

Western Regional Panel Executive Committee

July Conference Call

July 28, 2025, at 1:00 pm mountain time

Attended by: Robert Walters, John Wullschleger, Blaine Parker, Barak Shemai, Dennis Zabaglo, Vanessa Salazar, and Leah Elwell.

Minutes

- A) Approval of June minutes. Blaine motioned to approve and Barak seconds. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- B) Panel Business
 - Schedule 2025 Business Meeting – first week of September virtually. Visit the When2meet poll to identify date.
 - Member reports – Robert will send out the request. This will be simply the Word report format and share via email prior to the meeting. This could include a picture. If there are enough and awesome ones, it could be a slide show at the annual meeting. But it may be difficult to add that to the agenda. No slides will be requested. No member slide show will be done.
 - Tracking research needs (Golden mussel) – Dennis, Martha confirmed that CA Dept of Water Resources is researching time and temperature for decon for GM. They will have a report. Sudeep Chandra is going to be looking at survivability/suitability studies for Pyramid Lake and other waterbodies. It is already known that tolerances are broader than QZ. NPS has provided funding of \$212 to support these explorations on survival research. CA has a list of research items and Dennis will request that document.
 - Rapid Response Funds Discussion – The full proposals are due 7/31. The review period is set for August 29th. All of the entities that were invited to submit full proposals have replied with the exception of one.
 - Coordination Contract status – Susan has confirmed that paperwork is in process but has no more information to share. The POP ends 9/30/2025.
 - Elections
 - i. General Membership – There are revisions to categories with bylaw changes. Once the bylaws are approved. An opportunity to apply for those membership categories will open and an election will take place.
 - ii. Ex Comm elections - Stephen, Josh, Blaine, Barak, Vanessa are up for election this year. Election for Ex Comm will take place at same time as general membership election.
 - Updates on EDRR Framework – Several western entities have been invited to participate in a decision framework EDRR workshop the week of August 11th.
 - QZAP 2.0 status update document review/finalize – Leah made updates to the status document and highlighted those changes. Ex Comm will review and provide any additional information. To be finalized on next call.
 - Bylaw revisions – Draft bylaws were circulated in June and July 7 comments were due from all members, and select requests from Tribal liaison staff. Multiple members replied with no suggested changes. If need be, there could be discussion during the

virtual business meeting. John will do one final request for review and if there is no feedback by August 1, then Leah release for membership vote week of August 6th.

- Bait – where do we take this re-circulating issue for the West? Does it need to be discussed during the business meeting, or a survey? Leah will find NSGLC Stephanie's assessment and share with the group. In Colorado, they are exploring how to allow the importation of live aquatic bait. There may be two different management needs "Use vs. importation" (second is not covered in model law). Vanessa suggested that there is something to learn from each other. Is there a model law for importation? Josh, WISCE chair, will be approached on adding bait to upcoming discussion. Goal is to identify if there are any common needs or issues that western managers need WRP leadership to play a role in.
- C) Legislative update – Stephen Phillips – No report. Barak indicated to anticipate that federal budgets are going to be 6-30% less next year.
- D) WRP Standing Committee – Roundtable for Chairs/Liaisons
 - Annual Meeting Committee - Leah Elwell –2025 progress; Confirming all speakers and will release the agenda on August 1. **If possible the award winners will be announced during lunch at meeting.** Leah has identified a charter for the field trip. Ex Comm agreed to move to secure the economic option and have ISAN make downpayment. Leah will release opportunity to host the 2026 meeting this week.
 - Awards Committee – Chair Tom Woolf –There have been a few submissions so far. The deadline for submission is August 15. An inexpensive option at [K2Awards.com](https://www.k2awards.com) looks good with bamboo plaque and custom engraving.
 - Coastal Committee – Chair Amanda Newsom, WDFW; Stephen Phillips/Leah liaisons – The committee has been exploring new topics but is also still prioritizing mobile marine infrastructure.
 - 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 – no information.
 - Membership and Communication Committee – Chair John Wullschleger, Bylaw revision is primary activity. Leah will launch vote on the bylaws August 6th for 2 weeks. Immediately follow with launch of membership positions open for 2 weeks. Follow with 2 week voting period for membership.
 - Outreach Committee – Chair Sara Ricklefs; Barak Shemai Liaison – They are brainstorming new ideas, and will meet on August 4th. Media kit will go up as soon as Leah has the content and then share via the list serv.
- E) ANSTF
 - ANSTF Activities
 - July 8-9 virtual recap – Several topics were reiterated including data sharing in Midwest and new co-chairs.
 - December fall meeting in WV.
 - Status/quick check in of previously submitted recommendations – The recommendation on golden mussel leadership resulted in future discussion by ANSTF Ex Sec and the Control Subcommittee for next steps. Others suggested a task team and / or an action plan. Should another strategy on GM be explored in the West? Perhaps a task team.
 - All Panels Discussions
 - 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. Rapid response plan template approved!
- Control and Restoration - Chair Kim Bogenschutz, Iowa; Dennis Zabaglo Liaison. No new news. Control plan template approved!
- Research - Chair Susan Pasko, USFWS; John Wullschleger Liaison.
- Education and Outreach – Chair Tim Campbell, Wisconsin Sea Grant; Monica McGarrity Liaison. No news.

F) Coordinating the Coordination Update (including tribal activities)

G) Announcements – ALL

- USFWS QZAP RFP is out and closes on September 5th.
- USFWS Golden Mussel RFP is awaiting approval for release.