

**WRP Executive Committee Minutes - Draft**  
**Thursday, January 12, 2006**

**Members Present:** Eileen Ryce, John Chapman, Karen McDowell, Kevin Anderson, Robyn Draheim, Susan Ellis, Tina Proctor, John Wullschlager

**Members Absent:** Blaine Parker, Bob Piorkowski

**Next Conference Call:** Thursday, February 9, 2006

**1. Risk Assessment Workshop**

Tina attended a conference call meeting this morning with representatives from the Gulf Coast Regional Panel and the Mississippi River Basin Regional Panel about putting on another Risk Assessment Workshop similar to the one that Susan and Tina attended in Tampa, FL in August, 2005. She was only able to attend the first half of the call. The three panels are interested in sponsoring another workshop and each member will be queried as to whether they would rather have it in summer or fall 2006 and if they would be interested in attending. MRBP will pay for the meeting costs. Tina committed the WRP to pay for non-federal speakers (there were two at the original workshop). There was discussion about having a RA 101 (basic workshop) or RA 102 (advanced workshop) and the panel members will be asked to give their preference for a two-day RA 101 very similar to the earlier workshop plus a RA 102 the next day for people who want to work with the material more or just to have the RA 101. Jerry Rasmussen will be sending out minutes of the meeting and Tina will forward them to the EC. There will also be an inquiry to the WRP members for their input.

**2. 2006 Work Plan**

Tina spoke with Bob McMahon about the final negotiations with U. Texas at Arlington about the overhead charge for his project. He said he will work on it this week. The final amount for the zebra mussel project will be based on that negotiated overhead. (see Minutes from 11/10/05). Kevin will write letters to the people who sent in proposals which the EC didn't choose to fund.

The EC discussed a project that was funded with 2003 money that has not been completed. It was a \$10,000 project awarded to Mark Sytsma and Lars Anderson to create a rapid response pilot project for two aquatic invasive plants. Robyn will check with Joe DiTomaso at UC Davis to find out if there is a hold up with the money and will report back to the EC about any progress on this project.

### 3. Letter to WRP Members on Priority Issues

Kevin and Eileen drafted an e-mail letter to WRP members requesting feedback about issue priorities for the region. A second letter will solicit ideas on how to accomplish the work. Hopefully some committees will emerge from this communication with the members. Tina wanted to add to the accomplishments list and then Kevin will send the e-mail to the member list, not the listserve. She will send an updated member e-mail list to Kevin and Eileen. Kevin is asking for member responses to the first e-mail by January 30, 2006.

### 4. WRP-MRPB List of Joint Meeting Work Items

The EC reviewed the list of joint meeting work items generated by the annual meeting in Wichita. Susan will peruse the Minutes written by Jerry Rasmussen and determine who suggested the action items so we can engage interested people in accomplishing the tasks. Kevin will call Jay Rendell about setting up a conference call to determine which tasks we want to take on jointly and which ones can be accomplished in some other manner. Tina suggested that she, Jay, Kevin, Eileen, Susan, and Jerry be on the call.

### 5. WRP Annual Meeting Action Items

Kevin reviewed the action items recorded by Joan Cabreza in the Minutes for the WRP meeting portion of the joint panel meeting.

<i><b>Action item</b></i>	<i><b>Assignment</b></i>	<i><b>Completion</b></i>
Kay Wallace as possible AK Natives alternate	Adelheid Hermann	
Idaho Rep to WRP	Tina + Fred Partridge	
Change to Procedures	Tina	Changes made, sent to members, put on web site
RFP for NOAA	Blake Feist + committee	Paragraph written and provided to NOAA
PCEIS complete of west coast estuarine database on CD	Tina will follow up with Henry Lee	
Review 16 proposals using new criteria developed at meeting	Executive Committee	Proposals reviewed and 3 were chosen to fund
2006 meeting – Portland, OR	Paul Heimowitz and Robyn Draheim	Hotel chosen and negotiations started, planning has begun, dates chosen – Sept. 13-15
SB 770 and S363 – information to members	Kevin Anderson	
Restructure committees	Executive Committee	Kevin Anderson and Eileen Ryce – e-mail to membership regarding issue priorities and creation of committees

## **6. Web Site Redesigned**

The WRP web site has been redesigned and is easier to use. Michele Storz, FWS IT staff did the design. However, David Britton, FWS Region 2 web guru will be taking over the duties of updating and maintaining the site. Tina asked that there be a web site committee to keep the site current and relevant. Her experience with David is that he updates the 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian site within 24-48 of getting new information. Eileen and Robyn volunteered to be on the committee – other members will be invited to join.

