

Western Regional Panel Executive Committee

August Conference Call

August 26, 2024, at 1:00 pm mountain time

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

Minutes

- A) Approval of July minutes. Stephen motioned to approve the minutes and Barak seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- B) Panel Business
 - 2024 Elections Launch announcement early September. Leah will share an announcement to the membership on open Ex Comm seats – there will be 4 open seats. The election will take place electronically and the ballot will be shared 2 weeks prior to the annual meeting. The results will be announced in Grand Junction.
 - Member reports request early September. Leah will make an electronic form for the member reports. Members will also be requested to submit a slide to help make information sharing at the annual meeting streamlined. Stress clear directions of succinct information and slide requirements. Leah and Robert will discuss offline.
 - Feedback on EDRR Framework.
 - i. Siren workshop was held a few weeks ago, and existing materials are being connected to this resource. Some have signed up to Beta test for Siren in September before it is launched.
 - ii. Barak received EDRR funding for hatchery systems and doing eDNA monitoring at several facilities using LAMP technology at one and classic eDNA methods at another to “field test” EDRR components. In this effort they did receive hits for NZMS at one – how does this feed into the EDRR framework loop.
 - 2024 Moss ball issue – some early reports indicated states were recipients of shipments. Despite communications with USDA, state of Washington, APHIS, etc., some have been unable to find where they were sent to in Colorado or Montana. This could be brought up at the annual meeting in the context of the EDRR Framework. Who has the authority to request information? We should be banning this wild collected item.
- C) Legislative update – Stephen Phillips
 - Congress has been on summer recess and therefore activity has been light.
 - APC-WRDA is being watched. The Senate has changed monitoring and WID to 65/35. On the House side they have come up with priority projects. Also on the House, the budget has been zeroed out, however the Senate budget remains \$13M.
 - Explore Act – this is an outdoor recreation bill that contains the BOR cost share for WID in western states. Post election timing may be favorable for passage of this bill.
 - State Boating Act S4113– USCG wants to prevent a fee from being taken by the states, it will affect state programs in how it may be used for AIS. This bill is currently tacked to the National Defense Authorization Act.
- D) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
 - Annual Meeting Committee - Leah Elwell –

- Education and Outreach – Chair Tim Campbell, Wisconsin Sea Grant; Monica McGarrity Liaison. No new information.
- F) Coordinating the Coordination Update (including tribal activities)
 - WISCE – Josh Leonard presented the WISCE produced hatchery AIS protocols to WAFWA. They are interested in taking the protocol and endorsing it. WISCE plans to hold an in person meeting the Tuesday before the annual meeting.
- G) Announcements – ALL. Next meeting is September 23rd at 1 pm.