

# Western Regional Panel Executive Committee Conference Call

January 27, 2025, at 1:00 pm mountain time

Attended by: Stephen Phillips, John Wullschleger, Tom Woolf, Robert Walters, Dennis Zabaglo, and Leah Elwell.

## Minutes

- A) Approval of November minutes. Dennis moved to approve, and Stephen seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- B) Panel Business
  - Next steps on Prevention-Containment Discussion – Leah provided a summary document that captured the questions and discussion from the WRP Annual Meeting 2024. This document serves as a record of the discussion and will be made available when requested.
  - Savings account transition to Money Market account. ISAN completed the transaction to move the WRP savings account balance into a money market account on December 3. The full balance is \$16,613.12
  - Feedback on National EDRR Framework – eDNA webinar session will be held on January 30.
  - EDRR Funds Discussion – Leah drafted RFP for group to review. Several details such as the length of funding term, how proposals will be submitted, and what the geographic scope of the proposals should be limited to were discussed. The group agreed that the funding should be for 1 year usage, and to avoid extensions of that time frame. Proposals will be submitted as PDF electronically. Once this group completes review of RFP materials, they will be reviewed at PSMFC. Consider if there should be separate pre-and proposal documents. Geographic scope - West of the Mississippi? (clarify with Susan). Deadline on comments – this Friday.
  - Identify Mid-Year webinar date – March 27, 1pm
  - Proposed Rule for Injurious wildlife listing – On January 10, USFWS published proposed rule for Asian pond mussel, golden mussel, and marbled crayfish as injurious under the Lacey Act.
  - Awards – Tom proposed regular awards through WRP for AIS professionals. There is not really a forum for recognizing those who deal with AIS. Awards could acknowledge folks on the ground/field and do this regularly. A nomination process will have to be created, and a committee is needed. Tom will serve as a chair and Stephen will participate. Leah will ask if other panels do this and if they have a model to use. Stephen moved to create the committee, and Dennis seconded. All in favor.
- C) Legislative update – Stephen Phillips
  - Federal Budget – setting the top line number is getting close, invasive species in FY25 look okay. Will know more in a month after the vote.
  - Under new administration - Grants are getting pulled – As an example a BLM NOFO was just cancelled. Remote work for federal workers will be granted only if 50 miles away.
  - Explore Act passed in last congress. In this was the 65/35 change under WRDA which be at least a year before it gets into place.
- D) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons

- Annual Meeting Committee - Leah Elwell –WRP-MRBP joint meeting 2025 next steps. Springhill Suites in Downtown Lawrence was finalized. This location is 50 miles from the airport. If anyone has suggestions on promoting carpooling and ride sharing, please speak up. Leah will be reaching out to sponsors soon. The planning team will meet in February.
- Coastal Committee – Co-Chairs Chris Scianni and Christine Moffitt; Stephen Phillips/Leah liaisons. Energy development in off-shore continues to be followed by Christine. Stephen also mentioned a federal effort to look at wind energy as part of an EO with respect to existing leases and economic, environment impacts. \*via email\* Chris S. reported that he has approached Amanda Newsom, WDFW to become the new chair.
- Decontamination Think Tank Committee – Chair Robert Walters– chair replacement status. The committee will now be co-chaired by Josh Wright (WY) and Chris Killian (Tahoe). Dip tank protocol is the priority for the group, discussion about golden mussel concern about a lack of knowing temperature tolerances about golden mussel decon effective. Ask Susan if doing a study on this may be appropriate for EDRR funding, or QZAP funds. Robert requested an update on the dip tank project for the next meeting.
- Field Sampling and Monitoring Committee – Chair Kate Dukette; Tom Woolf liaison. Note from Kate indicated that they are still working on a draft. Leah will follow up with Kate to understand projected timing for completion in 2025.
- Membership and Communication Committee – Chair John Wullschleger. Likely to get something on the calendar for next week. Main actions this year will be to address changes in bylaws that cover tribal membership.
- Outreach Committee – Monica has stepped down as chair and it will now be Sara Ricklefs of ISAN; Barak Shemai Liaison.

#### E) ANSTF

- ANSTF Activities
  - Comments on Control and Management plan guidance document (Due 1/31). Leah has made significant comments and share with the group for additional feedback and submission.
  - Comments on RR plan template guidelines document (Due 1/31)
  - May 13-15 Shepherdstown VA is the next ANST meeting
  - All Panels typically have a short meeting prior to the in-person meetings. Susan has proposed 2 virtual and 2 in-person meetings to give more time for discussion among the panels. All Panels met last week to discuss issues to circle around. A short list of issues was requested for prioritization. From that list discussion eDNA and golden mussels are of interest to WRP. Leah will share the full list for Ex Comm to provide any further feedback.
  - Leah will query the members on their interest in the National Ruffe Control Plan. At this time there is a proposal to archive the plan. When the announcement of EDRR funding is made to membership, this query will also be shared. Encourage members to circle back with questions on the proposed archival plan.
- Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Participation Discussion
  - Prevention - Chair Joseph Kreiger, NOAA; Barak Shemai Liaison. No info.
  - Early Detection and Rapid Response - Chair Wes Daniels, USGS; John Wullschleger Liaison. Awaiting review comments on current draft template for RR plans. Comments are due Friday.

- Control and Restoration - Chair Kim Bogenschutz, Iowa; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison. Comments on draft control plan guidance is due Friday.
  - Research - Chair Susan Pasko, USFWS; John Wullschleger Liaison.
  - 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 is chair now. The group will meet in Reno in February.
- G) Next meeting is slightly off schedule: **February 18 at 10 am.**