

UPPER COLUMBIA CONSERVATION COMMISSION (UC³) MEETING

Wednesday, January 24th, 2018
Flathead Electric Cooperative – Community Room
2510 US Highway 2 East
Kalispell, MT 59901

AGENDA

8:30 AM	Welcome & Agenda	Lori Curtis, Chair UC ³ , Conservation Districts Representative; Science & Education Director, Whitefish Lake Institute
8:40 AM	Introductions	All
9:15 AM	MFWP AIS Program Update	Tom Woolf, Invasive Species Council Representative; AIS Bureau Chief, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
9:45 AM	CSKT Programs Update	Erik Hanson, AIS Coordinator Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
10:00 AM	December Workshop Debrief	Kate Wilson, Department of Natural Resources & Conservation Coordinator, Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC ³)
10:15 AM	By-Laws Review and Voting, Vice Chair Appointment, Logo Unveiling	Kate Wilson
11:30 AM	Committees Discussion & Voting	Lori Curtis & Kate Wilson
12:30 AM	Lunch (On your own)	
1:30 PM	Committee Workgroups & Work-plans:	Lori Curtis, All
	Education & Outreach	
	Early Detection & Monitoring	
	Watercraft Inspections	
	Response & Preparedness	
4:30 PM	Public Comment	Lori Curtis, All
4:45 PM	Wrap-up & Adjourn	Lori Curtis & Kate Wilson

All Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC³) meetings are open to the public. The UC³ will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this public meeting. Please contact Kate Wilson (kate.wilson@mt.gov) as soon as possible before the meeting date.

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting/ Project Name:	Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC₃)		
Date of Meeting:	January 24, 2018	Time:	8:30 AM – 5 PM
Minutes Prepared By:	Kate Wilson	Location:	Flathead Electric Co-op - Kalispell
1. Welcome and Introductions			
Lori Curtis	Welcome. Lori opened at 8:37 AM. Overview of agenda		
Mike Cuffe - opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House Bill 622. Intent to focus on zebra/quagga mussels. UC3 focus is in name – <i>CONSERVATION</i> Commission • House Bill 363 AIS funding bill. Not everybody loves it, not perfect, but working. • All tributaries of Clark Fork River, Bitterroot River, Flathead. Big focus here (Flathead) – big beautiful jewel of a lake, hub of many livelihoods. But also Swan Lake, Seeley Lake, Kootcanusa. • Intent: keep mussels out of the Upper Columbia. Coming soon: upcoming funding mechanisms need to be sorted out in next session. A year from now, going to be well into forming next bill for Legislative session. • Cuffe: Preference is general fund. But maybe not enough there. • Keep eye on target: mussels crossing continental divide. Life changers for any body of water. Accepted huge responsibility. Common goal of conservation. Focus on how to contain mussels, also containing weeds and other AIS. Really proud that you stepped up to the plate – big important job. Be proud that you are doing your part. 		
Introductions (Roundtable)	Each participant introduced themselves including name, location and organization/interest that they are representing.		
2. Attendees			
<p>Members (voting members underlined): Rep. Matt Regier (Flathead District, Kalispell), Kate Wilson (DNRC), <u>Tom Woolf</u> (FWP, representing MISC), <u>Lori Curtis</u> (Chair/Conservation Districts of Montana), <u>Brian Johnson</u> (Sea Me Paddle Kayak Tours/Spoke and Paddle/recreation), <u>Dennis Clairmont</u> (Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes), <u>Mike Koopal</u> (Director of Whitefish Institute/member at large), <u>Chris Parrott</u> (Jesco Marine & Powersports/private industry), <u>Stacy Schnebel</u> (Montana Electric Cooperative Association, Flathead Electric), <u>Phil Matson</u> (Flathead Lake Biological Station/private landowner), Chris Downs (Glacier National Park, FBC monitoring group), Cameron Thomas (Northern Region of USFS), <u>Paul Kusnierz</u> (Avista fisheries biologist), Gina Hoff (BOR)</p> <p>Public/Other: Rep. Mike Cuffe (Eureka, District 2. PNWER), Lindsey Bona-Eggeman (Missoula County), Erik Hanson (Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribe AIS staff), Tom McDonald (CSKT), Germaine White (CSKT), Jim Williams (FWP, Region 1), Jay Monroe (Blackfeet Nation), Lamont Kincaid (Ass. Of Realtors), Dean Sirucek (Flathead Conservation District/Flathead Basin Commission), Tom Bansak (Flathead Lake Biological Station), Jan Metzmaker (Flathead Basin Commission), Jack Potter (Flathead Basin Commission), Carroll Blend (North Shore Harbor, Flathead Lake), Dave Stipe (Lake County Commissioner), Russ Hartzell (FWP), Joe Underider (Kalispell Chamber), Robin Steinkraus (Flathead Lakers), Senator Keith Reiger (Kalispell, District 4), Rep. Mark Noland (Bigfork, District 10), Patrick Riley (Daily InterLake), Maggie Burnham (Big Sky Watershed Corps member – Flathead Lake Biological Station)</p>			
3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues			
Presenter	Topic/Discussion		

Tom Woolf

Montana's AIS Program
overview and updates

- Boat inspections: In 2017 - 85k inspections. 17 fouled boats – all came from out of state. 1/3 staying in MT. Many from Great Lakes, others from Colorado River. Expansion of program based on mussel veliger detections in 2016.
 - Looking at ways of improving efficiency this season:
 - staffing (work with Tribes, local partners and Conservation Districts, RV/seasonal workers);
 - regionalizing training (local areas, more hands on, offer to partners);
 - electronic data app/tablet based system for inspections (5 states using currently, interfaces with all. Used paper data entry for past years);
 - tentative agreements with partners to standardize data collection (share information, improve communication, standardize);
 - passport for low risk/frequent boaters;
 - variable opening for stations: March (Dillion) – May (rest);
 - shifting some of the locations for stations (particularly in East);
 - storage locations on site (reduce vehicles, safer and more efficient);
 - work closer with partners (contracts: CSKT, Blackfeet, Missoula County, Garfield Conservation District). Funding mostly provided by FWP, stations run by local partners (helps with local buy in, staffing, etc). More effective and applied program on the ground.
- Containment: better address boater movement at Tiber and Canyon Ferry. Will have decon units at most boat ramps at Tiber (rather than directing to other location). Initiating containment on Tiber and Canyon Ferry for years to come. After that can look at releasing mandatory inspection requirements. Until then, active monitoring, but will always be a focus for intensive monitoring (both reservoirs). No detections with plankton tows or mussel dogs; eDNA results indicated possible detection, but unclear what it means at this point. Science Advisory Panel to be convened to look at eDNA, make recommendations on state of science, protocols, standards, and how to interpret and communicate results.
 - Parallel samples (plankton tow for microscopy, water sample for eDNA) collected side by side at Tiber, but with different results. Why convening Science Advisory Panel – need to figure out best way to approach sampling.
 - Discussion on containment: Confusion last year on 'decontamination' of boats. Last year was a CDD boat – if deemed necessary, decon applied. This season will change definition of 'decon' as washed with hot water. Will address complex boats as high risk (hot wash). Getting water at those remote boat launches has been a challenge.
 - Ability of Blackfeet to decon at their site? Most of the boats that came through from Tiber were CDD, but sometimes residual water in live wells, bilge (drain plug not pulled).
 - Suggestion to move Tiber locations to 5 or less (major) launches, depending on available budget of FWP and boater/angler use (continue discussion in afternoon during inspections/response committee session).
 - FWP: Onus on boater to be inspected/decontaminated. Part of certified boater program – sign affidavit saying they only use Tiber with watercraft. Hwy station as catch-all.
 - What happens when stations not open or launches that do not have stations? FWP: Certified boaters must be inspected/decontaminated if they are going to another waterbody. It is to some degree, an

honor system. ~1400 inspected at Tiber last season (use is low), but there are gaps. Statewide we have gaps too: No 24-hour stations. Need to change boater culture so that they understand the importance of personal responsibility. 692 inspections at the highest use station on Tiber - remote location, difficult to staff. Target hours were 12 hours a day but not always possible.

- Law enforcement: 80 citations/300 warnings. 2018 season will see enhanced enforcement. Funding for 4 warden FTEs provided by AIS program. AIS statute can be enforced by any law enforcement – need to engage at higher level.
 - Discussion on enforcement: Wardens obligated to spend more time on wildlife. FWP: Will affect a bit because of funding/time demands on enforcement. They are trying their hardest to meet mandated wildlife hours in addition to AIS, fishing and parks. Rigorous tracking system, very accountable. Try to get additional help from local law enforcement, BOR.
- Response: State mussel response guidelines are a living document – invite feedback from UC3 and partners. CRB regional basin team also has response plan. This group feeds into their effort. Good idea to have response exercise here in the basin soon. Practice and get traction with managers and partners.
 - Discussion on response: Has idea of drawing Tiber down been considered? During ICS was considered, but too many flooding and irrigation concerns. Many livelihoods would be affected (political reality).
 - Marias River – all of these downstream areas, potential for infestation if Tiber is infested with mussels. Need to take into consideration – not just about Tiber and Canyon Ferry. Other downstream bodies of water. Local boater program fine, but shouldn't be allowed to go to someone who lives across the state – loophole in system. If from local area, makes sense.
- Monitoring: Over 1500 plankton tow samples from over 240 waterbodies collected/analyzed for mussels. Final report coming soon. Will have map and table with detailed locations and dates of sampling. Plan to be developed shortly, will be shared with partners so that we can best maximize efforts.
 - Discussion on monitoring: How many eDNA grab samples collected? FWP: Would have to check, but about ~60. Several came back as 'strongly positive,' but no veligers detected. Will walk everyone through whole story at Tiber as part of Science Advisory Panel.
 - Microscopy gold standard, but still hard to find them. eDNA earliest technique – you could get a positive sample from dead tissue. Million dollar question: how much money do you spend on eDNA positive? Answer is prevention. eDNA you could test for years and not find a live animal.
 - Data collection (for monitoring and reporting): FWP developed app for sampling and survey – smartphone based. FWP takes info, triages/verifies, passes onto Montana Heritage Program. Can submit veliger samples to FWP lab (free). Will display survey efforts and detections of any AIS.
- Outreach and education: work more closely with partners in 2018, enhance consistency. More targeted info to ag/irrigation, 310 permits (contractors), etc. \$300k committed to out-of-state AIS campaign targeting high risk boaters (working with PR firm), will also focus on in-state efforts (Clean Drain Dry).
- Rules: public comment on mandatory inspection before launch in Flathead Basin (CSKT, Flathead Basin), Feb 6 or submit in writing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding: AIS funding currently derived from hydroelectric and angler fees, along with some federal funds (WRDDA). USACE provided significant funding last season, to be repeated in 2018 (~\$2M anticipated). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion on funding: Looking at boat fee license? Most of the boaters are here, most of the boating west of the divide, most of the risk is also here. If we look at boat sticker program, look at how money is divvied up. Suggestion that more should be allocated for west of the divide.
<p>Erik Hanson</p> <p>CSKT's AIS Program overview and updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boat inspections: Focus on highway entry points. Big gap with enforcement – up to 20% of boaters can drive by. Need dedicated enforcement – need deterrent. Education carrot, enforcement is the stick. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hwy 93/Hwy 2. In the process of securing funding. BOR \$1.5M (up to \$5M). CSKT got portion of this – will go to Hwy 93 station, increase hours. Next: Hwy 2 – way to get 24-hour inspections and enforcement. • Enforcement: Have been partnering with local law enforcement. Hwy 93 station known as the one station that you don't drive by (primary enforcement is CSKT wardens) – will get even better this season if possible. Way to cover station at all times. High goal moving forward. Wardens cross-deputized (can enforce on/off reservation). Local municipalities have been really good to work with on enforcement. • Monitoring: Increasing – FLBS and USGS to increase existing monitoring efforts. Mussels but also other AIS and beyond Flathead Lake. • Education: improve training with inspectors. Including Tribal component on all education activities. Mussel walk with volunteers – good time to look for shells during drawdown (middle and high schools, education event – expand and do more locations). Great awareness, but also additional monitoring on Flathead Lake. • Lake County: Nuisance Ordinance only applies to vertebrates – need to address better at next Legislative session (can address better locally).
<p>Kate Wilson</p> <p>December CSKT/UC3 co-hosted AIS inspections & monitoring workshop overview</p> <p>Other AIS updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of report from Dec Workshop • First day was about watercraft inspections, good turnout and discussion. Focus was on hearing about state and partner stations in operation in 2017, including statistics, lessons learned, what worked well and challenges. Move forward means of enhancing coordination, communication and shared protocols. UC3 Inspections Committee to be formed to provide link between partners and state in the basin. • Second day was about AIS monitoring (mussels), more technical. Discussion on techniques (microscopy, pQCR, eDNA), protocols, sample collection, preservation methods, analysis and interpretation of results. Science Panel convening this spring on eDNA – to provide recommendations to the state/west on current state of science, gaps, research and development still needed, interpretation/communication of results, and how to use eDNA as an early detection tool. UC3 Monitoring Committee to be convened to draft monitoring plan for the basin and improve coordination and implementation efforts. • Action items generated that the UC3 Committees can utilize for prioritizing tasks and deciding on approach. • Thanks to Phil Matson at the FLBS for creating maps for the workshop (see report). • Approached BNSF and Montana Rail Link regarding their development of geographic response plans for environmental emergencies – could be a great model for AIS response planning, and a means of augmenting state plan with basin-specific data. Tools that would be useful in the event of a detection.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Analysis project initiated with FLBS and DNRC (just awaiting final signatures). Will be able to estimate cost of mussel infestation statewide and also broken down by UC and Missouri River basins. • Missouri River Pilot initiated with partners along the Missouri – National Invasive Species Council grant to develop strategic plan and enhance AIS engagement and coordination with stakeholders east of the divide. • Law Review getting underway – Montana Invasive Species Council partnering with UM Law School to review current invasive species statutes, regulations, and policies at state, federal, Tribal and local government levels. Develop gap analysis and focus on law review at next Invasive Species Summit (fall 2018). Potential for jurisdictional review to look at other models in other jurisdictions. Ideally will be able to address any major gaps at next Legislative session.
<p>Kate Wilson and Lori Curtis</p> <p>Review/voting: Minutes, By-Laws, Vice Chair</p> <p>UC3 Logo</p>	<p>Administrative Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of Minutes from Oct 4, 2017 meeting: Motion to approve as amended (Mike Koopal). Seconded (Stacey Schnebel). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i> • Vice Chair election: Tom W. volunteered. Motion to elect Tom Woolf as UC3 Vice Chair. Discussion on appropriateness of state staff vice chairing independent Commission. Motion amended (Stacey Schnebel): Elect Tom Woolf as Vice Chair but hold open 2nd Vice Chair position for the future. Seconded (BJ Johnson). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i> • Discussion and adoption of UC3 Charter and Bylaws – based on MISC bylaws, Roberts Rules of Order and HB622. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proxy voting: members may assign proxy with voting privileges to attend UC3 meeting with prior approval of Chair. Motion to accept proxy voting (Phil Matson). Seconded (Paul Kusnierz). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i> ○ Committee chairs: Require majority vote. Do not need to be a voting UC3 member. Motion to accept committee chair process as written (Stacey Schnebel). Seconded (Paul Kusnierz). Discussion on whether or not the Committee chair should be voting member. 7 in favor, 1 opposed. <i>Motion passes.</i> ○ Membership of Committees: Letters of interest required to serve on committee. New members can be added by majority vote of board or Executive Council. Motion made to require letter of interest (Mike Koopal). Seconded (Phil Matson). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i> ○ Adoption of bylaws: Motion made to adopt the bylaws as amended (Dennis Clairmont). Seconded (Chris Parrott). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i> • Kate and Lori have been working with a graphic designer to secure a UC3 logo for the website, letterhead and materials. Features state of Montana with Upper Columbia basin broken out/outlined in different color with mussel and EWM on one side and lettering above and below.
<p>Lori Curtis & Kate Wilson</p>	<p>UC3 Committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Establishment of Executive Committee</u>: Motion (Stacey Schnebel). Seconded (Phil Matson). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Membership: Chair (Lori Curtis), Vice Chair (Tom Woolf), DNRC staff (Kate Wilson) • <u>Establishment of Early Detection and Monitoring Committee</u>: Motion to establish Committee and accept members as currently proposed (Paul Kusnierz). Seconded (Chris Parrott). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i> Mike volunteered to chair. Motion for Mike to chair (Phil Matson). Seconded (Paul Kusnierz). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Membership: Mike Koopal (Chair) Paul Kusnierz, Tom Woolf, Cameron Thomas, Erik Hanson, Phil Matson, Dona Rutherford (OR Jay Monroe), HOLD spot for Bureau of Reclamation Technical Services, Kate Wilson (support) ● <u>Establishment of Rapid Response and Preparedness Committee</u>: Motion to establish Committee and accept members as currently proposed (Chris Parrott). Seconded (Phil Matson). All in favor. <i>Motion passes</i>. Erik volunteered to chair. Motion for Erik to chair (Mike Koopal). Seconded (Paul Kusnierz). All in favor. <i>Motion passes</i>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Membership: Erik Hanson (Chair), Joanne Grady, Chris Downs, Tom Woolf, Dennis Clairmont, Bryce Christiaens, Jay Monroe, Cameron Thomas, Kate Wilson (support) ● <u>Establishment of Education and Outreach Committee</u>: Motion to establish Committee and accept members as currently proposed (Mike Koopal). Seconded (Chris Parrott). All in favor. <i>Motion passes</i>. Lori volunteered to chair. Motion for Lori to chair (Mike Koopal). Seconded (Paul Kusnierz). All in favor. <i>Motion passes</i>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Membership: Lori Curtis (Chair), Chris Parrott, Erik Hanson, Stacey Schnebel, Tom Woolf OR Liz Lodman, BJ Johnson, Gina Hoff, Kate Wilson (support) ● <u>Establishment of Watercraft Inspections Committee</u>: Motion to establish Committee and accept members as currently proposed (Paul Kusnierz). Seconded (Chris Parrott). All in favor. <i>Motion passes</i>. Tom volunteered to chair. Motion for Tom to chair (Stacey Schnebel). Seconded (Chris Parrott). All in favor. <i>Motion passes</i>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Membership: Tom Woolf (Chair), Erik Hanson, Lindsey Bona-Eggeman, Russ Hartzell, Brian McKeon, Jay Monroe, Paul Kusnierz, HOLD spot for Flathead Basin Commission, Kate Wilson (support)
<p>Lori Curtis</p> <p>Committee work groups, business and work plans</p>	<p>Group discussion on priorities and roles of each Committee. Discussion of containment at Tiber and Canyon Ferry (requested for follow up from morning session).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Education and Outreach Committee: LORI (chair) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Compile inventory of existing efforts: 3/1/18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ KATE – to draft inventory of existing AIS E&O efforts in state <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Include FBC AIS Prevention Plan (google) ○ DRAFT communication plan/strategy for UC – ready for 2018 implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ E&O Plan: messaging, materials, media, editorial content, development, communications packages, tourism/out of state ▪ LORI – to send template/draft of Education and Outreach Strategy to Committee for review: aim for 3/2/18 ▪ ERIK – to find PSU catalogue (no longer on website) ▪ How to communicate with other jurisdictions ● Watercraft Inspection Committee: TOM (chair) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coordination of operations for 2018 season ○ How to communicate with other jurisdictions – target on the ‘big things’ ○ Glacier: Issues with app/database – doesn’t work well for non-motorized (have to use excel spreadsheet), duplicative. Doesn’t seem worth it for non-motorized. Not going to work unless somebody comes up with something better. FWP: Need to connect – working on addressing now. Flow is an issue for FWP too, but hopefully will get to a point where we can all use. Will work with Brian to try to address non-motorized concerns. ○ FWP: Overview of station plans

