

Minutes

100th Meridian Initiative - Columbia River Basin Team Meeting

November 9, 2011

Heathman Lodge

Vancouver, Washington

1. Introductions and Announcements: [See end of document for attendance list]

2. Comments and Approval of June Minutes: There were no comments on the June minutes and they were adopted. The minutes can be found at

http://www.100thmeridian.org/Columbia_RBT.asp

Montana Rapid Response Exercise – E. Ryce (MTFWP), M. Herborg (BC)

- This exercise was the fifth Rapid Response Exercise undertaken for the Columbia River Basin Plan but the first to focus on including Canadian partners in all stages of the exercise. The exercise scenario included a confirmed finding of dreissenid larvae in Lake Koocanusa near Libby, MT. The exercise was conducted over a two-day period. The morning of October 4 consisted of introductions, an overview of the Incident Command System (ICS) Planning Process, and a review of the CRB Plan. Majority of time spent on operations (monitoring and containment). Attendees include CRB states, Province of British Columbia, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, US federal agencies. The after action report can be found at <http://www.100thmeridian.org/ActionTeams/Columbia/2011%20Lake%20Koocanusa%20invasive%20mussel%20exercise%20report.pdf>
- Montana has plans to do additional regional rapid response exercises in the future
- Canadian participants expressed their belief that their involvement in the exercise would be helpful as they pushed for stronger AIS-related regulations and more comprehensive prevention, monitoring, and education programs in Canada.

Montana Update – E. Ryce (MTFWP)

- Boat inspection – huge expansion, increased highway/border checks, 7000+ boats inspected (last year 3000 boats), 3 with mussels, several with vegetation and/or standing water
- Most boats with mussels from Midwest, not Lake Mead
- Boat sticker fee in talks, next legislative session not until 2013
- **Addition/Correction submitted by E. Hanson, AIS Consultant (Sent by email 3/6/12)** – In addition to MTFWP inspections reported by E. Ryce above -- MT Dept. of Agriculture also inspected 10,000 boats in 2011 and 5,000 boats in 2010.

BC Update – M. Herborg

- They are pushing the Clean, Drain, Dry message with legislative money from invasive plant fund
- Hoping to find AIS funding for additional regulation/prevention (wash stations)

Rapid Response Plan for the CRB

- P. Heimowitz reported that NOAA Fisheries had just signed onto the plan

Nevada – Rye Patch, Lahotan, N. NV Quagga Task Force – K. Vargas, NDOW

- Positive quagga veliger results for 2 Northern lakes (reservoirs)
 - Lahotan listed “positive”, Rye patch listed “suspect”
- Sticker fee starts January 2013 for boaters
- Hoping to set up boat wash stations to be set up, maybe Carson City, Reno
- Planning on going for Decontamination/Cleaning station: Wildhorse, Rye Patch, Lahotan
- Lake Mead National Park vs. NDOW authority an issue, have had initial discussions about setting up a decontamination station for Lake Mead (very initial stage)

Lake Whatcom – Corbicula – T. Ward

- 9/19/11 WDFW confirmed species in the interjurisdictional lake
- AIS plan developed, boater surveys done at boat ramp, incidence report
- 29 points surveyed along the lake
- Response options: benthic mats, draw down of Whatcom, physical removal
- Need to understand monitoring/managing protocols and bring in other groups/agencies
- S. Waste said that resources exist in the [PNAMP](#) group for monitoring support

CRB Rapid Response Plan/Amendments Update - P. Heimowitz

- September 19, 2011 amendments adopted by Plan signatories. Most edits to the Plan were editorial, but did include NOAA’s ESA consultation procedures
- Next amendment in process and will include new notification procedures and thresholds, updates to MAC Group procedures (informally adopted in 2010), etc

Regulatory and Outreach Strategies for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in Oregon -- J. Lam/S. Chan

- Goal to create efficient boat inspection program in Oregon
- Boater survey to be sent out, findings will facilitate stakeholder workshops
- What changes to Oregon’s constitution would need to be made to allow this effectiveness?
- Deadline: June 30, 2012
- FINAL OBJECTIVE: Use findings to synthesize and facilitate workshops that engage policy decision makers, stakeholders (boating interests) and implementers leading to legislation/rules and for effective outreach/voluntary programs to minimize the risk AIS from boat and trailer movement.
- National Sea Grant Law center wanting to sponsor a workshop on the topic with attorney generals around the state