## **7. 2006 Meeting**

Robyn and Paul Heimowitz have been working on the meeting planning. Robyn confirmed that the University Plaza Hotel which is owned by Portland State University has rooms available for September 13-15 for \$69.00. They have also been discussing field trip options and possible evening events. Tina will talk to Robyn about how to secure the hotel rooms and meeting room.

## **8. Desert Fishes Council Meeting**

John and Susan reported on the very successful DFC meeting in Cuatro Ciénegas, Mexico in November which the WRP helped sponsor this year. An additional day was added to the agenda for ANS issues and the WRP paid for the travel of several Mexican scientists to the meeting. This was the biggest meeting the organization has ever had. Tourism is very important in the valley, a place with many endemic species, and scientists are very concerned about invasive species threatening some of the unique species living there. There were welcoming speeches by local officials and a dinner and dancing to entertain the attendees. Both John and Susan said the field trip was outstanding. John will prepare an abstract to send out to the members regarding the meeting.

## **9. Workshop to Develop Research Priorities for Aquatic Invasive Plants**

A workshop, in part, sponsored by the WRP, was held on December 14-15, 2005 in La Jolla, California to develop research priorities for invasive aquatic plant. A group of experts in the field met to develop a consensus on where the field currently stands and on the major, compelling research priorities for invasive submersed aquatic plants. A report that outlines the current state of the field, describes the present and emerging management considerations, and presents a short and long term research agenda will be produced. The audience for the report will include researchers and funding agencies. The purpose of the report is not to dictate research policy. Rather, it will identify avenues, issues, and problems that require attention, including areas where aquatic plant

management may be advanced by collaborations among disciplines. More information can be found at:  
[http://www.clr.pdx.edu/projects/aquatic\\_plants/aquaticweedworkshop/index.html](http://www.clr.pdx.edu/projects/aquatic_plants/aquaticweedworkshop/index.html)

## **11. Reporting to the ANS Task Force**

Kevin and Tina received an e-mail from Scott Newsham, ANS Task Force Executive Secretary about reporting templates from the Regional Panels and from States, whether they receive money from the Task Force or not. Tina will forward the e-mail for comment by the EC; comments are due by January 24<sup>th</sup> to Tina and she will compile to forward to Scott.

## **12. Final Paragraph for NOAA RFP**

The paragraph that was submitted to NOAA for their ANS RFP which reflected WRP priorities is below. Blake Feist led a team to finalize the paragraph and send it to Dorn Carlson.

Proposals that target non-native aquatic nuisance species (ANS) within the western region are of the utmost priority. Proposals that focus on an ANS whose impacts or potential impacts cover or extend to a large geographic area are preferred. Proposals should address one or more of the following: economic and environmental impacts; monitoring and rapid response; vectors of introduction; methods to raise awareness of decision makers; methods to prevent, control and eradicate ANS; and education and outreach to pathway groups and the public.

## **13. Other Updates**

Robyn reported that she was approached by Sam Chan from Oregon Sea Grant who is working with the American Zoo and Aquarium Association on an outreach project. Sam would like the WRP to review content of the outreach project plus give suggestions for possible funding options. Robyn will forward the e-mail to Tina who will send it on to the WRP members.

Susan reported on an alligator which was released in a small lake in California. The person who released two alligators in the lake has been located and will be facing heavy fines and possible jail time.

John reported on concern in Oregon about the "moth ball fleet," or decommissioned military vessels in SF Bay being moved onto the Oregon Coast to break them apart. They are certainly a source of marine aquatic invasives. He will keep us updated about this issue. More information can be found on this web site: <http://hmsc.oregonstate.edu/shipbreaking.html>