- March: Dillion; April: Wilbaux, Hardin (mostly coast to coast traffic, but some MT destinations); May: Majority of stations (same as most of CRB states).
- Working closely with Blackfeet, CSKT, Whitefish, Glacier on standardization, training (and training manual), passport, high risk/low risk inspection forms,
- Thompson Falls station – walleye fishing becoming more popular (starting March/April) – how to address that traffic? Concerned about early season. FWP: Clark Fork station inspections both directions, but doesn't open until May.
- Tournaments will be addressed separately as well. Penalty if tournament organizers fail to comply? Not sure. Tournament anglers required to CDD, no legal inspection requirement at this time. Can we set specific protocols for tournaments? When they exit Tiber and Canyon Ferry, should be decontaminated. FWP staff did attend derbies at Tiber and Canyon Ferry (125 on Tiber, more from Canyon Ferry).
- Felt-soled wader issue – can go everywhere in state but Blackfeet reservation. Another source of transportation.
- Signage – build something with existing resources where we can for derbies specifically (mussels, curlyleaf pondweed). Only 3 entrances – need to address. Inspected over 15 boats with standing water after one tournament (Blackfeet stations). Social influencing part is a significant piece. Bigger signs, stronger message.
- Boats coming in from east – when stations are closed, some kind of additional signage at signs that they need to call 1-800 number to provide info on additional stations, procedures, rules, etc. Transported boats from one side to the other after dark, nothing open right now. Address at E&O committee. FWP working with MDOT on using reader boards – esp during snowbird season.
 - FWP: 2 trainings (Kalispell, Missoula), cap at 20 attendees. Can schedule other trainings (mid-late April).
- Discussion on containment concerns at Tiber – based on good will. Not proper containment. All should be decontaminated. Limited ability to contain will lead to more introductions. Next mussel infestation going to come from Tiber (w/in 10 years). Not a lot of boating inspections (1300) – spending \$500k so a small group of people can use waterbody. Why not close whole reservoir down? Or don't let boots ever leave. Or button down public access sites. There are ways to reduce the risk.
 - UC3 directed to also protect economic environment – closure of entire reservoir doesn't seem likely.
 - Federal reservoirs – mitigation obligations for recreation, etc. Need to check to see what is the on books as required for Tiber and Canyon Ferry.
 - Not only recommendation from Commission, could be individual groups that represent organizations need to speak up to. Things short of full closure that can be implemented – get most of what we want w/o putting elected officials in tough place that they can't support.
 - Limit ramps. Can't find adults now, but we're talking about veliger transport, which is most risky when reservoir warms up (June-Sept). Make it a priority/requirement. No water leaving reservoir.

- Rep. Noland: Any talk about restrictions on those waterbodies? Limit hours? Gating ramps that can't be manned full time? Meeting with Gianforte: 'are you aware of the need that MT needs funding? What is being done nationally? Can you help us?' Rep. Brett Simmons. Letters to Governor and other senators (Tester, Danes). Wasn't our fault we got mussels, we need national assistance.
- After ICS to implementation teams, participated and consensus was to contain reservoirs, only allow access at launches that can be staffed. General consensus that limiting access key.
- Socialize issue – slow moving emergency, trying to get people up to speed and realize risk. The economic risk is really downstream too. Fighting to keep this open for the people that want to use it, but we can't be the source that started the multi-billion-dollar event that goes all the way to Portland.
- Missouri River Containment & Quarantine (HB622) – restrictions regarding use of watercraft and restrictions on infested waterbodies. Power/authority is already there.
- Two issues 1) local boater program has to change. Needs to be constrained to actual local boaters (not from anywhere else). 2) True quarantine protocol: don't get to leave unless boat has gone through inspections. Keep public access, but limit it to when stations are open.
- Colorado example: only able to use waterbodies during hours where launches staffed (50 lakes).
- Tie to funding and ability to keep stations/waterbody open (allow access but tie to ability to implement control measures). Tailor to anglers – listen to them and make it work for them as much as possible (but that some mitigation needs to be in place).
- Motion to enhance containment at Tiber Reservoir: watercraft operators can only ingress/egress at launches on Tiber Reservoir where inspection stations are located and in operation, based on the available budget of FWP to operate inspection stations - can adjust based on angler/boater use (Dennis Clairmont). Seconded (Stacey Schnebel).
 - Discussion: Tie in with anglers – tie in with habits and adjust in operations. Limit access sites. Can still offer recreational opportunity. Fundamental issue is containing water. Tailor to when people want to get on/off water. Short concise briefing package to decision makers. Good way to use dollars and extend efforts. Engage anglers in issues (esp. walleye anglers).
 - All in favor (Tom Woolf recused himself from the vote). *Motion passes.*
- Motion to limit the 'Certified Boater Program' to apply only to residents east of the continental divide (Mike Koopal). Seconded (Phil Matson). All in favor (Tom Woolf recused himself from the vote). *Motion passes.*
- Early Detection & Monitoring
 - Staff of 8 (2 permanent, 6 seasonal) to monitor for invasive mussels. Use microscopy (under microscope looking at each sample).
 - Need to draft annual monitoring plan for UC basin prior to 2018 season.
 - Committee to engage in Science Advisory Panel on eDNA and seek to include all forms of monitoring in plan.
- Response & Preparedness

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ State Rapid Response Guidelines drafted and open for comment currently. FWP to send current version. CSKT to insert comments and feedback, then send to rest of Response Committee. Once all have reviewed, will submit comments to FWP for consideration. ○ Contractor coming in to train FWP on ICS and rapid response. Also evaluating the draft guidelines. Ties in to the Columbia River Basin rapid response plan. ○ Montana Heritage Fund as potential for species profiles, reporting and tracking (previously just native and rare species). ○ Ways to augment the state guidelines for the UC basin? Geographic response plans (railroad/industry model). Pre-approval for closures or treatments. Prioritize highest risk waterbodies and focus efforts there.
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting March 14 (Missoula) • Consider FLBS as possible venue in future
Wrap up	Adjourned at 3:53 PM

4. Action Items				
Action	Assigned	Due Date	Status	
1	Send out meeting notes and updates	Kate Wilson	2/7/18	Completed
2	Send contact info to Committees	Kate Wilson	2/10/18	Completed
2	March 14 th meeting location and logistics	Kate Wilson	2/14/18	Completed
2	Gather existing plans/efforts and synthesize/create inventory for E&O Committee (FWP, regional groups such as FBC, CSKT).	Kate Wilson	3/1/18	Completed
3	Draft Education & Outreach Strategy	Lori Curtis/All	3/2/18	In process
4	Track down PSU catalogue	Erik Hanson		In process
5	FWP work with Glacier and other partners on alleviating concerns with data app (as currently proposed)	Tom Woolf		In process
6	Signage gaps to address boater movement at night (suggested)	Education & Outreach Committee	3/1/18	E&O to consider adding to work plan
7	Look into options for potential repository/shared site for UC3 (state does not currently have option – other members?)	Kate Wilson	3/14/18	In process
8	Annual monitoring plan drafted	Early Detection and Monitoring Committee	4/15/2018	In process
9	FWP to send most current version of Mussel Rapid Response Guidelines to Response & Preparedness Committee for feedback	Tom Woolf	2/15/18	Completed

UPPER COLUMBIA CONSERVATION COMMISSION (UC³) MEETING

Wednesday, March 14th, 2018
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Region 2 Office
3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula, MT

AGENDA

9:00 AM	Welcome & Agenda	Lori Curtis, Chair UC ³ , Conservation Districts Representative; Science & Education Director, Whitefish Lake Institute
9:10 AM	Introductions	All
9:30 AM	Review & Approve Minutes	Kate Wilson, Department of Natural Resources & Conservation Coordinator, Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC ³)
9:35 AM	AIS Primer	Tom Woolf, Invasive Species Council Representative; AIS Bureau Chief, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, & Erik Hanson, AIS Coordinator, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
10:10 AM	Legal Update	Barbara Chillcott – DNRC Legal
10:30 AM	AIS Rules & Issues Update; Columbia River Basin Exercise; law review; Science Advisory Panel; economic analysis	Kate Wilson & Tom Woolf
11:00 AM	FBC Update	Mike Koopal, Member-at-Large, UC ³ ; FBC Board Member; ED, Whitefish Lake Institute & Dennis Clairmont, Pablo District Representative, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, FBC Board Member
11:20 AM	AIS Program Brief Updates	Tom Woolf Erik Hanson, AIS Coordinator, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
11:40 AM	Discussion/vote on grant funding application, AIS program components, recommendations	Lori Curtis & Kate Wilson
12:00 PM	Lunch (On your own)	
1:00 PM	Committee Reports & Discussion Education & Outreach Early Detection & Monitoring Watercraft Inspections Response & Preparedness	<u>UC³ Committee Chairs</u> Lori Curtis Mike Koopal Tom Woolf Erik Hanson
2:45 PM	Public Comment	All
3:00 PM	Wrap-up & Adjourn	Lori Curtis & Kate Wilson

All Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC³) meetings are open to the public. The UC³ will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this public meeting. Please contact Kate Wilson (kate.wilson@mt.gov) as soon as possible before the meeting date.