Integrating Anthropogenic Introduction and Habitat Suitability to Predict Risk of Aquatic Invasions in the Pacific Northwest – S. Chan

- 3 phases: AIS spatial risk, AIS damages to management strategies, model for evaluating AIS management strategies
- Gravity model used

- Based on boat registration and survey data from each state in the Pacific Northwest, individual gravity models were estimated using a censored regression model, which accounts for the possibility of zero boat flow observations.
- Results for Oregon suggest that higher boat flows into a region are a function of geographic proximity, the number of water bodies present, and the accessibility of those waterbodies. Adjacency to the Pacific Ocean also predicted a larger boat flows to the region.
- Similar results are observed in Washington and Idaho, except that Washington's recreational boaters tended to travel to regions with less concentrated water bodies.
- Predictions from the gravity model were normalized on total predicted flows of a given state to assess anthropogenic introduction risk of invasive species.
- Next steps will include - Estimating Aquatic Invasive Species Spatial Dispersal Risk, Estimating Damages of Aquatic Invasive Species & Management Costs, and a Model for Evaluating AIS Management Strategies (Minimize total cost + damages)

Nonnative freshwater bryozoans – B. Orwick

- Provided an overview of nonnative freshwater bryozoans in the region, including recent reports of the magnificent bryozoan *Pectinatella magnifica*.
- It's unclear whether this species is nonnative throughout the Northwest, whether it is having harmful impacts, and whether it might become more abundant with changing climatic conditions.

Procedures for Conducting Underwater Searches for Invasive Mussels -- N. Adams

- Needs assessment survey for training
- Hood River training held September 9th, (15 divers trained); 2012 – funding available for one more training
- USFWS YouTube video – Eye Wide Open: Watching Out for Aquatic Invaders
<http://www.youtube.com/usfws#p/c/00CA362652FF8AB3/0/AH3HVJBo1vg>
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State Reports

Idaho - A. Ferriter

- \$850,000 budget/year, 7am-7pm, 7 days/wk
- Decreased 20 → 15 stations in 2011
- 24 boats intercepted (14 commercially hauled)
- Port of entry inspecting oversized load boats
- Passport system worked very well
- Changes for 2012: open earlier (Feb.), target commercially hauled boats, target marina managers/owners
- Not getting calls from NPS Lake Mead about boats heading to Idaho

Oregon – R. Boatner, G. Dolphin

- 2010- 5 roaming teams (May-Sept)

- 2011 – 4 teams, intercepted 5 boats, passed HB 3399 (mandatory stops at boat inspection sites) passed in August
 - 29% compliance before HB3399, 38% in August, 57% after HB3399
- 2012 – move 4 roaming teams to Southern/Eastern Oregon, start May/April
- Permit requirement compliance checks (increasing checking for 2012)
- Sam Chan asked if any mudsnails had been found during checks; Rick said no in 2011 but yes (1) in 2010.
- Rian Hooff reported that ORDEQ will be hiring a ballast water inspector in 2012, paid for with the new commercial shipping landing fee

Washington – E. Anderson

- 20 contaminated boats in 2011, majority passed through Idaho
- 20 inspection stations in 2010, 46 inspection stations 2011
- An AIS survey of Banks Lake draw down resulted in no finding of dreissenids, but did find Corbicula and virulent crayfish
- Northern Pike issue – Pend D 'Oreille River– April will start monitoring
- Paul mentioned Kalispel tribes are seeking funding to address the issue

