100th Meridian Initiative Meeting

Las Vegas, NV June 13, 2001 Southern Nevada Water Authority Office

Put this on your calendars: Date for next Colorado River 100th Meridian meeting: Wednesday, February 13, 2002.

Bob Pitman described the database at the University of Texas at Arlington which is based on the data that states have developed from trailored boat surveys. The possibility of finding zms through voluntary checking of recreational boat transport is very small. Education is the important thrust -- to get boaters to be aware themselves of the danger of moving ANS from one water body to another. Bob McMahon at UTA is using the data from state agencies to pinpoint which water bodies are most at risk so that some targeting is possible.

We had a demonstration of a spotless, soap-free de-ionized water wash system provided by R. Gordon Lords of <u>Ion Man Wash Systems</u>. Check it out at or call Gordon at 714-993-1228. It could be used to wash boats as soon as they leave the water or before they go in if they have recently been in other waters. Jon Sjoberg got a clean truck out of the deal!

Upper Colorado Basin

Don Archer (Utah DWR) - Flaming Gorge is a reservoir, administered by USFS, that draws interstate activity. Biological research station at Flaming Gorge checks for infestation 2 times a year. There is a Utah ANS action team. Requesting voluntary cleaning of boats. Eurasian watermilfoil at a high mountain lake that feeds into Lake Powell. Massive outreach program regarding whirling disease. In Utah putting kiosks at boat ramps - with ANS panel.

Karen Barnett (BuRec) - Also concern about Blue Mesa Reservoir in Colorado which brings in lots of interstate boaters.

Mark Anderson (NPS) - Glen Canyon Recreation Area. Questions asked of recreational boaters regarding how long ago since they used their boat in other waters and exactly where they have been. Packet given out to boats from infected areas and others who show interest, with information about ANS and a map of boat washers and coupon for free boat washing. Monitoring by checking buoys for zms. Will put out artificial substrate samplers at check points. 3 million visitors a year.

Stephen Phillips (PMFC) - has graduate student checking boats at boat ramps. So far hasn't found many boats who come from the Great Lakes.

Current 100th Meridian Website: http://www.uta.edu/biology/cbmr/100th.html for downloading forms to get data from recreational boaters. Address will be changed to 100thmeridian.org very soon.

Discussion about how to use limited resources. Not enough funds to do lots of surveying. Education funding is more important. Nevada has full time boating safety educator -- the person can be passing on ANS information too. Utah handing out bright yellow brochures, doing presentations, developed metal signs (bright red shaped like a stop sign). New law that anyone under a certain age must take a boating safety training in order to operate a waverunner. Would be good place to take the message. Boating registration mailing carried insert about ANS. Fishing proclamation (guide) also has ANS information. Suggestion: Project Wild, Project Wet -- educate teachers about the issue. Start early, start with school, concentrate with locals. Incorporate into volunteer activities. Contact marine manufacturers -- could they include materials about ANS in their materials.

Lower Colorado River Basin

Jon Sjoberg (Nevada Division of Wildlife) -- Lake Mead National Recreation Area -- several million visitors a year. A key issue is black bass tournament use -- 80 in 2000 -- local, regional and national. All permitted through NPS. Potential to target these folks. Also Lake Havasu has lots of tournament fishing. Joe Millososvich will check who is the permitting agency.

Action item: Kim Webb is putting together packets for tournament fishing. She will work with Jon and Joe on getting information out in the lower Colorado Basin.

Jim Garza -- Central Arizona Project -- contract with Kevin Williams from U. of Arizona. Monitoring of zm's. Lake Pleasant -- marine operator found two boats with zms last year. CAP very concerned about ANS. Will put divers in the water to check piers. Need to get pressure from the customers for them to take much action. Also shows importance of educating marina operators.

What needs to be done? Need focus on Lakes Mead, Havasu, Mojave, and Pleasant. There isn't really an infrastructure in place yet. Utah DWR has generic signs, posts and bolts available. Access on Mead--7 major ramps and 4 minors ones; Mojave--4 major ramps. Need to get permission to put signs in. Kim can get funds. Also need to contact BuRec and Arizona Game and Fish.

Action item: Kim, Don A., Jon, Joe will be Sign Team. Timeline: get more signs out over the next 4-5 months. Don A. will scan the STOP sign and Bob will get the file out to the mailing list.

High priority hot spots: Flaming Gorge, Lake Powell, Lake Mead, Lake Mojave, Lake Havasu, Lake Pleasant.

Action item: Request Western Regional Panl to write a letter to USFS to be involved in the 100th Meridian effort. Bob will contact the chair of WRP, Scott Smith.

Special Issue Areas

Action item: Don M. will check into setting up a listserver for 100th Meridian. 100th Meridian website is being developed. Bob will work with David Britton at UTA to include a web page for the Colorado River Group. Timeline: within the next 4 months.

Action item: Bob will be the point of contact for any data being collected regarding boating recreational use or aquaculture. He will provide information to UTA.

Rapid Response Team: Identify problem. Get information out as soon as possible. Get people together to decide what needs to be done.

Action item: Joe, Don, Karen and Bob will be the nucleus of the team. Define people within other agencies who can also be part of this team.

Stakeholder involvement. It is difficult to get other people involved because there isn't a crisis yet. We need to move forward and incorporate other groups as there is need. Don suggested we could use statistics on what it might cost the western states if zms should arrive. Stephen mentioned there is an economist on the PMFC staff who could work on this issue if there is money available.

Educational Outreach: What information is available and where is it.

NPS has packets at Lake Powell; Utah DOW has signs and brochures; Don McLean has *Zap the Zebra* brochures. Kim has *Stop Exotics, Clean Your Boat* videos. SNWA -- Waterways show on local PBS station -- Rebecca will check into developing an ANS message for this program. Minnesota Sea Grant developed two 30-second PSA's on zms and the WRP has the rights to use these. They can be used on radio or video. Kim has the B-roll for broadcasters and a VHS quality for people to look at first.

Meetings

Western Regional Panel on ANS meeting here in Las Vegas on September 25,26,27 This will include screening workshop: to determine how to screen whether a species is possibly invasive before it becomes a problem.

11th annual International ANS meeting first week in October in Arlington, VA Minutes prepared by Tina Proctor, 303-236-7862, ext. 260 or bettina_proctor@fws.gov

Attendance

Mark Anderson

National Park Service Glen Canyon NRA 520-608-6377

Rebecca McArther

Southern Nevada Water Authority 702-822-8332

Don McLean

US Fish and Wildlife Service - D.C. 703-358-2108

Kim Webb

US Fish and Wildlife Service - CA 209-946-6400, ext. 311

Jim Garza

Central Arizona Project 623-869-2543

Don Archer

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources 801-534-4817

Karen Barnett

Bureau of Reclamation, UT 801-524-3871

Shawn Goodchild

US Fish and Wildlife Service, NV 702-647-5230

Jon Sjoberg

Nevada Division of Wildlife 702-486-5127

Joe Millosovich

California Fish and Game 760-922-4928

Stephen Phillips

Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission 503-650-5400

Brad Hardenbrook

Nevada Division of Wildlife 702-486-5127, ext. 3600

Bob Pitman

US Fish and Wildlife Service - NM 505-248-6471

Tina Proctor

US Fish and Wildlife Service - CO 303-236-7862, ext. 260