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting/ Project Name:		Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC₃)	
Date of Meeting:	March 14, 2018	Time:	9:00 AM – 3 PM
Minutes Prepared By:	Kate Wilson	Location:	FWP Regional 2 Office, Missoula
1. Welcome and Introductions			
Lori Curtis	Welcome. Lori opened at 9:08 AM. Overview of agenda		
Introductions (Roundtable)	Each participant introduced themselves including name, location and organization/interest that they are representing.		
2. Attendees			
<p>Members (voting members underlined): <u>Lori Curtis</u> (Chair/Conservation Districts of Montana), <u>Tom Woolf</u> (FWP, representing MISC), <u>Dennis Clairmont</u> (Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes), <u>Chris Parrott</u> (Jesco Marine & Powersports/private industry), <u>Stacy Schnebel</u> (Montana Electric Cooperative Association, Flathead Electric), <u>Phil Matson</u> (Flathead Lake Biological Station/private landowner), Chris Downs (Glacier National Park, FBC monitoring group), Cameron Thomas (Northern Region of USFS), <u>Paul Kusnierz</u> (Avista), Rep. Matt Regier (Flathead District, Kalispell), Kate Wilson (DNRC)</p> <p>Public/Other: Rep. Mike Cuffe (Eureka, District 2. PNWER), Lindsey Bona-Eggeman (Missoula County), Erik Hanson (Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribe), Jay Monroe (Blackfeet Nation), Lamont Kincaid (Assoc. of Realtors), Robin Steinkraus (Flathead Lakers), Maggie Burnham (Big Sky Watershed Corps member – FLBS), Randy Arnold (FWP Region 2), Matt Ridding, Liz Lodman (FWP), Denise Richardson, Mark Bostrom (DNRC), Bryan Horsburgh (BOR – Boise), Monica Elser (FLBS), Aerial Lavon</p>			
3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues			
Presenter	Topic/Discussion		
Kate Wilson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of Minutes from Jan 24, 2018 meeting: Motion to approve as amended (Stacey Schnebel). Seconded (Dennis Clairmont). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i> 		
Approval of Minutes			
Tom Woolf/Erik Hanson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definition: non-native species, cause harm to environment, ecology or human health Introductions: many introduced by hitchhiking on watercraft & equipment, but also aquarium introductions ('intentional release') Mussels get the most attention: environmental & economic impact greater, but concerned about all AIS Some species can move downstream once introduced, but generally moved by people/activities Impacts: outcompete natives, degrade habitat. Plants can create monoculture, decreased oxygen, limited sunlight reaches bottom. Can affect/limit recreation, and have serious economic and ecological consequences. Changes expectations for the system. Degrade water quality, outcompete endangered species (one of greatest threats), reproduce rapidly. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mussels: Attach to any substrate in the water. Can live 3-9 years. 1988 introduced in Michigan. 100th Meridian initiative – intent to stop westward spread of mussels, though no active roadside inspection programs in the west until 2007, when mussels detected in Lake Mead (1st in west). Preventable! Still have opportunity to prevent spread in the west 		
AIS Primer			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utah: similar to Montana in that there have been detections of veligers but has not resulted in detection of adult mussels – hopefully we are in the same situation where we will not see adults establish. Going to be a long-term thing to see how our ‘mussel story turns out.’ In the meantime, make sure that we are curbing any introductions. • Idaho has already intercepted 3 vessels coming out of Lower Colorado river system. Arizona provided notice to Idaho. Boater must contact state of Arizona AIS Program, who decontaminates and notifies destination states. • Adult mussel = highest risk. Many adult mussels attached to a boat poses greatest threat of an introduction. • Standing water can also move veligers – risk less well defined (ballast boat example) • Plant connection – mussels known to be found in aquatic plants • Bureau of Reclamation going to help fund study on viability of veligers in boats • Example: moored boats (greatest risk), ballast boats (moderate risk), day use boater (lower risk) • Rapid response/treatment: chemistries out there that can kill mussels, but often too widely distributed to eradicate. If can find early enough, and possible to contain where they are found. • Other species of concern: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Flowering rush – common in Flathead system, but not in other places ○ Starry stonewort – macro algae. In Midwest, can easily move on boats as well. Came from Europe. ○ Spiny waterflea – zooplankton prolific in Great Lakes. Disrupt food chains. Has created problems in the Midwest. ○ Asian carp – can be moved in bait or standing water. Established in the East/Midwest. ○ Fish pathogens – damage/disease can be moved in standing water • What can we do? Inspect watercraft – most hands-on way to ensure boats are clean and educate boaters one-one-one. Clean Drain Dry – Protect our Waters. • Monitoring: Essential to early detection, preventing further spread <p>Erik – Regulatory Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State has regulatory for AIS through statute/rule – provides authority for mandatory inspection, prohibits transport, funding mechanism • Tribes – own regulatory authority on invasive species • Legislation moving forward: gaps – notification of commercially hauled boats (and requirement for inspection) • Federal agencies – many hands off. Issues with lack of action. • Western states: make greater political push to get more funding. Compare to Asian carp funding in Great Lakes states – billions! Vs. recent millions to combat mussels in western states.
<p>Rep. Mike Cuffe</p> <p>Invasive Species Advisory Council Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently visited DC for National Invasive Species Awareness Week and the Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) – advises the National Invasive Species Council (NISC). NISC comprised of federal staff and representatives, whereas ISAC more diverse representation. Reps from Idaho, Montana, other western states. • Bureau of Reclamation possible funding. Most going to be spent by themselves, though not completely sure. Still in process, but fairly definite. • WRDA funding to include monitoring funding in 2018 – to be distributed for AIS prevention in CRB states. Last year provided \$1.8M in federal funding to MT.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) – created by statute, includes 5 western states and 5 western provinces/territories. Has taken on invasive species issues given economic impacts. • Future funding for MT: Environmental Quality Council looking at where funding can come from for next iteration (2019 Legislative session). Currently includes hydro fees and prevention pass for anglers (state funding). Lots of support for boat sticker approach – possibly other sources as well. • Prevention is key – bigger infestation we get, more it will cost. Prevention costs are miniscule compared to infestation in Montana’s systems.
<p>Bryan Horsborough, BOR</p> <p>Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding being distributed out of Denver BOR office • ‘Spend plans’ for the \$1.4M, of which \$400k will be issued to states – to be divided up between ID, OR, WA, MT including Flathead Basin • Funding: In 2018 – in PNW region, didn’t have a lot of quagga/zebra funding until last year. Only \$300k annually to assist with monitoring. With new administration and Scott Cameron have seen a bump. • 2017: mostly internal work at facilities • 2018: \$1.1M has been released at this time. Doing vulnerability assessments (VAs) in PNW – including Grand Coulee and Hungry Horse. Working with CSKT on funding watercraft inspection stations. Balance is \$400k dedicated to PNW states on funding gaps. Call with WA on Friday. Connect with MT today. • 2019-2020: not sure but expect funding to continue (~\$1M/year to spread across 4 QZAP categories). • Hilary Smith/Safeguarding the West Initiative: BOR has many commitments, including VAs. Engaging Western Governor’s Association.
<p>Matt Regier</p> <p>Federal funding update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sent email today – seeking support for contacting congressional members to move forward with more federal funding • Senator Danes & Gianforte – seeking federal funding for AIS in Montana • Bonneville Power Administration (BPA): 1/3 of the rate paying goes to Environment, including Fish & Wildlife – partner with states, Tribes and partners to restore habitat and protect land and water. Should carry some if not MOST of the load on prevention of AIS. Hydro stands to lose billions if mussels introduced • Multi-state and federal level, really think there is potential
<p>Stacey Schnebel</p> <p>Hydroelectric Cooperative Perspective</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Going after BPA for funding – it’s bypassing all those investor-owned utilities who are also generating hydropower (private companies that benefit from services and cheap power – especially in ‘Mid C’ – Columbia Basin). Would leave public utilities to foot the bill for AIS if only target them. • Resolution amendment passed last week at the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association to pursue federal funding for all AIS – can lobby for federal funding • BPA - cost recovery adjustment clause – 1/3 of funding goes to environmental mitigation, but already pre-defined categories (does not include AIS currently) • Advocate for nation-wide effort that includes something more fair and equitable • Many of BPA categories tied to other federal statutes, such as ESA listed species such as salmon • Northwest Power Planning & Conservation Commission is a good place to start to get a better understanding of how this mitigation funding is allocated (Montana representatives)
<p>Barbara Chillcott, DNRC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What laws apply to boards and commissions in Montana • Montana Constitution pretty unique: basis of Sunshine Laws <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Article 2 section 8: Participation

<p>Legal Primer – Montana’s Open Meeting Laws</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Article 2 section 9: Right to know ● UC³ probably will not likely ever need to hold a closed meeting – personnel/privacy concerns are really the only reason to hold closed meeting ● All meetings and deliberations open to public. Includes noticing all public meetings. ● Talk to Kate if questions come up after or need to know more about how to notice something or what is reasonable ● Several court cases over the years interpreting certain aspects of open meeting laws ● Commission – including in definition of ‘agency’ ● Give public reasonable notice on time and place, agenda items. Publish agendas for every meeting, minutes. ● Can only deliberate on matters on agenda – can be violation of meeting notice if stray into topics not on agenda ● Must provide public comment in any item within jurisdiction (not specific to agenda items) – can call for comments after each agenda item or at end of meeting ● Notice not really defined, but make reasonable effort ● UC3 agendas currently are posted: Website, List Serve, press release ● Meeting definition – convening of quorum of Commission, whether in person or by teleconference, email (public has a right to be a part of any decision) – can share information but cannot deliberate or make decisions by email ● If a meeting is held by teleconference – should ensure that there is a public line available ● Sunshine Laws very broad: exist to aid in conduct of people’s business ● Minutes must be taken and provided (on website at minimum) ● Committees: can’t set up committee to conduct business outside of public preview – subject to same requirements. Can convene w/o notice but need to ensure all decisions are made by Commission at public meeting. ● Anyone in public can record meetings – does not require giving notice ● Administrative attachments – liaise with Governor’s Office via host agency (DNRC Director). Work with DNRC Director to get recommendations to Gov’s office ● Commissioners: Can they lobby (state)? Federal legislators? As Commission and not individual organizations or individuals? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coordinate through Governor’s Office ○ As a Commission, would need to develop strategy to interact with federal legislators, work through DNRC Director ○ Charged with developing protocols to move recommendations forward
<p>Mark Bostrom (for Mike Koopal) ex officio on FBC</p> <p>FBC Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Feb 21st meeting FBC voted to withdraw petition for rulemaking authority (AIS) from Fish and Wildlife Commission given state and partner AIS activities and lack of capacity ● Four new Commissioners recently appointed by the Governor: Mike Koopal, Ed Lieser, Steve Frye, Patrick Holmes (Governor’s Office) ● Executive Committee: Because some members not re-appointed, Vice Chair Rich Janssen (CSKT) chaired last meeting, but let Commission know he does not want to serve in that capacity (was Vice Chair). Need to poll members for interest in serving in executive roles to convene an Executive Committee. ● Staffing: DNRC required to staff Commission - Kate Wilson now to be staffing both Commissions. Experience with Lakes Commission in Idaho – similar mandate and work in water quality and quantity. ● Strategic planning will be focus of coming months – consider UC3 mandate and work in this effort

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing invoices and MOUs: USFS, Jesco Marine, CSKT, Blackfeet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No funding currently associated with FBC ○ No biennial reports provided to Legislative Services in recent years, but Mark was able to provide recently (up to 2016) • Website: Fallen behind on agendas and minutes – will address with new website (currently in the works now). Will be served by state resources moving forward. • Uncomfortable with .org and donate option for current website given this is a title 2 agency – will restructure new website
<p>Tom Woolf</p> <p>Montana’s AIS Program overview and updates</p>	<p><u>Boat inspections:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalizing contracts/MOUs with Blackfeet & CSKT to operate partner stations currently (funded by FWP) • Dillion station to open (I-15) in anticipation of watercraft coming from Lower Colorado System • All stations open by Memorial Day weekend • Electronic data app for inspections moving forward – CSKT as ‘Guinea pig’ as opening first. Everyone in MT doing inspections has agreed to use electronic database – ready to go now. Still requires further development, but will work with Colorado to update as we go during season. • Passport – serves as proof of inspection form. Meant to expedite inspections. Has ordered passports and stamps for partners as well. • Only one form for boaters now (instead of 1 of 4 as was used previously) • Canadian border gaps – this time of year, not many boats that are launching, but still technically need inspection. Customs and Border Patrol is not authorized to inspect or even notify destination state. Roosville opens mid-May. • Right now, only addressing border issue with other jurisdictions in ID and WY – MOA for reciprocity <p><u>Monitoring:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New lab facility • Data app for data sharing (reporting) – both for collecting samples and reporting detections nearly complete. Samples sent can also feedback to user on results. Non-detects are still going to input so can incorporate (show where sampling taking place). Will help with who samples where & when – enhance coordination. End product of app – maps to be on MT Nat Heritage Program site. • Most of ‘other’ sampling efforts are happening here in UC basin <p><u>Discussion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of seals: Strive for more consistency between partners and state stations • Phone tree between partners: Need to develop notification and contact info that can be shared between partners • Bilge plugs: Currently not a requirement – just have to be drained. Would be a lot easier to enforce if plug had to be pulled. Used to be in place but went away last session – issue with pontoon boats. PWC also complained about requirement. ‘Sinking on the trailer’ can happen with ballast <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wake boards have plug in middle of boat (not on end). Have to pull up seat and find plug under V drive. Going to be difficult for inspectors to find. Might help inspectors with these complex boats as owner would likely know where center plug is located. ○ Blackfeet require plug to be pulled (while on reservation) • Felt waders: now banned in Yellowstone, but also Glacier, CSKT and Blackfeet Nation

<p>Jay Monroe</p> <p>Blackfeet Nation AIS Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catch most of Canadian boats at Blackfeet stations • Opening stations this week – waiting on container movement. Delayed based on weather conditions. Declared state ‘disaster/emergency’ – many roads closed for weeks. • Had one pontoon boat cross over into the Flathead so far • Training completed last week (3 days) at marine shop • How if funding secured? Nothing is for sure – have enough funds to operate at least 2 more seasons • Trying to push for Babb station – currently not enough funding, but need to push. If not destined for Glacier National Park waters, no inspection station. Will further protect Columbia Basin if can add this additional station. Have application in for grant funding. • Enforcement: Tribal enforcement at Hwy 2 – will notify TIP Mont on drive-bys. Most were addressed by Tribal enforcement. Agreement with Glacier County and Blackfeet might be a possibility.
<p>Erik Hanson</p> <p>CSKT’s AIS Program overview and updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boat inspections: Hwy 93 station at Ravalli starting Friday. 24/7 May through end of August. Informal agreements with Polson, Ronan, St Ignatius, CSKT Wardens and Lake County for increased enforcement. Dedicated warden for station at height of summer – will assist with compliance. • Still exploring options for Hwy 2 (to be 24/7) • Looking at permanent inspections for Hwy 2 and Hwy 93 • Need to connect with CSKT more on AIS education and outreach efforts
<p>Chris Downs</p> <p>Glacier National Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June -September ‘boating season’ – inspections required for all watercraft • Future: inspection building, weed wash station • Incrementally build on program already in place • Agreement with UM – springtime eDNA for mussels and EWM, CLP. Fall veliger sampling. • Getting away from artificial substrates
<p>Lori Curtis</p> <p>Whitefish Inspections</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening May 1st – working closely with FWP • Attempting to move ‘AIS prevention & Decontamination station’ to another location – has been at Whitefish Marine & Powersports, but not enough room. New location better and more space, close to where has been in past. • State park inspection station – piloted last year but turned out to be an excellent addition, ran well. Never knew before but had almost same amount of boats launching at both sites (surprising given that city launch charges for launch) • Still hiring – have 3 city/state to hire – several have come back • Mandatory inspection, in some cases, mandatory cleaning as well • WLI purchased 2 tablets for inspections • Hours: Different between 2 sites – City 6AM-10PM (June-Aug) 6AM-9PM (May & Sept), Decon 9AM – 8 PM (June-Aug) 9AM-5PM (May & Sept). Launches not closed when inspections are not open. • Successful non-motorized boat certification system. Have a gate w/chain that provides code for those who pass online test. Adding early angler program this year – can get on/off water during afterhours.
<p>Kate Wilson & Tom Woolf</p> <p>AIS Updates (rules; CRB Exercise, Law Review,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both recommendations of UC3 moving forward (closure of Tiber launches that cannot be manned with inspection station; ‘certified boater’ program limited to residents east of the Continental Divide) • FWP proposed rules for Flathead Basin moving forward – all watercraft entering the basin require mandatory inspection prior to launch. Applies for entire lake.

<p>eDNA Science Advisory Panel, economic analysis)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRB/100th Meridian to hold annual rapid response exercise for mussels in Flathead Lake (fall 2018) – will keep UC3 posted on progress. Will need to engage monitoring and response committees. Will focus on roles & responsibilities, use of Incident Command System, but also include treatment of mussels potentially. • Law Review getting underway – Montana Invasive Species Council partnering with UM Law School to review current invasive species statutes, regulations, and policies at state, federal, Tribal and local government levels. Develop gap analysis and focus on law review at next Invasive Species Summit (fall 2018). Potential for jurisdictional review to look at other models in other jurisdictions. Ideally will be able to address any major gaps at next Legislative session. • eDNA Science Advisory Panel being convened by the Montana Invasive Species Council April 17-18 at Flathead Lake Biological Station. Bringing six panelists in to provide information, have discussion and formulate recommendations on state of eDNA for mussel monitoring, protocols and standards, analysis, and use of eDNA as early detection tool for natural resource managers. A lot of interest in the west on this issue, will focus on Montana but will potentially have much greater value. • Economic analysis (invasive mussel infestation projected costs to state) project moving forward with the UM/Flathead Lake Biological Station. Have funding for Missouri River but not Upper Columbia secured -to be discussed in grant application.
<p>Kate Wilson</p> <p>Grant Application (DNRC AIS Grant) Review</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of 3 components of grant application: 1) development and dissemination of UC3 materials; 2) sponsorship of Invasive Species Action Network/FWP/DNRC AIS training for natural resource educators in UC; and 3) augmenting of economic analysis project to provide for UC coverage. <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for sponsorship for additional sessions (Missoula and Kalispell) working with additional partners to raise more funds • March 15th deadline – need to submit tomorrow if approved • Moving forward – ensure coordination with CSKT and other Upper Columbia partners on education and outreach • Motion to approve as amended (Chris Parrott). Seconded (Dennis Clairmont). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i>
<p>Discussion & recommendations (AIS program)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul: Introduce idea of UC3 recommending watercraft inspection sticker for consideration as future funding mechanism for 2019 Legislative session. Put on agenda for next meeting.
<p>Committee Chairs (Lori Curtis, Tom Woolf, Erik Hanson)</p> <p>Committee Updates</p>	<p>UC3 Committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Early Detection and Monitoring Committee</u>: Membership: Mike Koopal (Chair) Paul Kusnierz, Tom Woolf, Cameron Thomas, Erik Hanson, Phil Matson, Dona Rutherford (OR Jay Monroe), HOLD spot for Bureau of Reclamation Technical Services, Kate Wilson (support) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lori for Mike: Committee has an outline of the draft monitoring plan. Phil has been making monitoring maps to go with the monitoring plan - one for microscopy and one for eDNA. ○ Still needs a couple of 2017 site locations for other groups – but will be able to complete soon ○ Need: 2018 site locations for plan from all partners conducting monitoring. Spreadsheet is fine – lat/long with decimal degree – email to Phil ○ Mike attending eDNA Science Advisory Panel in April as representative of UC3 Committee

