

## **Western Regional Panel Annual Meeting 2024 – Grand Junction Business Meeting**

Members Present – Damian Walter (US ACE), Bill Janowsky (USDA-FS), Sherri Purcherelli (BOR), John Wullschleger (NPS), Barak Shemai (USFWS), Adam Sepulveda (USGS), Tom Therriault (DFO CA), Tammy Davis (AK), Kate Dukette (AZ), Martha Volkoff (CA)\*, Robert Walters (CO), Vanessa Salazar (KS), Tom Woolf (MT), Kris Stahr (NE), James Dominguez (NM), Ben Holen (ND)\*, Keith DeHart (OR), Monica McGarrity (TX), Bruce Johnson (UT), Amanda Newsom (WA), Josh Leonard (WY), Nicole Kimmel (AB)\*, Blaine Parker (CRITFC)\*, Stephen Phillips (PSMFC), Karen McDowell (SFEP), Jeff Adams (Sea Grant), Dennis Zabaglo (TRPA), Cat DeRivera (PSU)\*, Gordon King (Taylor Shellfish)\*, Glenn Dolphin (OR Marine Board), Chris Scianni (CASLC)\*, Jonathon Thompson (CASLC), Mike Stephenson (ID Power). \*indicates virtual attendance

Tom Woolf, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, WRP Chair opened the meeting.

Stephen Phillips provided a remembrance for colleague and friend Tim Counihan who passed away in April.

### Member Reports

Robert Walter and Leah Elwell solicited feedback on the process to provide WRP member reports. This year members were able to submit a report using an online form and a template PowerPoint. The goal was to share those reports as a brief digest by Robert, instead the compiled member report PowerPoint was shared during the break. Members provided feedback on how best to share information in the future in real time at the meeting using menti.com.

#### **Q1. Do you read the WRP Annual Member Report**

7 – Always  
20 – Sometimes  
12 – No way

#### **Q2. How do you prefer to submit the report?**

The majority preferred to submit it as a PowerPoint slide.  
Followed by a report submission.

#### **Q3. Is it worth the time to present a digest of the report?**

25 – Yes  
5 – No  
11 – Not sure

#### **Q5. Bright ideas on how to share member accomplishments and challenges?**

Poster, slide, short video, rolling slideshow during lunch day, YouTube video, prerecorded slide for 1 minute, story map, newsletter, online summary report, round table 4-5 minutes, slide and report, 5 minute verbal, ask members to create summary, share slide show on website, glossy summary report that can be shared, website built to share info, member report provide the “highlight reel”, slide show and then time to interact, slide show that has contact info visible.

Stephen Phillips, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, provided a [legislative update](#).

Chris Scianni, CA State Lands Commission, provided a brief update from the [Coastal Committee](#).  
Actions and goals: A white paper on off-shore energy development and AIS is in development.

Monica McGarrity, TX Parks and Wildlife, provided a brief update from the Education and Outreach Committee. Actions and Goals: Committee has played an active role in two projects Expect to Inspect (QZAP funded to Wildlife Forever) and social media package (QZAP funded to Elizabeth Brown Consulting). Feedback on expect to inspect is encouraged and there may be opportunity for webinar on social media package.

Kate Dukette, AZ Game and Fish, provided a brief update from the Field Sampling and Monitoring Committee. Actions and goals: The new document for sampling and monitoring is nearing the final review phase. This document will be circulated to the membership for feedback.

John Wullschleger, National Park Service, provided a brief update from the Membership Committee. Actions and goals: Committee is focused on engaging with tribes. Encouraging participation in future meetings and membership.

Robert Walters, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, provided a brief update from the WID Think Tank. Actions and goals: A new chair is needed to lead the committee as Robert said this role is best suited for an individual that is doing active decontaminations on a regular part of their job.

Leah Elwell provided a budget report. The WRP \$50,000 funding from the FWS remains prioritized for coordination services with Conservation Collaborations, LLC. Invasive Species Action Network remains the fiscal agent. The WRP savings account has a balance of \$13,085.18. The expenses for 2024 will be only for the meeting. Often there is chair travel expense to the ANSTF meeting, however none was request as the chair absorbed that cost directly. The meeting expenses were estimated to be approximately \$13,000 for facility, breaks, AV etc. Income from multiple sponsors including Colorado Parks and Wildlife, PSMFC, Earth Science Labs, Inc., Clean Wake LLC, Istonish, Marine Taxonomic Services, CDS, American Casting and Mussel Dogs generate approximately \$14,000. Colorado Parks and Wildlife support in-kind expenses such as printing of the agenda, webhosting the virtual meeting, providing tech support and laptops.

Election for four executive committee seats and one tribal seat were announced. The election ballot was opened two weeks prior to the business meeting. Tom Woolf, Dennis Zabaglo, John Wullschleger and Rober Waters were selected for the 2024-2026 term. Additionally, Katie Finley Squeque of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes were also selected as a member.

Annual Meeting 2025 will be in Kansas and held as a joint meeting with the MRBP. Initial exploration is underway. Volunteers for 2025 planning include: Kate Dukette, John Wullschleger, Tammy Davis, Vanessa Salazar, Sara Ricklefs, Josh Leonard, Chris Scianni, Elizabeth Brown. There will be additional members from the MRBP who will join the planning team. Any member with an interest in hosting the 2026 meeting can submit an offer to host.

#### Recommendations to ANSTF

Two recommendations were shared that will be submitted to the ANSTF at the upcoming November meeting. The first recommendation is for an increase in fiscal support for all of the panels. The second recommendation is a request for a prohibition on Marimo moss balls.

Susan Pasko provided a brief update from the ANSTF.