

Western Regional Panel Executive Committee

May Conference Call

May 19, 2025, at 1:00 pm mountain time

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

Minutes

- A) Approval of April minutes. Blaine – motion to approve. Robert – second. All in favor. Approved.
- B) Panel Business
 - Tracking research needs (Golden mussel) – Dennis absent – hold until June meeting.
 - Updates on EDRR Framework – Mark Frey was coordinator of this effort. As of last week, all DOI details were cancelled. He has returned to his usual post at National Park Service.
 - EDRR Funds Discussion – RFP closed the past Friday. Stephen will share any of the preproposals, and Leah has scheduled 2 meetings to discuss this next week. Susan Pasko has been included in these planned discussions.
 - Coordination Contract (deadline June 20); Leah will circulate paperwork after the meeting today for review. The goal is to submit the required paperwork as soon as possible and target the first week of June. Note: asap.gov will begin a new requirement at time of initiating payment request to include a justification with the request of no more than 300 words.
 - Ex Comm elections – Stephen, Josh, Blaine, Barak, Vanessa are up for election. Keep in mind that the Membership committee is working on bylaw revisions, and the approval of these revisions may affect the timing of membership elections and Ex Comm elections.
- C) Legislative update – Stephen Phillips -
 - HR 1001 – This bill gets at the current management of smallmouth bass on the lower Colorado that releases pulse flows. The management strategy has been put into question on the impact to other species.
 - Elise Stefanik Stamp Out Invasives has been introduced again. This bill is projecting over \$100K in revenue for invasive species management.
 - Still waiting for appropriations to drop. The current reconciliation of the budget for the Park Service and USFWS indicates that there will be cuts. Tyler Haffen with Dept. of Government Efficiency is the key individual that is involved with AIS related budget items at DOI.
 - There has been some movement on USACE APC-WID to zero out funding in FY2025 budget. There has been a push to get that appropriated. Historically, the WID portion was \$18 million. There is the potential to see restrictions next year as to what will be available. Stephen estimates that it will likely be \$20 million in the near future.
- D) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
 - Annual Meeting Committee - Leah Elwell –2025 progress – The planning team just reviewed over 20 abstracts. The team is putting together a session related to fisheries commissions. Elizabeth will host the virtual portion using her Zoom account. Leah will query the committee chairs to understand any in-person meeting needs. Registration will likely open in July.

- Awards Committee – Chair Tom Woolf – Targeting to launch announcement date June 1. Leah will share the award description again and submit comments by end of the week. On the next call, the group will finalize the physical award.
- Coastal Committee – Chairs Amanda Newsom, WDFW; Stephen Phillips/Leah liaisons. Survey to discuss priorities is being reviewed by chair to determine their next steps.
- Decontamination Think Tank Committee – Co-Chair Chris Killian and Josh Wright; Robert Walters liaison – no meeting until fall
- Field Sampling and Monitoring Committee – Chair Kate Dukette; Tom Woolf liaison. The plan is to have a draft for membership review ahead of the meeting. No new info.
- Membership and Communication Committee – Chair John Wullschleger,
 - Bylaw revision – The change in the language is specific to Tribes to include those as appointing organizations. Ex Comm will look at draft before going out to the Tribal entities for comments and then membership.
 - The membership categories will need to be resolved before the election.
 - Adding other alternates? During the committee meeting, there was a query for consideration in adding additional alternate to state seats. (Post meeting via email Justin Bush stated: *change the bylaws by simply allowing up to 2 alternate members. The wording would require changing alternate to alternates throughout the bylaws. The Appointing Organization would then have additional flexibility to address split jurisdictional participation where required, while not expanding the WRP membership.*)
- Outreach Committee – Chair Sara Ricklefs; Barak Shemai Liaison. No new info. They will meet this week.

E) ANSTF

- ANSTF Activities
 - Postponed, July 8-9 virtual. December possible fall meeting in WV at the NCTC, which incidentally now is under the general direction of DOI not FWS. Susan is looking to begin 5-year strategic plan.
- Standing and Ad-Hoc Committee Participation Discussion - Work plan items are being updated or created by all committees.
 - Prevention - Chair Joseph Kreiger, NOAA; Barak Shemai Liaison. No information.
 - Early Detection and Rapid Response - Chair Wes Daniels, USGS; John Wullschleger Liaison. RR Plan template to be approved at July meeting.
 - Control and Restoration - Chair Kim Bogenschutz, Iowa; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison. No information.
 - Research - Chair Susan Pasko, USFWS; John Wullschleger Liaison.
 - Education and Outreach – Chair Tim Campbell, Wisconsin Sea Grant; Monica McGarrity Liaison. No information.

F) Coordinating the Coordination Update (including tribal activities)

- WISCE
 - i. Sudeep Chandra in Nevada addressed the group in discussing research elements for a thermal tolerance study for golden mussels. It is likely that NPS dreissenid funds may be available to conduct this work.
 - ii. Utah automated camera to detect boats exiting Lake Powell is operational and boats are showing up in the database.
- WY Game and Fish was alerted to a dock highly fouled with dreissenids. The dock originated in the Midwest and was being transported. In transport it did not hit or stop

at check stations. The owner was about to put in the Platte Reservoir in WY and alerted WY. There are not many waters in WY that a dock can be used.

- DOI – provided a status update to QZAP 2.0 action items. The group agreed a quick update to WRP documentation will be done as well.

G) Announcements – ALL