- Watercraft Inspections Committee: Membership: Tom Woolf (Chair), Erik Hanson, Lindsey Bona-Eggeman, Russ Hartzell, Brian McKeon, Jay Monroe, Paul Kusnierz, HOLD spot for Flathead Basin Commission, Kate Wilson (support)
 - Not sure this needs to be a committee – such an active applied thing
 - Maybe change what it does – focus on gaps on the landscape
 - FWP has a map of inspection stations, as well as region. Currently includes FWP stations, partner stations, Idaho and Wyoming border stations. Will be an interactive map that can display hours and exact locations of all stations.
 - UC3: Ability to add border stations (e.g. Canada)?
 - Drive by rates not posted but have internally – can share with committee
 - Passport: Has anyone not seen the passport? Going to be an evolving document. Emphasize partners at key locations.
 - Will certified boaters be allowed to have a passport? Not for high risk boaters. East side of the divide – high risk boaters at Tiber and Canyon Ferry Reservoirs not eligible.
- Rapid Response and Preparedness Committee: Membership: Erik Hanson (Chair), Joanne Grady, Chris Downs, Tom Woolf, Dennis Clairmont, Bryce Christiaens, Jay Monroe, Cameron Thomas, Kate Wilson (support)
 - Committee provided feedback on state Rapid Response Guidelines to FWP
 - FWP: Some of comments can integrate easily, others require discussion
 - How can UC3 help facilitate state’s rapid response?
 - Exercise in Flathead (CRB) will undoubtedly result in additional changes
 - **Tom W to respond to comments in draft and send back to Committee – next step to have a call to discuss**
- Education and Outreach Committee: Membership: Lori Curtis (Chair), Chris Parrott, Erik Hanson, Stacey Schnebel, Tom Woolf OR Liz Lodman, BJ Johnson, Gina Hoff, Kate Wilson (support)
 - FWP Working with firm to do some outreach to non-residents/visitors – campaign for Southwest in high risk areas (e.g. Lower Colorado) will start tomorrow. Were delayed with contract, so will be smaller than originally planned. Mostly social media, gas station TV, geo-fencing. Midwest outreach efforts will start in April and run through July.
 - In-state: Newspapers, radio, social media, targeted banners. Maybe TV (not sure yet). Billboards on border, as well as divide.
 - Video: Trying to improve video – copy look of Superhero Video (Flathead Lakers), work with same artist/designer
 - Updating all materials: New rack card, agricultural community materials,
 - Survey: unsure where targeted audience is getting information from. FWP did survey in 2010 and 2012. Updating with state-wide household survey, focus on knowledge, attitudes, behavior. Will assist with gathering information about non-motorized boats and recreational use of water as well. Finalizing and aiming to send out in April.
 - Watershed Education Network 10th grade science class curriculum focused on invasives – Liz observed today. Trying to get a handle on all the education opportunities out there.
 - Swag: stickers coming, grade-school AIS booklet, kiosks/displays, encrusted mussel displays, etc. Method for checking materials in/out? Not yet.
 - When will electronic files be available for partners? Check ‘resources & reports’ page on CleanDrainDry.mt.com (vanity URL). Also redirects from mussel response website. Updating tomorrow.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Include 'what to inspect' sheet on resource page ○ Statewide Montana messaging – use logos and materials as desired. Partners will be able to access materials on new resources page at CleanDrainDryMT.com (now live, but resources page will be ongoing effort to update with new materials as they are ready) ○ FWP Liz connecting with Germaine (CSKT) on education and outreach plans for the season ○ 'Grow boating' fee on products that boat dealers buy – all manufacturers part of. Have education and research components – Chris to check on where that fund goes. Grow boating – industry-wide initiative to further boating activities and purchases of boats nationwide. Check out boating week and other potential advocates that deal with similar industry issues. ○ Will there be a charge for materials? Depends on demand. ○ Focus on trying to measure education & outreach efforts – change behavior of boaters over time. Out of state efforts – potential to add question to survey. ○ End of year report for inspections will be up (from 2017) very soon ○ Chris and BJ compiled list of places (and events) to target for outreach (including both in-state and out-of-state). Kate compiled inventory of existing efforts and activities associated with AIS outreach in Montana, region and nation. Lori will include both in strategy and send out to larger group. Outreach plan includes development of messaging, creation of logo, media outreach, editorials, exhibits, communications packages. Draft plan – will be asking for comments and feedback. ○ 310 Permits: Adding language to Joint Application to include Clean Drain Dry and new requirements to have equipment inspected that is coming from out of state, east of Continental Divide, and entering the Flathead Basin. Just initiating process to modify permits. Will keep UC3 updated on progress. ○ Seaplanes: WRP Committee – potential for regional approach to address ○ Firefighting equipment: How to guide being developed. Will share draft when complete. ○ Basin specific: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jesco: If message is consistent, happy to put information out on social media and in store. ▪ FLBS: CSKT hosing a mussel walk for local school groups April 12 (~200 kids), will be split in two groups – one at Salish point, one at Yellow Bay. Educational info followed by walk looking for attached mussels on substrates on the shoreline. Film walk and work on PSA. Games created at Salish Kootenai College in basin focused on invasive species – going to work on publishing. ▪ CSKT: Expand Mussel Walk with Flathead Lakers and shoreline homeowners. Get kids to initiate media projects. ▪ Clearwater Resource Council: Working on videos through an AIS grant to produce 3-4 short PSAs.
<p>Public Comment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mark Bostrom: EQC meeting next week (March 22) and will be considering AIS funding in the future. Also consider that AIS funding is required for UC3. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Suggested agenda item: Does this body continue beyond next biennium? HB622 sunsets Jan 2019. If so, funding required? Plan to put placeholder appropriation for UC3 and MISC – but haven't heard from either organization.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agenda: ‘upcoming council/interim committee’ line item that you can have discussion and action items on. ○ Would like AIS granting program that currently exists to come off of House Bill 7 and be funded by fees/funding for AIS because it is not a great fit for HB7 – comes from Natural Resource Projects Account (oil and gas, mines – non-renewable activities). Infrastructure Bill moving forward, this reduces fund \$500k. Would be best fit for UC3, MISC and grant program (directly related to invasive species) should be funded by invasive species revenues (Director Tubbs will be bringing forward at EQC meeting). Beginning of discussion on March 22. ● Rep. Mike Cuffe: Really great meeting – such a positive meeting. I think we got something going here. ● Lori Curtis: Great working meeting. Lots to do but coming into season with better grasp on where we’re at and where we are going.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Next meeting – doodle for June (Kalispell Electric Coop or FLBS at Bigfork)
Wrap up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Motion to adjourn (Phil Matson). Seconded (Stacey Schnebel). All in favor. <i>Motion passes</i> ● Adjourned at 2:31 PM

4. Action Items				
Action		Assigned	Due Date	Status
1	Send out meeting notes and updates	Kate Wilson	3/30/18	Completed
2	Figure out meeting date, location and logistics	Kate Wilson	4/1/18	Completed
3	Include discussion of potential UC3 recommendation for watercraft sticker in next agenda	Lori Curtis	5/15/18	Completed
4	Submit 2018 site monitoring locations for plan from all partners conducting monitoring. Spreadsheet is fine – lat/long with decimal degree – email to Phil	All parties conducting monitoring in UC	5/1/18	In process
5	Respond to comments submitted by Response & Preparedness Committee. Next steps: Send back to Committee, have a call to discuss	FWP/Tom Woolf	6/1/18	In process
6	Include ‘what to expect for inspections’ on resource page	FWP/Liz Lodman	5/1/18	In process
7	Check on where ‘Grow boating’ fund goes (fee on products that boat dealers buy – all manufacturers part of program)	Chris Parrott	6/1/18	In process
8	Draft Education & Outreach Strategy	Lori Curtis/All	4/15/18	Completed
9	Agenda item for future meeting: Does this body continue beyond next biennium? (HB622 sunsets Jan 2019)	Lori Curtis	8/15/18	In process
10	Agenda item for next meeting: ‘upcoming council/interim committee’ line item that provides for discussion and action from UC3	Lori Curtis	5/15/18	Completed
EXISTING ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS				
11	Track down PSU catalogue	Erik Hanson		In process
12	FWP work with Glacier and other partners on alleviating concerns with data app (as currently proposed)	Tom Woolf		In process

13	Signage gaps to address boater movement at night (suggested)	Education & Outreach Committee		E&O to consider adding to work plan
14	Look into options for potential repository/shared site for UC3 (state does not currently have option – other members?)	Kate Wilson		Ongoing
15	Draft annual monitoring plan	Early Detection and Monitoring Committee	4/15/1018	In process

DRAFT

UPPER COLUMBIA CONSERVATION COMMISSION (UC³) MEETING

Wednesday, June 13th, 2018
Flathead Lake Biological Station
32125 Bio Station Ln., Polson, MT 59860

AGENDA

8:30 AM	Welcome & Agenda	Lori Curtis, Chair UC ³ , Cons. Districts Rep.; Science & Education Director, Whitefish Lake Institute
8:40 AM	Introductions	All
9:10 AM	Approval of Minutes	
9:15 AM	Comparison of Regional AIS State Funding Mechanisms	Hope Stockwell, Policy Analyst for Legislative Services
10:00 AM	BPA Fish & Wildlife Mitigation Funding and Northwest Power & Conservation Council Overview	Kerry Berg, Northwest Power & Conservation Council Montana staff
10:30 AM	Break	
10:45 AM	Seaplane AIS Update	Peter Gross, MT Seaplane Pilots Assoc.
11:00 AM	Recent Events/UC³ Representation -eDNA Science Advisory Panel Summary & Report -Clark Fork Kootenai River Basin Working Group -Flathead Basin Commission	Tom Woolf, AIS Bureau Chief Lori Curtis Kate Wilson/Mike Koopal/Mark Bostrom
11:30 AM	Budget Update, Funding/Grant Process Moving Forward -Bureau of Reclamation Funding Opportunity (\$120,000) -DNRC AIS Grant (\$15,000)	Kate Wilson
12:00 PM	UC³ Website Update	Kate Wilson
12:10 PM	Lunch	
1:10 PM	AIS Program & Containment Updates	Tom Woolf, AIS Bureau Chief Erik Hanson, CSKT Other Organizations w/Updates
1:30 PM	Committee Reports, Discussion & Voting on Committee Recommendations: Education & Outreach; Early Detection & Monitoring; Watercraft Inspections; Response & Preparedness	
2:15 PM	Action Items: Discussion & potential recommendations on state funding mechanisms, program components, and containment elements	
2:45 PM	Public Comment	Lori Curtis, All
3:00 PM	Next meeting	Kate Wilson
3:15 PM	Wrap-up & Adjourn	Lori Curtis & Kate Wilson

All Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC³) meetings are open to the public. The UC³ will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this public meeting. Please contact Kate Wilson (kate.wilson@mt.gov) as soon as possible before the meeting date.

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting/ Project Name:		Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC³)	
Date of Meeting:		June 13, 2018	Time: 8:30 AM – 3 PM
Minutes Prepared By:		Kate Wilson	Location: Flathead Lake Biological Station
1. Welcome and Introductions			
Lori Curtis		Welcome. Lori opened at 8:40 AM. Overview of agenda	
Introductions (Roundtable)		Each participant introduced themselves including name, location and organization/interest that they are representing.	
2. Attendees			
<p>Members (voting members underlined): <u>Lori Curtis</u> (Whitefish Lake Institute: Chair/Conservation Districts of Montana), <u>Tom Woolf</u> (FWP: Vice Chair/ MISC), <u>Chris Parrott</u> (Jesco Marine & Powersports: private industry), <u>Stacy Schnebel</u> (Flathead Electric Cooperative: Montana Electric Cooperative Association), <u>Phil Matson</u> (Flathead Lake Biological Station: private landowner), Brian McKeon (Glacier National Park for Chris Downs), <u>Paul Kusnierz</u> (Avista – hydropower industry), <u>Mike Koopal</u> (Whitefish Lake Institute), Rep. Matt Regier (Flathead District, Kalispell), <u>Dennis Clairmont</u> (CSKT Tribal Council), Kate Wilson (DNRC), Monica Pokorny (NRCS), Gina Hoff (BOR), Joanne Grady (USFWS – by phone), Bryan Horsburgh (BOR – Boise by phone)</p> <p>Public/Other: Erik Hanson (Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribe), Lamont Kincaid (Assoc. of Realtors), Robin Steinkraus (Flathead Lakers), Maggie Burnham (Big Sky Watershed Corps member – FLBS), Bryce Christaens (MISC), Kerry Berg (NWPCC), Joann Wallenburg (Clearwater Resource Council), Peter Gross (Montana Seaplane Pilots Association), Hailey Graff (Flathead Conservation District), Samantha Tappenbeck (Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana), Hope Stockwell (Legislative Services), Zach Cook (WLI), Sheena Pate (Crown of the Continent Geotourism Council), Mark Rellar (BPA)</p>			
3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues			
Presenter	Topic/Discussion		
Kate Wilson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of Minutes from March 14, 2018 meeting: Motion to approve Minutes (Phil Matson). Seconded (Mike Koopal). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i> 		
Approval of Minutes			
Hope Stockwell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background: Legislative Services Division – staff the Environmental Quality Council (EQC) and State Tribal Relations Committee. Fish and Wildlife and Senate Natural Resources Committee. Has drafted AIS legislation over the years. Good to be here today. EQC included AIS in work plan as program evaluation – follow what UC³, MISC and FWP Program is doing. Review decisions from last session. Looking to make recommendations on the funding structure for the next session July 9th public comment period closes. Can mail or email comments to Hope hstockwell@mt.gov. EQC meeting July 25-26 in Helena. Make any adjustments to the recommendations, put out for comment again, and come back in September (last meeting). Potentially will draft proposal/bill for 2019 session. Current state funding structure: Hydro fees and prevention pass (anglers) – fee for residents is \$2 residents/\$15 non-residents. Impacts to sale of non-resident fishing licenses have been seen – will likely make adjustments. 		
AIS Funding			

- Two things led to decrease of fishing license sales: HB140 general license fee increase (all hunting and fishing, 2-day and 10-day licenses). HB 363 \$15 increase to non-residents for AIS. Doubled price for 2-day license and up to \$83 from \$51 on 10 day. People switched from 2-day to 10-day, but both decreased significantly with additional \$15 for AIS. Concern about non-resident increases
- Looking for same amount of funding as currently have ~\$6.3M for state funding sources going into the 2019 Legislative session. Hope has conducted extensive research looking at other jurisdiction's funding and structure of AIS Programs.
- MT an outlier compared to other states – most use watercraft fees and general fund. 73% of watercraft fee. 53% use general funds as well. 10 states compared.
- 100% are charging residents; 2/3 non-resident motorized; 1/2 non-motorized
- Transferability of watercraft sticker: OR and WY
- Half of funding coming from watercraft fee (of those that have stickers)
- Watercraft fee alone would not be sufficient in MT given current data
- Some interest in the Idaho model (would only generate \$1.2-2M in MT)
- Rep. Ellis (on EQC) asked to look at gas tax revenue generated by motorboat use at the May meeting. This is now included in the proposal moving forward.
 - Gas tax goes to highway trust fund unless off highway. FWP has 2 trail programs (OHV, snowmobiles) based on approximation of how much gas used off highway. Also have a gas tax on boats that goes to parks with launches. Redirect some to AIS?
 - OHV and snowmobile gas tax data based on UM research; this doesn't exist for motorboat use
 - USGS study suggests 36 hours per year per boat
 - National marine Manufacturers Association estimate 18.3 gallons/hour per boat
 - MT estimate based on current data: 669 gallons per year per boat
 - Fun fact: 777 canoes in MT that have motors on them
 - Walleyes Unlimited and Guide groups responded to inquires with range of fuel used: 200-800 gallons/year – average is 500 gallons/year
 - Motorboat generated gas taxes (subtracted the FWP motorboat facilities in parks revenue): \$12.8M. USCG study estimate; \$9.3M based on MT outfitters data
 - EQC did not take up gas tax option very seriously at May meeting
 - Some in final proposal, but amongst other options
- Watercraft fees:
 - Non-motorized \$10 for everybody
 - Commercial watercraft: different fee? Potentially \$100/year. Party boat rentals, outfitters and guides.
 - Feedback on motorboat decal – how to administer given 3-year license MT went away from annual registration for motorboats several years ago, now have permanent registration fee when you buy; 3-year validation decal required (free) – would be difficult to administer AIS fee on top of that because of onetime fee
 - Charging fee during validation for AIS decal violates USCG policy
 - Paul: \$60 non-resident watercraft fee may end up having negative implications as well (on tourism). Doesn't have to be sticker, could be piece of paper. Point of purchase could be at inspection stations (need wifi). Could show proof of purchase on phone.

