food. However, the Asilomar is a full package deal for participants with lodging and food included. Leah will explore shuttle options from airports beyond Monterey, but the Monterey Airport serves the region easily. Leah will find out if Asilomar can separate the charges for food and lodging for reimbursement purposes. All agreed that presentations would be preferred as in-person. Leah will start asking for sponsorships as soon as the dates/location are finalized. The first agenda planning team meeting will be January 17.
 - Coastal Committee – Co-Chairs Chris Scianni and Christine Moffitt; Stephen Phillips/Leah liaisons.
 - White paper on energy development and AIS introduction has been a topic that the committee has been discussing. The committee worked with Cat de Rivera’s university class, and they’ve done a lit review for us that we haven’t seen yet, and they produced a poster and story map about the issue. The goal is to take all this new information in next week, refine the working outline we have, and get all of it ready for a contractor to take up once we get more clarity on possible funding through PSMFC/Stephen.
 - Sam Chan wants to put a session together on the issue at the ICAIS meeting.

- Decontamination Think Tank Committee – Chair Robert Walters. Met last week, discussed priorities for 2024: The two items that will focus discussion next year are protocols and specs for dip tank and decontamination of construction equipment. Leah circulated the recently finalized full decon and ballast decon to the other panels for their review. Leah will capture all comments and provide them for Robert. Comments due end of January.
- Field Sampling and Monitoring Committee – Chair Kate Dukette; Tom Woolf liaison. The committee will meet tomorrow to talk about different species to address. EDNA will be tackled last.
- Membership and Communication Committee – Chair John Wullschleger. FYI the bylaws will next be reviewed in 2025. Poll will go out in January for next meeting.
- Outreach Committee – Chair Monica McGarrity; Barak Shemai Liaison. Refined the recommendation for the ANSTF, minor follow up on Dr. Kyle's fact sheet, and next steps with EB who will be creating a media toolkit for the committee.

E) ANSTF

- Finalize Panel Recommendations. Three recommendations were reviewed and approved including one requesting better times for critical meetings that consider Pacific, Alaska time zone; requested specific clean, drain, dry communications to Ducks Unlimited and others; requested initiating the conversation on national coordination of species management plan implementation. Leah will submit these tomorrow to Susan. (NOTE: via email the MRBP also invited to jointly submit a recommendation on biosecurity; all unanimously agreed to jointly submit, Leah will follow up accordingly).
- Meeting January 24-25 in DC. Tom will attend.
- Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Participation Discussion
 - Prevention - Chair Joseph Kreiger, NOAA; Barak Shemai Liaison. Primary tasks addressed on last call to finalize the accomplishment report for committee 2023 and workplan for 24.
 - Early Detection and Rapid Response - Chair Wes Daniels, USGS; John Wullschleger Liaison. R2T3 subcommittee meeting is still working to complete the rapid response plan template.
 - Control and Restoration - Chair Kim Bogenschutz, Iowa; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison. No new news.
 - Research - Chair Susan Pasko, USFWS; John Wullschleger Liaison. No new news.
 - Education and Outreach – Chair Tim Campbell, Wisconsin Sea Grant; Monica McGarrity Liaison. No new news.

F) Coordinating the Coordination update

- Water Sports Industry Association annual meeting in Tahoe this March. Dennis will reach out to see if he can get on their agenda.
- WISCE continues to engage with DOI EDRR framework discussion on communication of results of eDNA. Draft communication plan is next. Meeting in person in Las Vegas in February.
- NAISMA meeting end of September in Missoula, MT. September 30-October 2.

G) Announcements – ALL – Beginning with the June Ex Comm meeting, the monthly call will begin at 1 pm mountain time. Leah will send calendar invites.