

Executive Committee Conference Call Minutes

WRP Executive Committee Meeting

March 14, 2002

Members Present: Tina Proctor, Jim Athearn, Susan Ellis, Scott Smith, Nate Dechoretz, Mike Stone, John Chapman

Members Absent: Paul Heimowitz, Ted Grosholz, Dwight Williamson

Next call: Thursday, April 11, 2002, 9:00 Pacific Time

1. New Legislation in California to create an ANS Council

Representative Betty Karnette from Long Beach is introducing legislation that would require a state ANS Plan by January 2003. Scott has been invited to testify. Nate met with legislative staffer yesterday regarding the legislation.

2. Attendance at Conference Calls

Jim suggested that when ExComm members are unable to attend a conference call that they have an alternate person attend.

Paul would like to step away from being a committee chair. He said he is willing to serve until we find a replacement. John said he is willing to take Paul's place and will call Paul.

3. Update on Work Plan

Committees need to have conference call before next meeting to work on scope of work and time lines for projects. Tina and Scott will send a letter to the ANS Task Force requesting funds based on the current budget. Tina can set up the conference calls if committees will determine date and time.

4. Update on Screening Process

Proceedings were sent out to people who served on the panel at the Screening Process Workshop and Mike Fraidenburg is incorporating comments today. Proceedings will be sent to the WRP annual meeting attendees next week. John said he made comments but hasn't gotten them to Mike yet. Scott explained that this is a proceedings--the next step is to figure out how to implement a screening process. There was discussion about what the next step is. We have \$5,000 this year in the budget. Scott suggested that we get ideas from people who were involved in the workshop. He also mentioned that Peter Jenkins paper on "who should pay" will be available mid-April.

5. Planning for State ANS Workshops

Susan Ellis said that California is looking at sometime in May for their workshop. She has gotten \$40,000 to complete the plan and is working toward getting a contract with people at UC Davis to do the work and isn't sure yet when they will be available. Negotiations are going on now.

Tina talked to Marc Dahlburg in Arizona about a date for their workshop. He still needs to work with Larry Riley about moving forward on a time line.

The ExComm is requesting that the two states pick a date and time line for their workshops by the next conference call on April 18th.

6. Regional Panel Coordination

The committee discussed what will come from the plenary session at the International ANS conference in Alexandria which included presentations from all the Regional Panels. It would be helpful for the Panels to share work plans. Scott said the Panels are on different schedules which may make it harder to work together. We purposely scheduled our meetings to coincide with the federal budgeting cycle so that our budget requests would be in sync.

John suggested that the ExComm request that Panels have consistency in process so that work plans are submitted at the same time and shared with each other. Scott and Tina will send a letter to the ANS Task Force making this request. We will send the other panels our work plan and request copies of theirs. Is there a link on ANS Task Force website?

Scott suggested that we work on one-page fact sheets that give a simple, concise message that can be delivered to Congress and state legislators all over the country by members who are legally able to do this. Scott will start by writing two fact sheets from a WRP perspective which would be the start of a series. We could share these with other panels and they could use the common messages and put their own regional spin on it. This would also be a way to increase activity by some of our own members. Some people could help research and write the fact sheets and others could make sure they get into the hands of politicians and other public policy makers.

7. New Bill: HR 3558 (Nick Rahall - D - WV) Species Protection and Conservation of the Environment Act

Jim sent a synopsis of this bill to the ExComm. The bill would provide resources to states, U.S. Territories and Indian tribes to promote efforts to control infestation and migration of invasive species. It would create partnerships between federal and private landowners, authorizing grants with a 75 percent federal share. It would also initiate a demonstration program within the National Wildlife Refuge System, fund response programs, technical assistance, and program monitoring. There is a Congressional hearing this morning. Tina will follow up and send out information to the WRP. Scott thinks this fits a different niche than Congressman Baird's bill, HR 2732.

8. Meetings Coming Up:

EPA - Lake and Stream Management in Chicago (April 24-26)

Scott will be speaking at this meeting from a state perspective and to compare Washington with other state programs.

Pacific Ballast Water (PSMFC) in Portland (April 15-16)

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission is bringing together this group to come up with specific research ideas for West Coast. The impetus came from NOAA which has funds for ballast water research. To get funding from NOAA, research will have to address one of the priorities that come out of this meeting. Next year NOAA will have funding for ANS projects and we will want to initiate a similar process.

Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Meeting in Lewiston, ID (April 12-14)

Tina will attend the annual planning meeting to specifically meet with the group that is planning the Signature Events. One of the Inland Committee projects for this year involved planning for WRP outreach at the 14 Signature Events during the Bicentennial.

Columbia River Coordination Meeting - April 10 or 11.

Jim will send minutes to Tina and John.

Colorado River Fish and Wildlife Council - Las Vegas, NV on April 17-18.

Item on agenda on ANS. Mike will talk about WRP and encourage state participation.

Western Aquatic Plant Management Society - Coeure de L'aine, Id. - March 25-27

Nate suggested that WRP should make a regular presentation at this annual meeting. Nate will be attending. Nate has the membership list - WRP information or announcements could be sent to their membership.

9. Logo

Tina mentioned that the current logo works as a computer logo but when it is printed, it lacks visibility. The Excom suggested that she look into a more visible logo.

10. New Coast Guard Representative - Lt. Cmdr. Keith Ward will take over for Lt. John Park.

11. Rapid Response Plan - Patrick Akers sent final draft.

Pat will distribute to ExComm and people who made comments for final review. Tina will send message on e-mail reflector to WRP members to contact Pat Akers if they want to review the final draft before it gets printed.

12. Brochure

Because of the request for 5,000 Threats to the West brochures for the California Coastal Commission, ABoating Clean and Green@ campaign, our brochure supply is low. Marcia Brockbank said there is \$10,000 left in the SF Estuary Project contract, so we can extend the contract and get new brochures printed right away. Jim suggested that when we reprint, we pursue the possibility for additional funding, especially from groups that want large amounts - with funds going directly to San Francisco Estuary Commission.

13. Preliminary recommendations from Scientific Review Panel on Caluerpa

Susan reported that the Scientific Review Panel met February 21 in San Diego. Variety of experts met and reviewed information regarding current Caluerpa eradication effort. She noted a few of the recommendations:

- Need more thorough scientific review of eradication technique - need more scientific rigor
- Need dispersion modeling - Caluerpa keeps showing up
- Increase education effort - press and public officials
- Institute mandatory reporting of Caluerpa
- Mandatory genetic identification of new infestations
- Need specific research

The Panel was complimentary regarding will and energy in the US to work on eradication. The draft report will be available to the USFWS in August.

14. Conflict with April Executive Committee Conference Call date

Washington ANS Committee coordination meeting is scheduled for April 11 which would conflict with April Conference Call. Next meeting will be April 18 instead.

15. Next WRP meeting

Mike will contact Randy Radant, Utah WRP representative in Salt Lake City about which dates would work best for week of September 9-13.

16. www.cast-science.org

Scott mentioned that this web site has two issue papers; one on invasive plant species and one on invasive pest species. He feels these papers are especially good for reference. Scott will send the web site to the folks on the e-mail reflector.