- Admin cost: online system (computer element) – waiting on estimate for FWP but can look at similar changes (e.g. hunting license changes, etc.).
- Looked at what other states have spent on admin: NV \$1% on stickers; OR %4; ID \$15% off the top. Ranges!
- Hope provided EQC with funding proposal scenarios to get them thinking about how they might line up the different options for the 2019 session
- Sen. Vincent: not interested in looking at hydro for future funding sources, but still listed as line item (potential)
- Current proposal: Changed fees for prevention pass, increased res to \$4, decreased non-resident to \$7.50 (from \$15). \$25 motorized resident. \$60 non-res motorized (together equals \$6.5M), general fund allocation
 - Current proposal breakdown: Gen fund: \$1.16M; Hydro \$0; Anglers \$2.08M; Non-motorized \$640k; \$1.73 resident motorized; \$386k non-motorized; boat generated gas tax \$500k = \$6.5M annually
- FWP has not been given go-ahead to work on this proposal with Hope at this time
- Hydro discussion:
 - Why is hydro off the table? Hope: Sen Vincent adamant that hydro initially followed through with 'the deal.' Hydro from different lens – taxes already added on to electricity bill every month. Could include AIS and get funding from every resident in state. From economic standpoint, the people that would benefit
 - On the electric coop side, no taxes added on to customers' bill. Essentially a non-profit. Cost plus with a 2% add on that goes back to rate-payers at the end of the year. In this instance, this fee was assessed after budgets were done, so coops basically just paying extra \$628k w/o ability to recoup costs. Not sure how investor owned utilities work in terms of recouping fees. Recognize that mussels have reached lowest dam on Missouri River - \$2M/year to maintain (additional work and maintenance required by dam owners). Different impacts for recreation besides maintaining dam facilities. Is it fair to only have hydro defending the water?
 - What about municipalities? Impact similar to hydro. Waste treatment, any infrastructure. Tax-generating mechanisms.
 - The way it is set up for Avista: While we own Noxon Rapids, most of power goes to ID and WA – so those residents paying for MT program. While having to pay the fee goes back to the ratepayers, gets lumped in with a whole bunch of other things when go to recoup the costs.
 - Hydro facilities should be commended for coming on board to support the program. But pretty drastic move to go from \$3.6M to nothing (half of program to zero). Balancing act of prevention and how impacts hydro vs. mitigation costs on backside. Speaking of skin in the game, another user that would be impacted. EQC talked about irrigation? Incorporate diversity in funding? E&O tool as well. Like broad spectrum approach. Hope: In 2017 session, but not at EQC this year.
- General funding discussion:
 - Have we changed registration rules about visibility of bow number? Could we link everything to the bow number? No, then only enforcement could check bow number.
 - Any scenario that looks at funding a portion of this from the boaters that use infested reservoirs? Charge additional fees for 'certified boaters' to use launches that others cannot. Currently \$1.5M of the budget.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What was discussion on general fund? How did you get to \$1.16? EQC Republicans: If this is such a priority and everybody in the state has a vested interest, then we should take from GF. But still want users to have some skin in the game. \$1.5M came out of GF previously? Yes. One time only, never included in base budget. ○ SB 363 from last session: one of goals was to build a stable funding source so wouldn't have to come in each biennium to get approval to spend out of GF. Chances for it to be a battle increase, but could also happen with more 'stable source.' ○ Ability to add donation to MT taxes? Hope: Pretty small amount but not nothing ○ Were seaplanes included in motorized boats? Hope: WA charging seaplanes as part of funding structure, and included in the MT calculation. Hope: 54 registered seaplanes in MT. Peter Gross: Inflated number as may be registered here but not be a resident. ○ Cost to operate program – receiving a lot of commentary about capital purchases. Will we be reaching an efficiency point where cost of program can be reduced? Tom: Did purchase a lot of things that won't need to be purchased again, but haven't been cleared to discuss or comment on budget. Question for FWP Director's Office. ○ Looking at inspection program wrong. Running as annual stations but these stations are going to be there permanently – include in DOT planning. Need better infrastructure. ○ Any one of the categories that has a lot of variability (e.g. aren't sure of the numbers)? Hope: Used low end of motorized resident – could be higher. Could be closer to \$2M (than \$1.7). Other potential for non-motorized craft – based on how many came through inspection stations last season (39,000). Extrapolated this to 50K resident non-motorized craft. ○ In some facets of this, we are targeting the people that use the water (boaters, anglers), in the hydro scenario we are targeting everyone who receives water. Are we looking at anything that assess the general public? Hope: General gas tax discussed, as well as general fund. Some say the hydro fee is another kind of general fund. ○ AIS unobligated funds go to AIS Trust Fund – but must reach \$100M to use interest. Idea that one day we could pay for program. Can also access trust fund with ¾ Legislature vote. We're collecting \$6.5M state – matched with federal. Only state swept ○ Similar to fire fund (\$100M trust fund). Also Noxious Weed Trust Fund capped at \$10M – interest from that goes to grants each year. ○ Budget triggers – x amount left over in this account can go to trust fund at the end of the fiscal year. One way to manage and try to grow account, but not built in right now.
<p>Kerry Berg</p> <p>Northwest Power & Conservation Council and BPA Funding Overview</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Background: BPA funding discussion at last meeting. Mainly going to focus on the role of the Northwest Power & Conservation Council (NWPPC) ● Power Act: authorized ID, OR, MT, WA to form NWPPC – each state has own office (Helena for MT). Central office in Portland (legal, public affairs, etc.) ● Main purpose of the Act was to develop a plan for the region – conservation and renewable resources. Fish and Wildlife Program part of power plan, but housed with NWPPC

- BPA markets power from dams in CRB (find Map and link) – mitigation projects
- Interstate compact, not federal or state agency
- Eight members, 2 from each state appointed by Gov. MT: Jennifer Anders and Tim Baker
- NWPCC funding: \$10M funded by BPA
- NWPCC: Power Plan every 5 years update 20-year plan – ensure NW an adequate, efficient, economical and reliable power supply’ – develop Fish and Wildlife Program as part of power plan (protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife affected by hydro dams on Columbia River).
- F&W Plan: Must be developed with recommendations of fish and wildlife agencies and tribes – customers and other entities can participate too. Largely federal, state and tribal program
- [2014 Fish and Wildlife Program](#) on NWPCC website
- Emerging priorities: 1) Provide for funding long-term maintenance of the assets that have been created by prior program investments. 2) Implement adaptive management (including prioritized research on critical uncertainties) throughout the program by assessing the effectiveness of ongoing projects, developing program objectives when appropriate and taking into account the effects of climate change. 3) Preserve program effectiveness by supporting: expanded management of predators; mapping and determining hotspots for toxic contaminants; and aggressively addressing non-native and invasive species. 4) Investigate blocked area mitigation options through reintroduction, passage and habitat improvement, and implement if warranted. 5) Implement additional sturgeon and lamprey measures (passage and research). 6) Update the sub-basin plans most in need of updates 7. Continue efforts to improve floodplain habitats
- Invasive Q/Z mussels: greatest known threat in CRB. Include language in plan to address – [BPA contracts with PSMFC](#) to help with prevention efforts.
- \$30M in cuts to Fish and Wildlife Program currently. Tenuous time for BPA and customers. Have to balance mitigation dollars with ratepayers ability to pay. Setting rates for 2020-2021 – look at all of factors that influence rates
- NWPCC: provide for broad public participation in developing F&W Program, and inform the public about regional energy issues. Assist with lobbying for WRDA funds.
- Just started process to amend F&W Program – will emphasize importance of preventing the introduction of non-native species. [Submit comments and recommendations to NWPCC.](#)
- Discussion:
 - \$300M in region annually on F&W Program. \$2M on AIS? Kerry: Yes, with some variability. \$200k/annually in a budget of \$300k.
 - BPA has implemented and funded AIS projects in the region in the past (sampling, analysis, foul release coatings, treatment). ~\$2M over the past 10 years (estimated).
 - Funding being directed to PSMFC for what purpose? PSMFC to work with states? Coordination of funds – Stephen Phillips work (100th Meridian)
 - BPA mitigation focused on impacts of the dams – mussels not a result of construction of the dams; NWPCC pushing more AIS, but there are limitations on what can be funded
 - Other AIS that you could make the case for dams creating habitat for invasive species? N. pike in Lake Roosevelt and concerns about impacted

	<p>salmon in the lower Columbia. Most of focus has been on zebra/quagga mussels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Do the dams make the habitat better for the fish? You bet. \$5M annually for pike minnow program (actually native) – vs. N. pike (invasive) ○ How much opportunity is there on working with the NWPC to better prioritize AIS in the Fish and Wildlife Program? Kerry: Language could be stronger. Just started process- have a year to finalize. Political support is key to changing priorities. ○ Recommendation stronger if comes from Fish and Wildlife agencies or tribes (rather than individuals or organizations that haven't worked with NWPC in the past)? Yes, would help if recommendation or input was coordinated. ○ Bulk of \$300M salmon related. What about impacts of Q/Z to salmon? Kerry: yes, we get it. Have heard these comments – not just salmon but all resident fish. Need way to increase BPA funding dedicated to AIS to do more though.
<p>Lori Curtis</p> <p>Opinion Piece and Potential Response letter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Flathead Beacon op-ed response ● Discussion on language and content: concern that too abrasive and lengthy ● Erik/Tom: Not compelled to stomp on every opinion piece that is out there -but this indicative of what groups like this can do to reinforce the message and importance of what we're trying to do. Keep positive message. Acknowledge that program isn't perfect – not bulletproof. ● Moving forward: emphasize public comment period on EQC state funding mechanism. Craft as communication statement from the UC3. Press release instead of opinion piece.
<p>Peter Gross</p> <p>Seaplane AIS Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rep. the MT Seaplane Pilots Association (65 members), and field director for National Seaplane Pilots Association. Appreciate being engaged in AIS issue ● Seaplane pilots appreciate the resource. We require water, it means more to us than it does to a lot of the public ● Continue to be very involved and engaged in the AIS issue. Understand the threat and the problem. Want to be part of the solution ● 26-30k seaplane pilots in the US. Out of that, we estimate 8-10k are active pilots. Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association (AOPA) has 5k members. ● 54 registered in MT, active substantially less than that – not a huge population, but understand that we are a concern. I hope you understand that we don't want to be problem here. We travel more than boats do, hoping for regional approach to mitigating the risk of seaplanes. ● Western Regional Panel Seaplane Committee: Peter and Kate participating on and seeking agreement on protocols and potentially a Columbia River Basin approach. ● Two types: conventional aircraft with pontoons and 'flying hole.' Two varieties of seaplanes: amphibious – wheels that come out of floats and 'straight floats.' ● Water can come into floats (hydrostatic pressure). Pump water out of floats before takeoff to reduce weight of water. ● Seaplanes: Adult mussels not the issue, but veligers could if present in the water body. Potential for them to seep through seams and into float (concern). AOPA worked with 100th Meridian group to create online training to address water in floats, weeds, etc. What came from all of that was a protocol using bleach in floats. Only way to get water out of floats (unless gash present), is to pump it out.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online training and certification process in place to help educate seaplane owners on protocol. Aquatic invasive plants probably a bigger threat – water rudders hang down, weeds can get caught. Remove before takeoff. • Best solution is to avoid waterbodies that infested with any AIS. • Very heavily regulated community – understand the need for regulations because of safety and prevention. • Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Would seaplane pilot association support a ban on seaplanes on infested reservoirs in Montana? Peter: No, probably not. For those seaplane operators that use those waters, they may only use those waters exclusively. ○ Flathead Basin perspective – Last year when working on FBC rules had 2-3 meetings with Peter and his group. Working from memory but Caryn and Dean came up with 3-pronged approach to seaplane mitigation: 1) AOPA national database – have some good information. Link MT AIS website to theirs. 2) Set up contact number for pilots that are filing a flight plane from out of state into MT waters. Ensure direct contact point. 3) Information in the FFA flight notes for MT – contact information. Peter: From FBC discussions, AOPA opened database up to all pilots (not just members) so that they can see where AIS infested waterbodies are, and what the Best Management Practices include. ○ Pre-flight check of the aircraft – when the seaplane taxis out, you have the rudders in the water column (nearshore). Once you get out to open water – could protocol be to cut engine and check rudders at that point. Peter: We suggest both. We retract rudders before takeoff – raising it usually drops plants.
<p>Kate Wilson</p> <p>Firefighting AIS Protocols</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To address firefighting equipment as a vector, DNRC staff have worked closely with the US Forest Service and the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group (NRCG) to create an easy-to-use mandatory protocol for fire staff • The NRCG recently released a directive that augments the National Wildlife Coordinating Group Guide to make specific preventive measures mandatory for all partners in the cooperative (in the Northern Rockies region - N. Idaho, Montana, North Dakota), as well as a How To Guide for easy implementation. • Kate worked with the NRCG’s equipment committee on the How To Guide and has been providing training to staff in recent months. A webinar will be held for DNRC fire staff July 9th
<p>Tom Woolf, Lori Curtis, Kate Wilson</p> <p>Recent Events: eDNA Science Advisory Panel; Clark Fork Kootenai River Basin Working Group; Flathead Basin Commission; Columbia River Basin/100th Meridian</p>	<p><u>eDNA Panel (April 2018)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selected some of the best people in North America to have this discussion. • Using eDNA for mussel early detection hasn’t really been accepted by state natural resource managers. Has been some funky results and communication about eDNA results in the past. • Asian carp USGS panelist provided good insight into how eDNA used in that issue and research/work that was done to move the issue forward. • Issues/challenges: 1) Lack of standardized protocols (Field collection, lab analysis, communication of results -between researchers/labs and managers, management response). 2) Balance of risk and uncertainty (understand the costs of false negatives or false positives to assess risk tolerance, perspective on terms false negatives and false positives). 3) Detection threshold of eDNA for false negatives is not known and