Member briefings

- Sam said that invasive tunicates on the Oregon coast are still found in just 2 spots
- Robyn said that Sitka, AK tunicate eradication project has been complicated by storm damage to docks
- Paul said there is talk about a future tunicate workshop
- Jennifer talked about project to identify carwash facilities in Oregon for use in boat decons – they go in and out of business a lot.
- Jim Capurso updated the group on USFS AIS Program [On 12/5 the U.S. Forest Service announced that the publication of its first ever national-level direction on the management of invasive species across aquatic and terrestrial areas of the National Forest System.]. It is action orientated. Outreach will be an important component. Looking at expanding monitoring options (maybe partner with NW Forest Plan Activities - AREMP). Jim also said he would be following up with states on vector analysis
- Sam talked about school pathways (aquarium releases). One issue is to try and use native species (i.e. crayfish) for classroom use; problem is being able to supply native organisms during the school year.
- Robyn discussed progress on the Oregon Rapid Response Plan – it is in development, they are looking at how Incident command would work.
- There was discussion on the WA AIS permit and the national NPDES pesticide permit, further discussion should take place on this at the next meeting (also information on NOAA biop, go to <http://www.cbulletin.com/413768.aspx> for more information)
- Paul discussed potential upcoming workshops on eDNA technologies – this is being used more and more for monitoring and it would be good to get everyone in the same room
- Rian discussed upcoming EPA (Vessel General permit) and USCG national ballast water permitting issues
- Robyn reported that PSU continues in its nutria research and monitoring projects (Trevor Sheffels, lead). Looks like nutria could be a giardia vector.

- Paul said more Asian carp cards will be coming soon.
- Robyn updated the group on the quagga growth experiment in Nevada (Brain Adair lead) with Columbia basin water. Results to date indicate more calcium = better growth, but there are outliers with Willamette river water where quaggas are gaining weight (and this in low calcium water)
- Stephen reported that at the WRP meeting they passed a recommendation for the ANS Task Force on the Lake Mead situation. It was decided that the CRB state/tribes would follow up on this and have a conference call to discuss what our region could do to address this issue. .

Next meeting: week of March 5, 2012 in Boise, Idaho

ATTENDEES

Adams	Noah	USGS	nadams@usgs.gov
Aitkin	Kevin	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	kevin_airkin@fws.gov
Anderson	Eric	WDFW	eric.anderson@dfw.wa.gov
Bailey	Christina	Oregon State	
Baldwin	Laurel	Whatcom County Noxious Weed Board Coord.	LBaldwin@co.whatcom.wa.us
Boatner	Rick	Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	rick.j.boatner@state.or.us
Cabreza	Joan		joancabreza@msn.com
Capurso	James	USDA Forestry Service, Pacific NW Region	jcapurso@fs.fed.us
Chan	Sam	Oregon Sea Grant Extension	samuel.chan@oregonstate.edu
Christman	Bill	Dist. Eng. Services Mgr.	bill.christman@chelanpud.org
Crouse	Michael	Portland Educator	mcrouse@pdx.edu
Dolphin	Glenn	Oregon State Marine Board	glenn.dolphin@state.or.us
Draheim	Robyn	Portland State University	draheim@pdx.edu
Faler	Mike	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Mike_Faler@fws.gov
Gianou	Kelsey	Oregon State Marine Board	
Hardiman	Jill	U.S. Geological Survey	jhardiman@usgs.gov
Hatch	Keith	Bureau of Indian Affairs	Keith.Hatch@bia.gov
Hayduk	Paul	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Paul_Hayduk@fws.gov
Heimowitz	Paul	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	paul_heimowitz@fws.gov
Hooff	Rian	Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality	hooff.rian@deq.state.or.us
Irish	Jim	BPA ANS Program Coordinator	itirish@bpa.gov
Kimpo	Angie		Angie.Kimpo@portlandoregon.gov
Lam	Jennifer	Oregon Sea Grant extension	
McClure	Jacob	Oregon State	
Orwick	Briita	PSU	briita_orwick@fws.gov
Owahsi	Brian	Oregon State	
Parker	Blaine	Coastal Region Inter Tribal....	PARB@critfc.org
Phillips	Stephen	PSMFC	sphillips@psmfc.org
Rose	Charnee	Oregon State	
Reesman	Martyne	Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	martyne.i.reesman@state.or.us
Ruff	Jim	NW Power and Conservation Council	Jruff@NWCouncil.org
Selego	Stephen	Oregon State	
Smith	Scott	USGS	sssmith@usgs.gov
Sutlick	Albert	USACE	Albert.F.Sutlick@usace.army.mil
Ward	Teagan	City of Bellingham	teward@cob.org
Waste	Stephen	USGS	swaste@usgs.org
Wells	Steve	Portland State University	sww@pdx.edu