

Western Regional Panel Executive Committee

November Conference Call

November 24, 2025, at 1:00 pm mountain time

Minutes

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

- A) Approval of August minutes – Stephen motioned to approve and Barak seconds. All in favor. Minutes approved. Virtual business meeting minutes – Stephen motioned to approve and Dennis seconds. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- B) Panel Business
 - Chair and Vice Chair Election. Tom nominated Robert as chair and Josh seconded. Robert nominated Josh as vice chair and Stephen seconds. All in favor, chair and vice chair for 2025-2026 are approved.
 - 2026 schedule of regular Ex Comm meeting discuss/confirm (3rd Monday at 1pm). A few exceptions were identified but new dates were selected. Leah will send Outlook calendar invites through August.
 - Tracking research needs (Golden mussel) – Dennis. No new updates. There was a meeting in CA last week that he was not able to attend so he will check in with Martha. One of the research elements that is being explored by Dr. Chandra is survivability in various waterbodies. CA Dept of Water Resources is looking into the temperature mortality (Dudek is contractor). Reclamation fish hatchery is working on coatings testing for settlement prevention at Tracey Fish Facility (near Stockton, CA).
 - Rapid Response Funds Discussion – Two of the selected projects (CA – Caulerpa, AK – elodea) are under contract and work is underway. Stephen and Leah have been in discussion HI still regarding the potential project to clarify federal compliance needs. It is possible that this HI project may be able to be under contract by January.
 - Updates on EDRR Framework – No new news.
 - QZAP 2.0 status update document review/finalize – The final changes will be incorporated and archived internally.
- C) Legislative update – Stephen Phillips –
 - Save the Great Lakes Fisheries Bill for \$500 million with mussels has been introduced (Dingel and Great Lakes co-sponsors). It may move but the issue will be funding.
 - Funding for APC-WID – Senator Kennedy from Louisiana has different ideas on appropriations for Energy and Water budget than previously approved budgets. This is being followed closely. Last May the USACE said that an indirect rate would no longer be able to be charged. They decided that this would begin January 1, which would be in the middle of the PSMFC budget cycle. USACE has not finalized the paperwork, and WA wants to involve their AG. Waiting to see if we can get to June 30, and if they can come up with documentation.
 - Golden Mussel Eradication and Control Act of 2025 Bill (HR 3717, Harder, CA) has been introduced but not yet been assigned to a committee.
 - Mississippi Fisheries Commission Bill is slowly getting more sponsors. It is under consideration.

F) Coordinating the Coordination Update (including tribal activities)

- Next SOBA meeting in Boise ID, 2026.
- CRB meeting will be January 13-14, 2026 in Vancouver, WA.
- RISCC Climate webinar December 9-10 <https://www.riscnetwork.org/iisccc-2025>

G) Announcements – ALL

- John's retirement date May 31, 2026.
- QZAP funding proposal review is still underway and have not met yet to select projects. \$12 million in requests for \$5 million available. The Golden Mussel NOFO received 25 applications.
- BOR Mussel opportunities 42 proposals for \$16 million in requests for \$4 million available.
- HACCP training at NCTC in January for a certification course and train the trainer course.
- Tom will be the next chair of AFWA invasive species subcommittee. Kim Bogenschutz is retiring.