

Western Regional Panel Executive Committee

February Conference Call

February 18, 2025, at 10:00 am mountain time

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

Minutes

- A) Approval of January minutes. John motioned to approve, and Stephen seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- B) Panel Business
 - Feedback on EDRR Framework. Communication on eDNA on hold. As of the previous Thursday, an employee within FWS, McKayla Spencer, will be the interjurisdictional invasive species rapid response team coordinator (IInSRRT).
 - EDRR Funds Discussion – Leah has revised the RFP document to align with previous materials and PSMFC documents. This Friday Susan will update Ex Comm on next steps.
 - Centralizing data gathering and sharing – Josh noted that with the many resources circulating on Golden Mussel, there was not a central place to find that information. Is there a streamlined way to access that information and capture it moving forward. Some of these information/articles are on the westernais.org website. WDFW Brian Turner has a google site with more information. Leah will find out if it can be shared. Update (post call): all literature that has been gathered on golden mussels is found on the <https://www.westernqzrr.com/>
 - Finalize Mid-Year webinar agenda – Draft agenda looks good and based on feedback from federal partners those aspects will be finalized as we approach March 27th.
 - Proposed Rule for Injurious wildlife listing – This proposed rule includes golden mussels and marbled crayfish. The comment period is open until early March.
- C) Legislative update – Stephen Phillips –
 - The Nutria Act which was introduced by Harder (CA) was voted out of the House and now will go to the Senate.
 - HR231 – Deals with water releases below Glen Canyon Dam to control small mouth bass populations. This was voted out of committee.
 - Appropriations – The goal is to have a Continuing Resolution for FY25 (to be similar to FY24 numbers). The deadline for a CR is mid-March. Budget reconciliation is ongoing but none of that is focused on invasive species.
- D) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
 - Annual Meeting Committee - Leah Elwell – The planning team will meet next week. Sponsor contacts have been made with several already agreeing to support the meeting. Leah will add Tom to the planning team.
 - Awards Committee – Chair Tom Woolf. WISCE is meeting next week and will discuss some ideas about scale and scope for potential awards.
 - Coastal Committee – Co-Chairs Chris Scianni and Christine Moffitt; Stephen Phillips/Leah liaisons. (possible chair replacement Amanda Newsom)
 - Decontamination Think Tank Committee – Co-Chair Chris Killian (Tahoe) and Josh Wright (WY); Robert met with the new co-chairs last week. Robert will liaison moving forward.

- Field Sampling and Monitoring Committee – Chair Kate Dukette; Tom Woolf liaison. It is on the WISCE agenda. Leah will email Kate to understand projected document completion date.
- Membership and Communication Committee – Chair John Wullschleger. Met in February and had a good discussion. Committee will review the bylaws for next time. John has drafted language regarding tribal participation. July 1 for revisions to the bylaws to provide to the membership for review.
- Outreach Committee – Chair Sara Ricklefs; Barak Shemai Liaison. Barak will provide update on next call.

E) ANSTF

- ANSTF Activities
 - May 13-15, WV
 - All Panels Discussions have been exploring common topics, this week the panels will discuss organisms in trade and golden mussels.
- Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Participation Discussion
 - Prevention - Chair Joseph Kreiger, NOAA; Barak Shemai Liaison. No news.
 - Early Detection and Rapid Response - Chair Wes Daniels, USGS; John Wullschleger Liaison. No news.
 - Control and Restoration - Chair Kim Bogenschutz, Iowa; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison. Leah submitted comments to the control plan development document.
 - 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 is meeting in Nevada next week. MRBP from last week topic idea – refresh list on states program funding. Refresh on laws from each state – that could be shared annual meeting. HACCP training is still going to happen.
- WY Fish and Game Director was put forward for USFWS head.

G) Announcements – ALL