

# Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

January 29, 2024 at 2:00 pm mountain time

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

## Minutes

- A) Approval of December minutes. Barak motioned to approve and Stephen seconds. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- B) Panel Business
  - QZAP 2.0 follow up items and determine next steps for priority; Leah created a new tab to highlight the possible next steps, in some cases identifying where a possible action was not clear. Tom requested that everyone review and choose the ones to follow up on. To be continued on the next call.
  - GLP Carp follow up – next discussion was on January 23, 2024 at all panel's meeting. Still in progress. Remove from agenda for next time.
  - Sharepoint access and files – everyone in? Leah will send it to John again.
- C) Legislative update – Stephen Phillips
  - Appropriations finalization deadline was kicked into March, so everything is still in a Continuing Resolution status.
  - Water Resource Development Act: there was a hearing 2 weeks ago where members of Congress came forward to talk about the act. There was not much covered on invasives, but there may have been comments submitted by members in writing. PSMFC continues to work on the change to the current APC-WID associated cost share change.
- D) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
  - Annual Meeting Committee - Leah Elwell; finalize location/timing for Grand Junction. After notification that California would be suffering from significant budget cuts that could affect hosting and attending a meeting in CA for 2024, it was determined that the annual meeting would go to Colorado. Robert/Colorado Parks and Wildlife will host at Grand Junction. Leah has pulled information on hotels and the conference center. Federal rates are available in October. The group agreed to meet on October 23-24 at the Conference Center. Leah will move forward with paperwork and request ISAN to pay deposit.
  - Coastal Committee – Co-Chairs Chris Scianni and Christine Moffitt; Stephen Phillips/Leah liaisons. The Pacific Ballast Water Group Meeting will meet in April. No new committee news.
  - Decontamination Think Tank Committee – Chair Robert Walters. The committee agreed that they wanted to pursue equipment decontamination but there are too many kinds, so they will focus on safety standards when doing the equipment inspection. Also, there is a focus on the dip tank to narrow in on the outstanding questions that remain and eventually address protocols. Most recent decon procedures were circulated to all of the panels before years end for feedback. The Great Lakes Panel requested more time to review which prompted Robert to request that all of the decon procedures be circulated to get full review. Leah will circulate again ASAP with the deadline for end of March.

- Field Sampling and Monitoring Committee – Chair Kate Dukette; Tom Woolf liaison. Vanessa shared that the committee met last week and has broken into groups to tackle the document easier and came back with revisions in the last meeting. Everyone is reviewing the comments and the next version.
- Membership and Communication Committee – Chair John Wullschleger. Will be holding a call in February.
- Outreach Committee – Chair Monica McGarrity; Barak Shemai Liaison. Have not met since last Ex Comm call.

E) ANSTF

- Recap on ANSTF Meeting – Tom attended the meeting in person last week. The WRP recommendations were acknowledged but the next steps were not detailed and in one case it was referred to committee to discuss. NE Panel submitted a recommendation for increased funding for all panels based on inflation. The next step is not clear. Leah will clarify with Susan if the WRP will get the recommendation response in writing. Joint recommendation with MRBP on biosecurity was met with more positive reception. Tom suggested that joint recommendations with panels seem like a stronger move forward. Stephen explained that if we want to change what the funding looks like we need to hit the Hill not make recommendations to the President’s budget. It may be time to have a joint recommendation for funding. ANSTF will be meeting in April. Leah will put out the opportunity to membership and committee to provide suggested recommendations. MRBP invited other panels to participate in a Community Based Social Marketing workshop this year. The group agreed that Leah should connect with MRBP and share information with WRP members.
- Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Participation Discussion
  - Prevention - Chair Joseph Kreiger, NOAA; Barak Shemai Liaison. Seaplane report has a comment period until Feb 5<sup>th</sup>. The committee is regrouping on objectives.
  - Early Detection and Rapid Response - Chair Wes Daniels, USGS; John Wullschleger Liaison. The template for rapid response plan is nearing completion. The second round for Rapid Response projects is being evaluated.
  - Control and Restoration - Chair Kim Bogenschutz, Iowa; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison. The European Green Crab plan is in the federal register for final review. NZMS plan is close to a review period.
  - Research - Chair Susan Pasko, USFWS; John Wullschleger Liaison. No new info.
  - Education and Outreach – Chair Tim Campbell, Wisconsin Sea Grant; Monica McGarrity Liaison. No new information here.

F) Coordinating the Coordination Update (tribal activities when appropriate)

- WISCE is meeting in Las Vegas in 2 weeks and will cover QAQC on WID, eDNA how it is used, how communicated, and how western states interface with framework issues.
- PSMFC just hosted a primer on dreissenid rapid response with the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. The Tribe is considering doing an exercise.
- QZAP funding release – NOFO plan to be released in February for 60-day period. No new categories of priorities.
- Tom stated that it is time to discuss new and innovative containment strategies considering advancing mussel populations. He is looking for ideas and if there is a potential forum for another look at containment. It is useful to look at options that could help with containment at mussel impacted waters. An example: test cameras at Powell. Ways to do a better job to make sure we are capturing every boat in the database even if they are not contacted by staff. RFID, bar codes, etc. Would a

brainstorm session to make things more efficient be possible and is the WRP the right forum? It does seem to be in the wheelhouse with QZAP. Robert suggested that the BOR prize contest could be a way to incentivize technology. Is there a way to encourage new ideas on containment through the prize. Reaching out to Sherri Pucherelli at BOR might be a good point of contact.