	<p>varies with sampling/analysis methods. 4) A limited number of labs are conducting eDNA analysis for early detection of dreissenids and use different protocol. 5) No coordinated dreissenid eDNA group to help address gaps and encourage communication. 6) Few published peer reviewed studies for dreissenid eDNA. Communicating what a “positive” eDNA sample means.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations include: standardizing methods (field collection, data analysis). Improve communication between labs and managers (Tiber example - a lot of confusion). Coordination with regional partners. Round robin study of labs that undertake eDNA analysis (QAQC for labs). Use eDNA as weight of evidence that leads to management action (not a single detection). Managers should figure out what that threshold would be. • Take recommendations to Western Regional Panel and Western Governors Association for further consideration. • Hoping that MT will be able to incorporate eDNA more into AIS monitoring, but need to build confidence in science and how detection would be handled (need a plan ahead of time). Managers need to understand science better, but researchers need to help them get there; need more confidence to use operationally in the field. <p><u>Clark Fork Kootenai River Basin Working Group (April 2018)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori presented at conference, same day as eDNA panel. Presented for UC3, FWP, DNRC, info on Tribes inspections and provinces of BC and AB. Well received but attendance was pretty low. <p><u>Flathead Basin Commission (April 2018)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kate now Commission Administrator for both FBC and UC3 (50/50). At the April meeting of the FBC AIS was discussed in reference to USFS AIS funding that had been coming to the FBC in recent years. The FBC needs to decide how to allocate those funds now that the stations the funding previously assisted with are covered by FWP. To be decided at the meeting. • FBC looking to UC3 for recommendations on priorities or gaps that the funding could be used for (\$17k). <p><u>Columbia River Basin AIS/100th Meridian (June 2018)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kate attended CRB meeting in Portland and presented on eDNA panel, UC3 including Tiber recommendations and other Montana AIS updates. A lot of interest in the firefighting protocol and the ‘gate access’ approach to Tiber.
<p>Kate Wilson</p> <p>Budget Update, Funding/Grant Process Moving Forward</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNRC AIS grant successful (\$15k): will pay for development of new UC³ website (at invasivespecies.mt.gov site), education & outreach, and AIS training for natural resource professionals (to be held in Missoula June 19th – already full!). • Bryan H: DOI Initiative. Zinke & Cameron – ‘Safeguarding the West from Invasive Species’ – focus on federal efforts to prevent Q/Z. Monthly calls – Hilary Smith. Annual progress report available. • Windfall of additional appropriation to BOR: 2017 \$1M - \$200k allocated to PNW region. 2018: \$4.5M appropriation to BOR. \$1.4M allocated to PNW region. BOR able to work with WGA and the states that had submitted projects. • FWP/DNRC had submitted project ideas to Western Governors Association back in September 2017. Among those was a request for UC3 funding as the original appropriation was very small (\$5k annually). Not a grant but a funding request. This came through BOR unexpectedly. Kate submitted a Scope of Work based on the original submission.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UC³ stands to receive up to \$120k (still in process) for the following categories/projects: 1) education & outreach (website, development of materials and displays, etc.). 2) expansion of AIS monitoring network (entire Upper Columbia Basin). 3) assistance with response planning – including but not limited to development of tools such as map-based response plan, CRB exercise, etc. 4. Marina and boat shop pilot project (work with marina and boat shops in the basin to develop an approach and materials to better engage the boating industry in the AIS issue; develop template that can be extended beyond Montana).
<p>Kate Wilson</p> <p>Website Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Went through RFP process. Team of 4 ranked and scored applications (x5). Unanimous decision to move forward with Windfall, a marketing firm out of Missoula that has done many campaigns focused on recreation and tourism. • Will design website, UC³ promotional materials, displays, etc. Kate and Lori on planning team. Will seek feedback from Commission on design and features of the site when appropriate.
<p>Tom Woolf, FWP Erik Hanson, CSKT</p> <p>AIS Program and Containment Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving in the right direction. Over 40 stations in the state now (including partners). • Site leaders at stations – new development. In addition to 5 supervisors. • By this time last year we had fired 10 people, none yet! More deliberate hiring process, training – leading to higher quality experience for boaters • Partnering with CSKT, Blackfeet, Missoula County, Garfield CD this season on running inspection stations • Garfield Conservation District – eastern station as model. Ideally would be able to use more local CDs to run stations • EDRR/monitoring: 3 teams circulating around state now (all AIS). Processed over 30 samples so far this season (veliger microscopy early detection). First Tiber sampling happening this week. Will also be collecting eDNA samples from Tiber this year too, though contracting frozen until July, so not sure on analysis yet. • New outreach campaign – Midwest and southwest targeted towards people who are querying ‘boating Montana,’ or ‘fishing Montana’ • A lot of in-state education campaign work: new stickers, rack cards, agricultural and irrigators (new), central and eastern Montana AIS workshops with irrigators happening this summer • Tiber: reevaluated how proposing closing launches. Landed on approach whereby certified boaters are allowed to use additional launches (access coat to gate). To be a certified boater, you need 2 stickers on your boat, 1 on trailer to ensure only certified boaters using launches. Not perfect, but better than last year. More support from locals now that allowing access still. 2 locations open to all – but need inspection. Extra focus at Tiber • UM study tourism & recreation: AIS awareness (20% increase in awareness in past year). Contact FWP to get assistance and materials on AIS. • Clean Drain Dry and open your eyes! See something say something • Rapid Response exercise in September at Flathead Lake: working with UC³, CSKT and CRB stakeholders. Mock exercise to prepare agencies and partners for response (in event of detection). Lot of questions still need to be answered – especially on waterbodies with multiple ownership like Flathead. • Tiber discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inspection required coming off Tiber, what about decon? Tom: Depends. Inspection is to ensure CDD. If water or complex, decon.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Divers at Tiber again? Tom: Yes. USFWS dive team, mussel detection dogs. ○ Legality of drain plug removal? Bryce: Moving with law review potentially ○ Some stations only open 8 hours a day? Tom: Some stations have staffing issues, hours variable ○ Boat in Spokane at new station – boat had passed through a couple states with stations. Any idea if it came through MT? Tom: Some instances where boats travel through when stations closed. <p><u>Erik - CSKT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Certification station weekends at Jesco. Ravalli 24/7 – excellent enforcement assistance. Elmo station just opened. ● There are boats at night that come through w/o an inspection. Most traffic comes through during day, but some at night too (many from east). ● 90% of drive-bys pulled over by enforcement and brought back to station ● Big thing 24 hr operation points out is enforcement – often they ones that drive by Ravalli are boaters that have driven by other stations. Dedicated enforcement through county and wardens ● Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Not sure if signage is good enough at the Jesco station ○ Jesco station – one of co-workers went by and didn't know it was there. Possible to move station down to Bigfork junction? Chris: A lot of research/work was done to figure out best location, so thinking that probably not an option. ○ Guy at Whitefish decon station had been inspected 5 times and was still super positive <p><u>Brian - Glacier:</u> Waterton and McDonald Lakes monitoring. eDNA work on Bowman, Mary and Sherburne Lakes. First week of July start veliger sampling. Motorized boats allowed on McDonald Lake (after 30 day quarantine), only lake that allows motorized at this time.</p> <p><u>Mike - Whitefish:</u> May 1- Sept 30 up and running. Partnership with city, FWP and state park. Decon station for high risk watercraft separate from 2 inspection stations. Online self-certification process for non-motorized and motorized prior to stations being open. NWMLVMN program looks at 41 lakes across NW MT collecting plankton tows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Glacier National Park got \$30k for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$15k to Blackfeet for Chewing Black Bones station ○ \$10k to CSKT for Elmo station <p><u>Blackfeet:</u> March opening, 12 hours/day. Hwy 2 Browning, Hwy 2 Seville, 89 N Birch Creek, roving (game wardens)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Applaud BC on inspections – border crossing experience (gave great direction), Roosville station very thorough but got in/out quickly and messaging pretty similar to MT. ○ Joanne Grady: USFWS Region 6 decided they will keep lake at Creston Fish Hatchery closed (used to be open to public – now with Tiber and Canyon Ferry). Grant opportunity currently open (QZAP) deadline June 25.
<p>Committee Chairs, All</p> <p>Committee Reports; Discussion and Voting</p>	<p><u>Early Detection & Monitoring (Mike):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recommendations from eDNA science panel will be appendix to annual monitoring plan (so waiting on that from the Governor's Office to finalize)

<p>Committee Recommendations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maps (Phil Matson – FLBS) provided for review. Send any additional data points to Mike or Phil. Send suggestions/feedback on plan to Mike. • Meeting last month to expand out the Northwestern Montana Volunteer Lake Monitoring Network (NWMVLMN) to Upper Columbia (Upper Columbia Lake Monitoring – UPLM). Expand model to larger geographic area. Creation of network would dovetail nicely with UC3 work. One coordinator could provide consistent training, protocols and reporting in region • Tom: data app ready for partners that are ready. Can WLI and FLBS help roll out and pilot? Captures monitoring effort as well as results. Triaged at FWP for quality control and then sent to MT Natural Heritage Program (publicly accessible). Will be able to upload plankton tow results as well. • Still need collector’s permit? Yes. That just allows you to be out there collecting. Can use Missoula County ArcGIS license. • What is process? Data goes directly to FWP? Yes, vetted by FWP then publicly available on Montana Natural Heritage Program site. <p><u>Education & Outreach (Lori):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft strategy under review. Provide comments to Lori. • All of materials that we would like to develop. Follow FWP CDD campaign – expand on as needed. • Media spokespeople: Lori, Kate, Tom (general, unless specific content that makes more sense coming from others). Media list compiled • Editorial content for electric cooperatives magazine – route through statewide association, but will go out to all 25 coops in the state. • Chris/BJ worked up potential exhibit list – will try to get to more this season <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Glacier Challenge (Lori) ○ AOPA fly in (Seeley Lake) June 15-16 • Communication package – will be able to distribute once • Training: ISAN and inspector training • Graduate student from FL going to support UC3 throughout summer – Exec put together list of topics that we could use help with • AIS Inventory as appendix to plan • Send list of FWP AIS education materials available now • Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advertisements on TV (FWP) for CDD – haven’t seen anything recently and going into prime boating season. Is something planned on that advertisement for the rest of the season? Tom: Also took Flathead Lakers video and modified for use state-wide. ○ Kate to get FWP advertising plan for UC³ for FBC meeting (potential to fund with USFS AIS grant) ○ Are we doing any online geofencing/pixels with media outreach? Tom: Includes web banners and social media, but focused on out of state boaters and anglers. Combo of all kinds of things, but using a lot of newspapers, radio and TV. ○ “Jingles” – get some kid songs on CDD. Kate: ISAN training has developed some songs. ○ Mussel Walk – over 500 kids attended and learned about AIS. River Honoring coming up.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Working with FWP on signage for anglers and rack card for guides and outfitters ○ Whitefish has AIS brochure ○ Added AIS language on Nat Geo CCE maps. “Prevent the spread of AIS, CDD” on back of all maps (100k+ to be distributed this year). Also have a website for CCE – things to know before you go: list all inspection stations and any special considerations for stations or jurisdictions. Links to all jurisdictions within CCE on Nat Geo website as well as e-newsletter.
<p>Kate Wilson</p> <p>AIS Updates (Law Review, economic analysis)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Law Review getting underway – Montana Invasive Species Council partnering with UM Law School to review current invasive species statutes, regulations, and policies at state, federal, Tribal and local government levels. Develop gap analysis and focus on law review at next Invasive Species Summit (fall 2018). Listening sessions. Ideally will be able to address any major gaps at next Legislative session. Summit ● Economic analysis (invasive mussel infestation projected costs to state) project moving forward with the UM/Flathead Lake Biological Station ● Flowering rush project on Flathead Lake – Salish & Kootenai College as lead
<p>Discussion & recommendations (AIS program)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discussion on EQC funding proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proposal EQC considering looks good ○ Concern about \$60/annual fee for non-resident ○ Consider including hydro at some level (maybe lower than before, but not zero) ○ Regional tourism groups considered? Hope: Not specifically, but public notice has gone out. ○ Any idea how many people participating in certified boater program? Tom: Yes. Numbers are down from last year as people understand the intent of the program better. ○ Hydro started at zero, went to a lot, has commitment from legislature to go back to zero. Sen Chas Vincent made commitment. MT only state in comparison that uses hydro. ○ 35 ratepayers in MT for Avista (burden on other ratepayers in other states) ○ This body not politically motivated – so take commitments made by Legislature off the table. While MT may be only state that has taxed hydro, very well may be visionary. Hydro key component to long term funding of AIS program. Totally acknowledge that hydro has stepped up to the plate and am not suggesting the formula stay the same ○ MT Electric Cooperative Association meeting in Billings July 9-10. Stacey will ensure that discussion ensues on BPA funding (the coops can have some effect in trying to help the NWPCP reprioritize dollars to address threat). ○ Discussion on: Non-res motorized issue and hydro at some level – no consensus ○ Hope: Public comment period closes July 9th, but really will pass on any comments they get before the meeting. Will go out for public comment again in Sept once a bill has been drafted (so not the last chance) ● AIS funding (state): DNRC interested in moving AIS grant source from resource development funds to AIS funds. More info needed, discuss at future meeting
<p>Public Comment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Robin: Kerry Berg asked UC³ to comment on the NWPCP Fish and Wildlife Plan by September

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Halle: USFS seeking comment on the Upper Three Forks Wild & Scenic River Management Plan. Requesting people review previous plan and provide comments as to what should be changed Tom W: Suggest get together with everyone to discuss post-season efforts and lessons learned. Open discussion and decisions on moving forward and making changes for next season. Like UC³/CSKT workshop in December but earlier this year. Erik: Yes, Look more at the underbelly. We hide the drive bys, etc. Tom W: Looking to see if we can contract with enforcement in the east to get counties to assist – for example. Look for strategies to improve issues. A lot of the effort happening here west of the divide – compare notes and see how we can do things better. Mike: Piggyback with UC³ meeting – have the next day. Kate to look into feasibility.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doodle for dates in mid-Aug to mid-Sept for next meeting
Wrap up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion to adjourn (Stacey Schnebel). Seconded (Paul K). All in favor. <i>Motion passes</i> Adjourned at 2:58 PM

4. Action Items				
Action		Assigned	Due Date	Status
1	Send out meeting notes and updates	Kate Wilson	6/27/18	Completed
2	Figure out next meeting date, location and logistics	Kate Wilson	7/15/18	In Progress
3	Obtain advertising/outreach and media plan from FWP (potential to augment)	Kate Wilson	6/27/18	Completed
4	Provide comments to Lori on E&O Strategy	All	7/15/18	In progress
5	Include discussion of potential UC3 recommendation for state AIS Program funding at next meeting (agenda)	Lori Curtis	8/1/18	In progress
6	Submit 2018 site monitoring locations for plan from all partners conducting monitoring. Spreadsheet is fine – lat/long with decimal degree – email to Phil	All parties conducting monitoring in UC	7/1/18	In progress
7	Check on where 'Grow boating' fund goes (fee on products that boat dealers buy – all manufacturers part of program)	Chris Parrott	6/1/18	In progress
8	Agenda item for future meeting: Does this body continue beyond next biennium? (HB622 sunsets Jan 2019)	Lori Curtis	8/15/18	In progress
9	Look into feasibility of hosting watercraft inspections meeting	Kate Wilson	7/15/18	In progress
10	BOR funding follow up (paperwork, documentation)	Kate Wilson	6/30/18	In progress
EXISTING ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS				
11	Track down PSU catalogue	Erik Hanson		In progress
12	FWP work with Glacier and other partners on alleviating concerns with data app (as currently proposed)	Tom Woolf		In progress
13	Signage gaps to address boater movement at night (suggested)	Education & Outreach Committee		E&O to consider adding to work plan

14	Look into options for potential repository/shared site for UC ³ document and information sharing (state does not currently have option – other members?)	Executive Committee		Ongoing
15	Finalize annual monitoring plan	Early Detection and Monitoring Committee	7/15/1018	In progress

DRAFT

UPPER COLUMBIA CONSERVATION COMMISSION (UC³) MEETING

Wednesday, September 26th, 2018
Glacier National Park/Community Room

Directions: Turn off of highway 2 onto Going to the Sun Road. Go through West Glacier, cross over the Middle Fork of the Flathead River and enter the park. Take your first right onto Grinnell Drive into the park headquarters area and go about 1/4 mile. Turn right onto Mather Drive and go about 1/8 mile – the Community Building driveway will be on your right.

AGENDA

9:00 AM	Special Welcome	Jeff Mow, Superintendent Glacier National Park
9:10 AM	General Welcome & Agenda	Lori Curtis, Chair UC ³ , Cons. Districts Rep.; Science & Education Director, Whitefish Lake Institute
9:15 AM	Introductions	All
9:25 AM	Approval of Minutes	
9:30 AM	UC³ Recent & Upcoming Events, UC³ Funding Updates	Lori Curtis UC ³ Kate Wilson, UC ³ Administrator
10:00 AM	AIS Funding Update <i>(invited)</i>	Hope Stockwell, Legislative Services
10:15 AM	Break	
10:30 AM Chair	Crown Managers Partnership – AIS Work & Opportunities	Mary Riddle, Glacier National Park, CMP
10:50 AM Committee	Flathead Basin Commission Update	Kate Wilson & Mike Koopal, ED&M Chair; Executive Director, Whitefish Lake Institute
11:00 AM	Northwest Montana Watershed Project Advocates	Caryn Miske
11:20 AM	AIS Program & Watercraft Inspection Committee Updates	Tom Woolf, AIS Bureau Chief Erik Hanson, AIS Coordinator, CSKT Jay Monroe, Blackfeet Nation Other
12:10 PM	Lunch (provided)	
1:00 PM	Education, Outreach & Communications Discussion Education & Outreach Committee Update	Lori Curtis
2:00 PM	Prevention, Monitoring & Inspections Discussion Early Detection & Monitoring Committee Update	Mike Koopal

2:45 PM	Response & Preparedness Committee Update Rapid Response Exercise results	Erik Hansen & Tom Woolf
3:00 PM	Action Items: Discuss state-level program components & AIS funding, and potential EQC recommendations for these	All
3:30 PM	Public Comment	
3:45 PM	Next meeting	Kate Wilson
4:00 PM	Wrap-up & Adjourn	Lori Curtis

All Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC³) meetings are open to the public. The UC³ will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this public meeting. Please contact Kate Wilson (kate.wilson@mt.gov; 406-542-4282) as soon as possible before the meeting date.

