

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

February 26, 2024, at 2:00 pm mountain time

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

Minutes

- A) Approval of January minutes. John motioned to approve, and Barak seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- B) Panel Business
 - QZAP 2.0 follow up items and determine next steps for priority. Discussion focused on making a document that could illustrate completion of strategies and action items for follow-up. A progress document will be shared in a format that can be presented to others – including WRP members and within DOI. Suggested format – cleaning up the table columns, removing tasks and who will follow-up. Leah can clean up the table. Target one more Ex Comm discussion prior to sharing. A document could be distilled by strategy – cartoon check marks. Categories could be: Completed, In progress, Planned, Planning, Not looked at – could be categorized by color. Audience: Community of AIS stakeholders. Progress will be marked at End of Q1 (March 31) of 2024
 - Set Mid-Year Webinar date – 23rd April 1pm mountain time. Leah will send a note to committee chairs and create a skeleton agenda. There has been a lot of Action plan and management plan activity and perhaps could be an agenda item (or possibly for annual meeting if better suited). Gotomeeting will be the platform.
- C) Legislative update – Stephen Phillips -absent, no update.
- D) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
 - Annual Meeting Committee - Leah Elwell; The Grand Junction convention Center is secured, and ISAN has provided the downpayment. The room block for 3 surrounding hotels are finalized and open for booking. Last week letters to sponsors were sent, with initial pledges from several already. The agenda team has met, and Leah has opened up abstract submissions.
 - Coastal Committee – Co-Chairs Chris Scianni and Christine Moffitt; Stephen Phillips/Leah liaisons. No activity.
 - Decontamination Think Tank Committee – Chair Robert Walters. Call scheduled March 5th.
 - Field Sampling and Monitoring Committee – Chair Kate Dukette; Tom Woolf liaison. Working draft is targeted for March and may have something for Annual Meeting.
 - Membership and Communication Committee – Chair John Wullschleger. John and I can make progress if the greater group cannot meet.
 - Outreach Committee – Chair Monica McGarrity; Barak Shemai Liaison. Met recently – two projects that are underway: Wildlife Forever is expanding the Protect the West website nationally (11/2024 completion), and the social media tool kit by Elizabeth Brown Consulting (12/2024 completion date), both QZAP grant supported being facilitated by the committee. They reviewed the QZ 2.0 items in the outreach strategy section and determined that any items that could be addressed by the committee were completed and any outstanding were better suited for others. Now are looking for new ideas for committee activities.

E) ANSTF

- Recommendations – Leah emailed members and committee chairs prompting recommendation submissions by mid-March. Leah reached out to Susan Pasko to better understand the process for recommendation progress or follow up. Susan suggested a shared file in Teams could be a way to capture the ANSTF response to recommendations. NOTE: some of the QZAP 2.0 had recommendations tagged to them, could be considered in how to present in progress document above. Tom suggested exploring a Joint recommendation for funding. Leah could ask Michele for the NE Panel language and see if there is a possibility to submit together for the next round. Leah will ping the committees again for their recommendations.
- Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Participation Discussion
 - Prevention - Chair Joseph Kreiger, NOAA; Barak Shemai Liaison. No new information.
 - Early Detection and Rapid Response - Chair Wes Daniels, USGS; John Wullschleger Liaison. R2T3 EDRR template is getting close to review by others outside of the committee. The second round of EDRR pilot funding project reviews has just finished.
 - Control and Restoration - Chair Kim Bogenschutz, Iowa; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison. No information
 - Research - Chair Susan Pasko, USFWS; John Wullschleger Liaison. No activity
 - Education and Outreach – Chair Tim Campbell, Wisconsin Sea Grant; Monica McGarrity Liaison. No activity.

F) Coordinating the Coordination Update (including tribal activities)

- WISCE – They met in mid-February in person. All western states were there except OK, and HI. Some of the discussion items that were covered included assessing individual state adherence to WID protocols (who is doing what compared to UMPS and variations) and getting a better handle on the variation. Hopeful that PSMFC can assist with that. Lots of discussion eDNA dialog on collecting and sharing information. The idea that websites can display eDNA information on a map is problematic. Hatchery protocols completed by WISCE are hoping to get sanctioned with WAFWA fisheries committee/fish chiefs by the end of the year. The USACE with contractor MOTIV is working on a traffic assessment based on anonymized cell phone data. Early summer targeted to get phase one of this. MT, CO, and PSMFC are providing advice on the project. They have identified 200 high priority waters and want to know what routes those boats are using leaving those waters and with more granular date (what time of day). Spoke about the ID detection and one on the Missouri, and are there other ways to improve our prevention strategies or tech tool to help fix this? Collectively our issues are going to expand soon and will need tools other than humans at inspection stations and make it harder to cheat the system. At the annual meeting consider having a session on thinking outside the box to augment the current system. QZAP is a resource for this but will need to brainstorm ideas. How do we get the attention of technology companies to think about it and use other methods besides legislation that can help this. Some new efforts like the Check in – Check out at Powell have begun, but will these efforts help. What can be done with cell phones? BOR, Sherri Pucherelli, was looking at a WID prize in 2022, do we need to stir that up? Tom will follow up.

G) Announcements – ALL

- QZAP funding NOFO open now and closes mid-April.