

Western Regional Panel Monthly Executive Committee Conference Call

April 22, 2024, at 2:00 pm mountain time

Attendees: Vanessa Salazar, Dennis Zabaglo, Josh Leonard, Tom Woolf, Robert Walters, Barak Shemai and Leah Elwell.

Agenda

- A) Approval of March minutes. Dennis motioned to approve, and Robert seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- B) Panel Business
 - QZAP 2.0 – finalize progress document/progress spreadsheet. A few adjustments were made on the progress of select items recognizing that some objectives will “never” see completion as they are ongoing. In some places where explanation is needed this will be added. Leah will post on the website and share with DOI.
 - Mid-Year Webinar agenda quick review.
 - Barak will be on detail as Deputy ARD June-July. There was consideration of having the alternative USFWS sit in on Ex Comm calls for him, however it was determined that he serves on Ex Comm not the alternate.
- C) Legislative update – Stephen Phillips
 - The EXPLORE act was passed out of the house that includes the 75/25 BOR WID cost share, and the issue of gates to be closed on federal waters without inspectors has been mostly resolved.
 - RAWA light (House slimmed down version) may stifle progress of the RAWA advancing in Congress.
 - HR6113 ID/NH have moved a bill that would allow states to collect fees related to watercraft that is affected by a rule under the US Coast Guard.
 - Congress is working on appropriations for the next fiscal year, and some bills will be rolled out in the coming months. Still waiting for the reauthorization of WRDA APC WID.
- D) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
 - Annual Meeting Committee - Leah Elwell. Kansas still wants to host for 2025. Likely to be September in Kansas City. All agreed that the 2025 meeting will be joint with the MRBP in Kansas. Sponsorships are still being solicited for 2024. The planning team is diligently working through the agenda and still accepting abstracts for consideration.
 - Coastal Committee – Co-Chairs Chris Scianni and Christine Moffitt; Stephen Phillips/Leah liaisons. Pacific Ballast Water Group meeting is this week. The white paper to cover AIS and offshore energy development is on hold. Stephen will talk to Chris this week.
 - Decontamination Think Tank Committee – Chair Robert Walters. They will meet in May and will discuss feedback received on the decon procedure. They have requested a copy of the UT protocols for dip tanks to then consider creating a standard protocol on dip tanks.
 - Field Sampling and Monitoring Committee – Chair Kate Dukette; Tom Woolf liaison. The committee is progressing with the protocol finalization for a draft by October.
 - Membership and Communication Committee – Chair John Wullschleger. Leah and John met recently and discussed tracking contacts made to various Tribes to invite participation. Also, a few additional WRP members were discussed to be approached to join the committee.

- Outreach Committee – Chair Monica McGarrity; Barak Shemai Liaison. Last meeting Elizabet Brown Consulting gave overview of the social media toolkit that she is developing for the committee under a QZAP grant. She will be distributing a survey to AIS coordinators regarding social media needs and suggestions to guide the project. Next meeting in May.

E) ANSTF

- Recommendations – Review spring submissions due April 26th. Dennis will be at the meeting and can provide context if needed. Leah will submit the 2 recommendations this week to Susan.
- Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Participation Discussion
 - Prevention - Chair Joseph Kreiger, NOAA; Barak Shemai Liaison. No activity.
 - Early Detection and Rapid Response - Chair Wes Daniels, USGS; John Wullschleger Liaison. The rapid response template committee continues to work toward finalizing this document.
 - Control and Restoration - Chair Kim Bogenschutz, Iowa; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison. Martha submitted the updated NZMS plan to the committee and the general opportunity to review this first draft just closed. There were significant comments from American Aquaculture Association. The committee is also working on guidance for species and control plans in terms of what circumstances for scope of plans (species, regional, etc.).
 - 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 – EDRR framework discussion continues.
 - i. Currently USGS NAS database is mapping eDNA points. If it meets their requirements for data, it will be posted. If state monitoring is funded by federal dollars, then data points will go on the map as well. And they are posting negative results as well. It may be possible that others such as those working on threatened and endangered species may have issues with this type of data sharing. States do not largely support this.
 - ii. Discussed idea to have non-federal perspective on QZAP proposal review. Most recently the QZAP proposals have been reviewed by USFWS and BOR staff. Barak confirmed that Robert Walters will now serve on the review committee in 2024.