

Western Regional Panel Executive Committee

September Conference Call

September 23, 2024, at 1:00 pm mountain time

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

Minutes

- A) Approval of August minutes. Stephen Phillips, and Blaine seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- B) Panel Business
 - 2024 Elections Launched announcement early September. So far 2 entries from Ex Comm current members and one tribal membership entry from Katie Finley with Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes. Entries to be submitted by October 1.
 - Member reports request early September. Leah launched an online form to enter information as the member report. This request also provided a template PowerPoint slide to be used to deliver the member recap at the annual meeting. Several suggested that next time give better instructions to ensure that the report and the slide are submitted, not just the slide.
 - Feedback on EDRR Framework. Several of WRPrs participated in the beta test for the Siren website. This consisted of specific assigned tasks to the website as it is. There will be a full session on the framework at NAISMA.
- C) Legislative update – Stephen Phillips –
 - There has been an extension on the fiscal year to December 20th, so there should not be a government shut down. It is a clean continuing resolution, meaning extras are not added to it. In December there will likely be an omnibus bill, parts of it may include the National Defense Authorization Act which earlier versions did not include 2 riders; Explore Act and WRDA 2024. This means both of those bills are still needing for a vehicle for passage.
 - The PSMF Commission wrote a letter to senators Cantwell and Cruz on the State Boating Act on collection fees. There is a lot of concern for states collecting fees, S4113 would fix that issue. This act may end up being attached to the Coast Guard Act.
 - The Lake Tahoe Restoration Act had a hearing last week and this week should be a vote.
 - WRDA still needs to go through final negotiations in the House and Senate.
- D) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
 - Annual Meeting Committee - Leah Elwell – There has been \$11,500 in cash provided by sponsors so far. Additional support from Colorado Parks and Wildlife (field trip bus fee, hosting zoom meeting, room rental) and PSMFC have also been pledged. American Seal is a sponsor for the event and has requested the email of all attendees to share information directly. Discussion determined that Leah will provide the email list for their one-time use. A review of the nearly final session discussion questions were reviewed and Leah will provide offline for further edits. Leah will be sharing the EDRR session questions with Susan Pasko and others on the EDRR framework team prior to the meeting.

- Coastal Committee – Co-Chairs Chris Scianni and Christine Moffitt; Stephen Phillips/Leah liaisons. Christine will be providing a presentation on their efforts to address off-shore energy development and AIS. A committee meeting is being scheduled for early October.
- Decontamination Think Tank Committee – Chair Robert Walters (hiatus)
- Field Sampling and Monitoring Committee – Chair Kate Dukette; Tom Woolf liaison. They have not met and however the document is in process. Leah will reach out to Kate to clarify the timing for draft finalization.
- Membership and Communication Committee – Chair John Wullschleger.
 - Met on the 9th of September and focused on looking at tribal membership. Discussion on possible outreach and identification of those tribes that are already working on AIS as likely ones to participate in upcoming WRP meetings. The guidelines (bylaw language) for tribes to be part of the WRP will be examined to improve inclusiveness and participation ease. John will begin revisions to the bylaws to address multiple items. Blaine suggested specific interest groups affiliated with tribes as a way to connect and share information, e.g., NAFWS and Associated Tribes of Northwest Indians. WRP could attend their meetings and forums to familiarize themselves with the western AIS issues.
 - Updates to membership status include Sherri Pucherelli assigned as alternate for BOR; proxy for WRP meeting WDFW Amanda Newsome.
- Outreach Committee – Chair Monica McGarrity; Barak Shemai Liaison. No new meetings since previous. Leah circulated the URL that Wildlife Forever has created www.expecttoinspect.com. Some reported to Leah that there were errors. Please all entities should check for accuracy and share with Wildlife Forever.

E) ANSTF

- The fall 2024 meeting will now be held virtually.
- ANSTF Recommendations
 - Status of previously submitted has been requested by Leah in the past week, and to date there has been no reply.
 - Submit by November 1; If the WRP provides earlier then a more formal response may be provided at ANSTF due to submission timing.
 - Leah requested suggestions from the membership and committee chairs.
 - Cat deRivera and Justin Bush provided a variety of different issues as they related to the moss ball issue.
 - Resolving federal – state communications. This need varies by state. Tom will follow up with Cat and Justin, plus talk with states during next WISCE. This may also be a topic that could be explored during the December CRB meeting if need be.
 - USFWS certified inspections. Barak does not think that USFWS certified inspection exists. Discussion determined that this is not to be pursued.
 - **RECOMMENDATION: On previous Ex Comm call an interest to express addressing Moss balls was identified. Every state that does not have QZ present should look at importation ban from the state level. States can regulate moss balls coming into individual states. Language for recommendation “ANSTF lead a charge to encourage all federal agencies to ban product from the United States. Start a rule that bans**

them. Propose that moss balls are categorized/labeled as injurious."
Points to include 1) moss balls are not only bringing QZ other organisms, 2) consider ban on wild caught because of contaminant risk – pathogens, diseases.

- **RECOMMENDATION: Panel funding. Continue expressing the need that all panels need an increase in panel funding.**
- Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Participation Discussion
 - Prevention - Chair Joseph Kreiger, NOAA; Barak Shemai Liaison. The committee will meet in October.
 - Early Detection and Rapid Response - Chair Wes Daniels, USGS; John Wullschleger Liaison. The full ANSTF is reviewing the template for finalization. The committee will meet tomorrow.
 - Control and Restoration - Chair Kim Bogenschutz, Iowa; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison. NZMS Plan is close to finalization for November meeting.
 - Research - Chair Susan Pasko, USFWS; John Wullschleger Liaison.
 - Education and Outreach – Chair Tim Campbell, Wisconsin Sea Grant; Monica McGarrity Liaison. This committee met in late August and covered:
 - Conducted planning for NAISMA sessions/workshop
 - Reviewed/discussed committee campaign needs assessment survey results
- F) Coordinating the Coordination Update (including tribal activities)
 - WGA is creating an upcoming podcast on managing QZ in the US. Robert did an interview and so will Barak.
- G) Announcements – ALL
 - Next Ex Comm call will be after the annual meeting in November. If sticking with current schedule this will be November 25th.