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting/ Project Name:	Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC³)		
Date of Meeting:	September 26, 2018	Time:	9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Minutes Prepared By:	Kate Wilson	Location:	Glacier National Park (Community Bldg)
1. Welcome and Introductions			
Jeff Mow	Glacier-Waterton International Peace Park – welcome. AIS as a priority for both parks. After 2016 detection of mussels in Montana, Waterton Lake (AB) closed to motorized watercraft. Initially Glacier closed all lakes to boats as well, but later modified to 30-day quarantine for all motorized watercraft. Waterton will now require a 90-day quarantine – mandatory inspection of all non-motorized watercraft. Alberta confirmed mussels on a kayak – risk higher than originally anticipated for non-motorized. Benefit from close collaboration with both parks and partners in the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem.		
Lori Curtis	Welcome. Lori opened at 9:08 AM. Overview of agenda.		
Introductions (Roundtable)	Each commission member provided roll call introductions including commission position. All commission members were present. All other participant introduced themselves including name, location and organization/interest that they are representing.		
2. Attendees			
<p>UC³ (voting members underlined): <u>Lori Curtis</u> (Whitefish Lake Institute: Chair/Conservation Districts of Montana), <u>Tom Woolf</u> (FWP: Vice Chair/ MISC), <u>Chris Parrott</u> (Jesco Marine & Powersports: private industry), <u>Stacy Schnebel</u>, (Flathead Electric Cooperative/Montana Electric Cooperative Association: hydroelectric cooperatives), <u>Phil Matson</u> (Flathead Lake Biological Station: private landowner), Chris Downs (Glacier National Park: National Park Service), <u>Paul Kusnierz</u> (Avista: hydropower industry), <u>Mike Koopal</u> (Whitefish Lake Institute: member at large), Kate Wilson (DNRC/UC3/FBC Commission Administrator), <u>Dennis Clairemont</u> (CSKT Tribal Council), <u>Brian Johnson</u> (Sea Me Paddle: outdoor recreation organization)</p> <p>Public/Other: Mark Rellar (BPA), Jeff Mow (Glacier Park Superintendent), Erik Hanson (Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes), Lamont Kincaid (Assoc. of Realtors), Robin Steinkraus (Flathead Lakers), Maggie Burnham (Big Sky Watershed Corps member – FLBS/CMP), Joann Wallenburn (Clearwater Resource Council), Brian McKeon (Glacier National Park), Lindsey Bona-Eggeman (Missoula County Weed District), Bill Juutermier (Holland/Lindberg Lake), Valerie Hurth (Flathead Conservation District), Hailey Graf (Flathead Conservation District), Caryn Miske (Watershed Protection Advocates), Beth Gardner (USFS), Roxa Rellar, Onno Wieringa, Dave Stipe (Lake County Commissioner), Rob Rich (Swan Valley Connections), Nate Dieterich (USFS), Craig Kendall (USFS), Nicky Ouellet (Montana Public Radio), Monica Elser (Flathead Lake Biological Station), Liz Lodman (FWP), Jay Monroe (Blackfoot Tribe), Laura Farkas (DNRC), Tom Bansak (Flathead Lake Biological Station), Cole Erikson (USFS), Jeff Kemp (Swan Lakers)</p>			
3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues			
Presenter	Topic/Discussion		
Kate Wilson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes from June 13, 2018 meeting: Motion to approve Minutes as amended – add Dennis C. (stacey). Seconded (Paul Kusnierz). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i> 		
Approval of Minutes			
Kate Wilson/Lori Curtis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff/Chair activities and events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination with regional groups EQC July 25 & September 12 Crown Managers Partnership September 6-7 Columbia River Basin Mussel Response Exercise (Sept 11-13) Grant funding – planning, requirements, etc. 		
Staff updates			

- Education & outreach
- Website design/planning
- Fire Protocol training & support
- Law Review & MISC Summit planning
- First Annual report compiled and submitted to EQC
- State allocation/base funding (\$10,000 biennial allocation)
 - Covers member travel, meeting supplies, etc. Current balance \$5393.
- DNRC Grant update (\$15,000)
 - Grant balance to be applied to Windfall contract for UC³ website development and materials (displays, brochure, etc.)
- BOR Grant update (\$120,000)
 - Background: Aug-Sept 2017: Western Governors Association solicited projects for AIS funding (no criteria outlined). April 2017: BOR requested Scope of Work from DNRC/FWP based on original proposal (UC3 had not yet met). May: Scope of Work Submitted to BOR. August 2018: Grant agreement signed between BOR and DNRC (funds transmitted through DNRC to UC³ as administrative attachment). Funding timeline: 2018-2023.
 - Themes/Projects:
 - Education & Outreach: Dev. of materials; engagement of public, stakeholders & partners; webpage dev. & maintenance
 - Expansion of Monitoring Network: NW MT Lakes Volunteer Monitoring Network expansion to UC; monitoring plan & mapping; protocol dev.; data app for partners (data submissions)
 - Response Planning: Dev. of response tools; support for exercises; geographic response plan
 - Marina/Boat Shop Pilot: Dev. & disseminate pilot program including outreach materials; engage bus. owners; pilot transferrable to high risk locations nation-wide; Big Sky Watershed Corps member proposed to complete tasks
 - Discussion: no vote on whether to receive funds. Needed? Kate: I don't believe so. This was not a traditional grant in that WGA requested submissions from western agencies and organizations (on behalf of BOR). We didn't really 'apply' for the funds but followed through with ideas originally submitted by FWP & DNRC with UC³ in mind. Administrative attachments encouraged to solicit federal funds to augment state allocation. There is still some flexibility if we want to adjust some of the projects – we will dedicate some time at the next meeting to walk through the different components and ensure everyone is comfortable before we move forward.
 - Erik: CSKT also has funding from same source- BOR are flexible with changing priorities as the project moves forward.
- AIS Program Evaluation
 - Methods/process/timeline (online survey)
 - Recommendations to FWP once compiled (late November - target)
 - Nature of questions: what's working well, what needs to be enhanced, education & outreach, general experience and how well threat addressed
 - FWP also hosting an inspections assessment workshop for partners of the program
 - Provide recommendations on program improvement – all areas of
 - Survey questions – include some on those that were inspected (experience) – e.g. was your live well inspected, motor flushed, etc.
 - Hoping for statewide participation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exec Committee draft questions, send to Commission for review ○ Discussion: Need to vote? Kate: Not in this case as we are working with partners to evaluate both their experience and thoughts on improvements, as well as the public. We're not making a decision, but gathering information to provide to FWP for consideration. ACTION ITEM: Kate to check on ensuring there are no legal issues with conducting evaluation (e.g. public process) ● ISAN proposal – boot cleaning stations (expansion to the Upper Columbia) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ISAN requested UC3 consider putting in for DNRC AIS grant for fly fishing cleaning stations in the Upper Columbia Basin. Stations useful for anglers – especially once leave watershed. Both a cleaning and an education tool. Anglers equipment known to be a vector for AIS. ISAN would be contracted partner. 19 stations proposed/\$15k (approximately). ○ Discussion: Effective against AIS? Outreach for anglers and cleaning tool. Consider boot scrubber at main access points – no water necessary. Brusher concept. Includes travel – from where? What is value of benefit to be gained? Out of state anglers – how many? Vs. local anglers. UC³ staff time also a consideration for all of these projects. ISAN came to you because weight that you hold and focus on AIS and geographic area. Step back from this proposal – see where locations would be, talk to fly shops, more research on efficacy. Reduce to research stage this year – use remainder of funds to do other things. Future discussion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jay: These stations a good tool from those anglers that come from other areas (Blackfoot inspects all waders & boots). NZM on one anglers boots from the Big Hole. Consider putting at inspection stations as well. ▪ Tom: on the landscape for a long time. ISAN has done a lot of research – use fly shops to engage anglers and also protect the equipment. Can have someone from ISAN come and talk about them in future if interested. ○ Lori: Given the questions and concerns and the likelihood we will not get a recommendation to move forward with this project, called for a motion to support drafting a grant. No motion was brought to the table. Grants due in December (cycle open). Discussion for how/when apply for grants in future on next agenda. ACTION ITEM – add discussion to next agenda
<p>Lori Curtis (for Hope Stockwell)</p> <p>State AIS Funding Mechanisms Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Environmental Quality Council (EQC) currently proposing new funding sources for the new legislative session. Proposal includes taking hydro out of equation, decreasing angler pass amount (non-resident), adding a boater fee and increasing the general fund allocation.

	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: right; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">First year of EQC proposal - FY 2020</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Anglers/AISPP (R=\$2, NR=\$15)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 3,043,140</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Nonmotorized craft (R=\$5, NR=\$10)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 375,235</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Motorized craft (\$=\$10, NR=\$60)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 1,090,780</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">General Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 1,990,845</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 6,500,000</td> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: right; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Second year of EQC proposal - FY 2021</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Anglers/AISPP (R=\$2, NR=\$7.50)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 1,707,420</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Nonmotorized craft (R=\$5, NR=\$10)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 375,235</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Motorized craft (\$=\$10, NR=\$60)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 1,090,780</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">General Fund</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 3,326,565</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 6,500,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New breakdown of funds – waterfowl mitigation amount removed • Discussion: Why calendar year vs. 3-year license renewal? FY202 July of 2018 (fiscal year vs. calendar year). Beginning 2020 or ending? (beginning) • FWP hasn't had input yet – this proposal is coming out of EQC. If you have an issue with the framework – take it up with your legislator. They are accepting comments currently. 	First year of EQC proposal - FY 2020		Anglers/AISPP (R=\$2, NR=\$15)	\$ 3,043,140	Nonmotorized craft (R=\$5, NR=\$10)	\$ 375,235	Motorized craft (\$=\$10, NR=\$60)	\$ 1,090,780	General Fund	\$ 1,990,845	Total	\$ 6,500,000	Second year of EQC proposal - FY 2021		Anglers/AISPP (R=\$2, NR=\$7.50)	\$ 1,707,420	Nonmotorized craft (R=\$5, NR=\$10)	\$ 375,235	Motorized craft (\$=\$10, NR=\$60)	\$ 1,090,780	General Fund	\$ 3,326,565	Total	\$ 6,500,000
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Total	\$ 6,500,000																								
<p>CMP – Mary Riddle</p> <p>AIS Activities & Opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks Planning/Rep for Glacier/Chair of CMP Steering Committee • About Crown of the Continent Ecosystem (CCE): ecological boundary identified in late 1990s. Revised in 2004. Comprised of federal and state agencies, tribes and universities “managers.” Great Northern Landscape Conservation Commission boundary – identified in 2012. CCE a small piece within larger region. • 3rd largest wilderness area (included Bob Marshall), Waterton-Glacier (first international peace park). 26% of those lands – 60-% of land within CCE is publicly owned. Cultural homeland of several tribes. • About CMP: Voluntary partnership – ‘coalition of the willing.’ MOU between Alberta & Montana – establishes group/provided funding. 2000 managers discussed/ 2001 established between the three jurisdictions. Collaborative solutions to shared natural resource issues. Do projects that are a priority for all jurisdictions. Not an advocacy group; don't take positions. Do not manage – agencies do. Simply provide stage for people to get together and work on common solutions. Still have to go back to the agencies to implement (voluntarily) • Annual forums – open to the public. Held around the Crown – next one in Cranbrook (fire focus) in March. • Steering Committee – agencies around the crown, supported by secretariat, Phil Matson is data manager under project agreement with Glacier. Big Sky Watershed Corp member (Maggie Burnham). • Some project examples: Transboundary database and other specific projects. Shared management concerns – grizzly, WCT, BT, identifying connectivity issues, impacts of human activities, AIS. Transboundary database: shared data and facts. Form foundation for further discussions. Very difficult because jurisdictions all use different mapping methods. Human modification index – where is the human imprint on this landscape. Grizzly bear presence/absence map throughout the crown. Transboundary Conservation Initiative – climate change, land use change, BT/WCT, invasive species, white bark pine, grizzly bears, meso carnivores (working 																								

	<p>groups, forum topics, other researchers from around the area and beyond). Form projects to work on each initiative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize not the only entity that works on natural resource issues in this geographic area – all of these groups and projects – speak to how valuable this area is culturally, environmentally and economically. • AIS – Accomplishments. 2011 Polson forum - ~80 people. Brought people from other areas to speak to the issue and threat. 2012 bow tie exercise in Alberta (Caryn’s work that ‘got them on board, but as part of CMP’). 2012 AIS Field Guide for CCE – currently being reprinted with partner funds throughout the basin. AIS baseline distribution maps. Baseline data for EWM. • For discussion/opportunities: baseline data for recreation boater frequency. risk assessment for watercraft movement for AIS in CCE. BMPs for AIS inspections, detection and response. Transboundary management protocol. • Benefit of being transboundary, and the partnerships that exist throughout. • Set stage for further conversation. One of key tenants is that no one agency has ability to work alone – need to work together. • Discussion: With the initiatives – who would implement/funding? Or are they conceptual? Within partnership, would spread throughout jurisdictions. Agencies manage, not the partnership. Baseline study on boater frequency – what is objective? Mary: How to understand better how boats are moving throughout the crown (that may be higher risk). Tracking of boater use. Outreach and education – crown organizations bring people here. Mary: AIS field guide – make available for free to public/partners. BSWC member has allowed us to do more education than ever before as well. Also working with Phil on other materials such as a storymap and AIS programs for youth. As CMP discusses AIS matters, FWP and CSKT partners should be engaged and at the table.
<p>Kate Wilson/Mike Koopal</p> <p>Flathead Basin Commission (FBC) update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIS related – use of existing AIS federal grant funds: Augmented AIS outreach efforts west of the divide (\$8000). Remaining balance: To be determined at 10/10 meeting • Strategic Planning session held June 13th. Top priorities – water quality/monitoring and non-point source pollution. Support on AIS where needed. • Non-point source pollution – such as septic leachate. Big issue but uphill struggle. Both with multiple jurisdictions and socio-economic issues. Complex issues. Looking at potential legislation at the next meeting. • Toolbox in the future – help local governments and watershed groups better address issues. ‘Baby steps.’ • Next meeting: October 10th (Kwatuqnuq, Polson – 10 am – 4 pm). Funding opportunities and proposals; CSKT Water Compact Panel; water quality standards & Activities on Flathead Lake (DEQ); former BNSF Tie Treating Plant update (EPA)
<p>Caryn Miske</p> <p>Watershed Protection Advocates (WPA) Introduction and Overview</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain why Watershed Protection Advocates (WPA) is here today, background and trajectory • Caryn stated that she used to be associated with the FBC and an organization that protected the mission of the FBC – Flathead Protection Fund (board voted to change name). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Broader geographic area – NW Montana. Work beyond borders if/when needed to address issues in the NW. ○ Slight difference in focus – AIS remain in the mission of the new org, but there are other pieces that are new, such as climate change, watchdog

function, advocacy. Not a lobbying organization per se. Advocate but stop short of lobbying.

- Stated they are conducting an AIS Assessment – interesting that you are doing this too. Happy to share information and hope that you will too. Focus areas of assessment:
 1. Going out in the field to test program
 - Tiber article. ‘A snapshot in time from early September.’
 - Results ‘sobering.’ Limited to 4 areas – 2 mandatory inspection stations, 2 certified boater access points. Spread out – 120 miles of shoreline.
 - Most work at marina site – volunteer supplied boat. Live bait in bait tank, water in 3 live wells. All 3 live wells checked, but remaining water did not seem to be a matter of concern. No request to dry out live wells. Bait well was not checked. Motors lowered but not flushed. Concern about how inspection went.
 - Way the station is set up at marina, 2 access roads into marina. Way station set up, can’t see alternate road leaving the marina. Boats can leave without an inspection.
 - Unmanned sites – south Bootlegger site, chain across launch. Chain for gate at that station had been pulled out. All of the trailers checked did have ‘certified boater’ stickers on them. But anyone can access. North Bootlegger site – chain was laying on the ground.
 - If containment is our goal, not where we need to be with those 3 sites. VFW site better – inspectors engaged in issue.
 - Whether or not we’re successful or not in the Columbia River Basin, matters how we’re doing this. To spend the money we’re spending on Tiber and to see ¾ of the stations not functional, doesn’t seem to be a good management strategy.
 - Only field assessment included in audit.
 2. look at other data requested from FWP and DNRC – things like protocols related to monitoring, how many sites, field protocol, lab protocol, inspection station information, etc.
 - Are we spending our money in the best way possible. If we’re spending at \$500k Tiber, is that the best use of funds? Ways to get better ‘bang for the buck?’
 3. Recommendations that come out of data (analysis)
 - Starting phase 2 – analysis of data
 - Hope to have this ready by the end of the year
 - Onno board member on WPA introduced
- Tom: Montana has been working on this a long time. You are aware of history and how far we have come. Dedicated to making it the best program in the nation and working on partnerships to make it better. I am disappointed in this press release instead of notification to us. I need to hear about these things immediately so I can fix it. When somebody sees something, especially remotely located. Pushing really hard to improve quality control. Notification immediately when inconsistencies are observed is appreciated. Requested volunteer information. Caryn: Will get contact information of boater as requested.
- Discussion: Understand that there is room for improvement. It’s a big ship, a lot of changes are made. Holding a partner wrap-up meeting with all entities that do inspections to move things in a positive direction. We’re open to ideas – come to us

	<p>to improve program efficacy. Caryn: Not personal, meant to be an assessment. Considered alerting staff about gates not being open. Notified inspectors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori: Putting these findings in a press release was ‘Unconscionable – counterproductive to AIS program.’ To put into a public press release the one thing you find that is not working on that day at that time was unacceptable. Caryn: Entitled to your position – it wasn’t one little thing. ¾ stations failing. That is the entirety of the containment program. • Kate: Who conducting assessment? Comparing to what? Caryn: ‘we’ is the WPA staff and board. Comparative analysis, etc. May need to have expert advice, bring in as needed. Tom Smith, Jan Metzmaker, Julie all have worked on AIS issues with FBC. Caryn claimed she has experience running program. • Erik: These aren’t new issues, they are known. Because oftentimes we can’t see those problems, we don’t have a public dialogue about those problems. Such as drive-bys, need for more enforcement. Admit that we have problems. Tom: We do have information on drive-bys for this season that will be circulated. Having a dialogue on where gaps are is a good thing. But something like this release isn’t helpful. Caryn: Entitled to your perspective, but when I was with FBC, we had memos dating back to 2011 indicating what the problems were – many are the same. • BJ: ‘Appalled’ as a business owner. This is like someone who had a bad experience that doesn’t call you up and tell you. We read about it two months later in trip advisor. How can you ask to share information and have a partnership when you aren’t being a partner at all? • Erik: This is something that is well known. This is why containment at Tiber is extremely difficult. Why CSKT advocated closing the reservoir. The more information that we have the better. • Onno: Sit on WPA board. I really don’t like the ‘watchdog’ aspect of WPA. We have an important function, but that is not it. Somebody has to get everyone focused on common objective. Every group should be part of the team and have a really good simple way to communicate with FWP. When we see deficiencies, we should be able to communicate and work towards common goal. WPA could step away from AIS if there is a coordinating body that can take it over. Tom: That body is UC³ in this part of the state. Open all the time for suggestions and improvements that need to be made. All need to be on same page and push in the same direction.
<p>Tom Woolf</p> <p>AIS Program and Watercraft Inspection Committee Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview: 40 stations/92k inspections/14 mussel fouled boats. October 15 – most stations will close. Some closed after Labor Day (east). Blackfeet October 31. • Looking at areas where we can make changes – not just for inspections but for monitoring too. One of major issues is boats coming from Midwest. They are purchased online and transported by commercial hauler. Work with midwestern states on how to target those boats specifically. • This season expanded contracted stations with partners. Exploring options for expanding this to other partners/cooperative opportunities in the future. • Every station should have consistent messaging. Once inspected you get your proof of inspection, your seal and when you hit the next station, the inspection is expedited. • Electronic data system adopted this year – just about everyone using. It’s not perfect but it has been adopted by 8 states. Better way to assess/track risk associated with watercraft. Will be a benefit for all western states to improve upon what is out there.

- Incorporate data from Glacier database and exporting it to FWP at the very least. Maybe Glacier could adopt system as well if can make some adjustments.
- Big Horn Recreation area as well. Try to get them on board (work closely with WY).
- Overview of rules. Wilbaux still an issue – remote, staffing difficult. Looking at moving next season.
- Looking at every single aspect of inspection stations – whole process open for input and discussion from partners and the public too.
- Seasonal employees in remote locations is difficult. Local partners are helping more – expand this to improve operations in those locations.
- Monitoring: Over 1500 collected by FWP/2000 submitted (including partners). FWP AIS lab processes samples from Missouri River as well. Did identify a new population in Nebraska this season.
- Tiber – still haven't found another veliger. Still no adults. Bringing in mussel dogs in the fall again. Have used eDNA – some hits in Tiber, but uncertainty in what this means. Recommendations from eDNA panel moving forward.
- Faucet snail – the one new detection of AIS in Montana this year (Lake Francis). European snail that carries an avian pathogen. Previously detected in Flathead and Georgetown Lakes. In Georgetown Lake have seen some coot mortality as a result. Probably moves on boats.
- This year, hit the ground with a data map for surveying. Partners using as well (WLI is a test site). App interfaces with lab – information reflected in [Montana Natural Heritage Program](#) website/map. Will help with tracking of monitoring efforts.
- Outreach – Getting a lot of partners involved. Irrigation community. Targeting auction yards/irrigators/farmers who purchase them. 310 permits – language added. Outfitters & guides, out of state boaters
- Research on survivability of veligers in ballast tanks – research in conjunction with BOR and the state of Utah. Live veligers in tanks – 90% surviving! Also test various sizes of adult mussels – they survived as well.
- In response to Lake Powell mussel infestation issues, mandated extra dry time for boats coming from Lake Powell (lock to trailer). Can put more eyes on the boat, decon if necessary. About 30 boats this season (from Lake Powell) – for the most part accepted. Erik: A few boats at Ravalli had intentionally taken boats out of water at Lake Powell to reduce risk. Work closer with Utah and Lake Powell partners to best address the risk. Brian: What is rationale for targeting Powell? What about other known infested lakes? Tom: As a result of water levels dropping and wave action, adult live mussels floating/attaching to boats like have never been reported elsewhere.
- FWP holding an inspections partner meeting: evaluate how things went, what we can do differently next year. Bringing ID and WY partners in as well.
- BOR gave FWP funds to do campground development at Tiber (for inspectors). Would be able to get up inspection station in better location and enhanced work environment.
- Discussion: Same dry time for veligers vs. adult mussels? Yes, one month. What about Alberta and BC? Tom: yes, lots of regional efforts. Customs and Border Protection efforts to be enhanced.
 - Beth Gardner from USFS discussed Quality control – thinking about experience Caryn had. Took own boat and had a great experience. Do you have any data about how your staff are functioning? Tom: ISAN secret boater exercise went through every station. Also ask FWP managers to check stations. I think a lot of people see things and don't say anything is a

	<p>problem. We need to communicate this better. Report immediately. Work with Liz to get this message out more clearly. Made improvements where we heard of issues. Sooner we can identify, better we can address.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New boats – get tested in surface waters. Work with dealers to do better? Chris: Most products show up in the winter. Could be possible to test in lower risk areas or ways. Not a conversation that goes on between manufacturers and dealers. ‘Trailer mode’ on new ballast tanks (in past couple of years) – open up all ballasts to drain while in transport. Tom: WRP group actively engage with marine manufacturers at higher level. ○ Station that gets the most mussel boats? Tom: Wilbaux historically sees more detections than others. Anaconda and Dillon as well (Lower Colorado River). Many passing through state, not destined for Montana waters. But Flathead gets the most visitors according to inspection stations. Staffing issue at Wilbaux. But also location that gets the most detections? And you’re moving station? Will moving it help tighten port of entry. Tom: Yes, that is intention. Better labor pool in Miles City. Taking a hard swing at trying to fix. ○ Stats reflect just FWP data? Tom: Includes partners – CSKT, Blackfeet, MC, etc. Highlight those partnerships. Doesn’t have GNP or Bighorn at this point. Can share but data format might be slightly different. SHARE WITH FWP. ○ Current state of seaplane protocol? Drive by general stats? Budget – should we go to our legislators to support EQC? Monitoring of rivers – effective? Tom: Sampling plan transitioning away from that. Presence of wardens and state police hit and miss. We have stats but can probably drill down to getting data on citations and warnings. County enforcement – challenges with enforcement. Maybe need contract with sheriff’s department – potential to pay these entities to help with enforcement. WRP on seaplane issue. Still not clear but not just a MT concern – west wide. Joann: Would like to be involved in efforts. ○ Watching the progression map with mussels. See a new little box of a ‘failed introduction.’ What has to happen at Tiber for that to become a ‘failed introduction.?’ Tom: 5 years of no detection would result in a failed introduction according to western standards. Joann: what about eDNA? Tom: Doesn’t count in protocol, so only microscopy. Canyon Ferry – one more year of no detects as ‘suspect’ waterbody. California lab provided verification. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jay (Blackfeet) – kayaks being hauled inside their vehicles. Successful season. Looking forward to getting station out on hwy next year. Currently 12 hours day. Reducing hours for end of season. ● Mike (Whitefish) – Whitefish program going well. 2 stations on lake, 1 decon station. Have self-certification program in the off season. Working through minor issues. Overall program went well – did more decontaminations – ‘preventative decon’ approach. Want to get hands on data – need access to electronic database. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More boats from park? Mike: Serviced more than just Whitefish. A fair amount of Canadians that requested decons before they went home. ○ Exit seal program for those that only boat in Whitefish (end of season)? Mike: yes, that management option has gone well. We have limited space at boat ramps so has expedited process. ● Brian (Glacier): Over 10k inspections. East side closes this month. Apgar through Oct 31. Then all waterbodies close to waterbodies through winter. Looking at creating a
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	<p>permanent inspection station somewhere here on the west side. Opens mid-May on west side and later on east side. Speaks to coordination and collaborative efforts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion: Did GNP find AIS fouled boats? Brian: Never mussels, but plants and snails. Polebridge – what about non-motorized that are going on the Flathead River? Brian: Depends which side (USFS land doesn't currently have inspection requirement). ● Lindsey (MC/Clearwater Station): Went quite smoothly. Inspected just under 14k boats. Operated from memorial to labor day. 1300 drive bys this year – majority non-motorized. Wardens were more present, but not really chasing down that many non-motorized boats. Safety issue with location of station. Got better by the end of the season – sometimes saw 50 drive bys on busy days! Also had roving inspector up in the Swan. Don't have data yet, but seems to have gone pretty smoothly. ● Boat launch monitor program – double check to make sure boats have been inspected at Salmon and Placid Lakes.
<p>Liz Lodman</p> <p>Education & Outreach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● General Household Survey- boaters and anglers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Combined efforts with fishery staff ○ Number 1 source of info still newspapers in MT ○ Will assist with figuring out how many how many non-motorized boats ● Out of state boaters outreach – targeted locations based on inspection data and out of state fishing licenses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Southwest – snowbirds. Used Glacier photo (Quartz Lake). Facebook/digital campaign. ○ Midwest – started later, more tactics (since there was more time). Facebook/digital advertising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'game' photo – click on 'protect our waters' animated graphic with 4 questions and became 'water warrior' ▪ Animated ad on devices – takes viewers to CDD website ▪ 4 individual bloggers – contracted. Write article about what is going on in MT, what does CDD mean, rules in MT. 22 million impressions, lots of hits. One of bloggers actually had a live interview with SW inspection supervisor ▪ Billboards – designed and placed in strategic locations on major roads (including Bowman, Bismarck North Dakota and Rapid City South Dakota), Wolf Point, Hardin, Dillon. ▪ Gas station TV (25% of air time was CDD message on 524 screens) ● Montana AIS Campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Billboards, newspapers (outdoor page – banner ad). 64 daily, weekly, bi-weekly. Consortium of newspapers – target during major holidays. ○ Northern News Network – outside of MT too (40 ads/month), xx radio show ○ Montana Public Radio/Yellowstone Public Radio – 12 different radio stations, morning and evening news ○ TV – 7 channels (scaled back from 2017 to put more \$ into digital campaign). Focused on Kalispell, Missoula, Butte, Bozeman, Billings, Helena and Great Falls ○ Digital marketing (MTN Network) – 420k followers. Digital ads and 'native content' x3 (look like news articles but are actually paid advertisements). ○ Videos – tweaked Flathead Lakers video to make applicable statewide; created a new one with same producer as well (x2) ○ Clearwater Resource Council – 6 PSAs targeting different demographics: canoe/kayak, old guy, jet skier, angler, municipal water, power dams

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Survey to evaluate outreach efforts in the future ○ Anglers – ad in magazine aimed at fly fisherpeople, signage ● Can make all materials available to partner groups – space on most materials to add logos as well ● Tom/Lindsey/Joann: Good job Liz ● Thanks to Flathead Lakers - let us use the video and modify it to use state-wide
<p>Mike Koopal</p> <p>Prevention, Monitoring & Inspections Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Upper Columbia AIS Monitoring Plan is 90% complete – will finish with committee today (review and discuss), then submit to Executive Committee ● More comprehensive list/map of locations and partners than on FWP website ● Trying to be inclusive and throw everyone on the table ● Good launch point for expanding monitoring to entire Upper Columbia Basin and nailing down protocols for partners
<p>Erik Hanson/Tom Woolf</p> <p>Response & Preparedness Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CRB Mussel Response Exercise (Flathead Lake) ● Funded through USFWS and PSMFC ● Requested exercise at Flathead. Upstream waters in Columbia River. ● Joint command: FWP/CSKT ● Go through scenario to determine strengths/weaknesses of plans, roles and responsibilities ● Erik: Biggest struggle still – can we actually do a treatment? Tradeoffs with biologists was really helpful. ● Discussion: MEPA actions triggered? DEQ EPDES general permit – already covers treatment. DNRC letter of authority would be required (via email, quick turnaround). Tom: USFWS bull trout take would be allowed in scenario. EA on copper product would be useful. Not required, but would be useful. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Would the outcome of this exercise be specific to Flathead Lake or be useful to other lakes statewide? Tom: shooting for statewide applicability in plan and mapping tools. Consider response plans specific to high risk waters (e.g. Flathead, Fort Peck, etc.). State of Utah has gone that route. ○ Clarification on property ownership, roles and responsibilities, aquatic invasive plants, etc. Will be focus of upcoming Montana Invasive Species Council Summit. ○ Need to engage with partners to help implementation on the ground – should be identified up front. But not a separate plan – just as we build out geodatabase. ○ Did IC leaders/facilitators come out with list of lessons learned and areas where we need information, where there were potential issues with ICS? Tom: Not yet, but there is a draft report. Some cases where ICS isn't totally a great fit, needs to be modified slightly ('ICS light'). Robin: Real value to ICS for use with AIS. Seemed like pretty easy to skip communicating across program areas. So some big questions weren't really getting addressed. Erik: Agree. ICS good at implementing solutions – but not necessarily figuring out the solution itself. ○ Phil: Lots of discussion on the monitoring end of things in terms of different solutions that could be implemented in the event of a detection. Lot of communication between the monitoring and operations teams. ○ Did you identify any specific supply chain issues? Tom: Didn't dig too deep but did identify that barriers would be an issue (to source and transport). Didn't have time to see if local contractors would have limno curtains in the region. Contractors out there that do have expertise and could likely help – just didn't haven't had time to explore.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Would you repeat the exercise in the same area? Tom: Would be useful to do something like this in the state each year – probably change waterbodies annually ○ Blackfeet would be interested in participating in an exercise in the future. So many fishermen coming out of area
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Joann: Concerned about lack of representation from Middle Clark Fork, Upper, Blackfoot, etc. on UC³. Kate: Not based on geographic representation in statute, but on other characteristics (e.g. private landowner, industry, recreation organization). Also dependent on who responded to the call for letters of interest. Would be nice to have better geographic representation, but to require that would mean a change in statute. Erik: Far northern portion of Upper Columbia here in Glacier – maybe try a lower locale for the next meeting. ● <u>Motion</u>: Expand meeting area to southern area of basin (Phil Matson). Seconded (BJ Johnson). Mike suggested to engage local groups in lower basin to see if we can partner (e.g. Blackfoot Challenge, Bitterroot, Clark Fork Kootenai, Clark Fork Coalition, etc.). All in favor. Motion passes. ● ACTION ITEM: Kate to look into meeting locations and potential partner organizations for next meeting.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Doodle for dates in early DEC for next meeting. Will need E&O and Monitoring Plans to submit to Legislature. Commission and Committee members. ● Agenda items for next meeting: BOR grant (in detail), website, Clearwater Resource Council videos, grant/funding process (determine)
Wrap up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Motion to adjourn (Mike Koopal). Seconded (Dennis Clairmont). All in favor. <i>Motion passes</i> ● Adjourned at 2:37 PM

4. Action Items				
Action		Assigned	Due Date	Status
1	Send out meeting notes and updates	Kate Wilson	10/9/18	Completed
2	Figure out next meeting date, location and logistics	Kate Wilson	11/15/18	Completed
3	Ensure that Montana AIS Program evaluation process complies with all state laws	Kate Wilson	10/20/18	Completed
4	Add discussion on BOR funding components and guidelines for when/where to seek funding for projects to next meeting agenda	Lori Curtis	11/15/18	Completed
5	Check on where 'Grow boating' fund goes (fee on products that boat dealers buy – all manufacturers part of program)	Chris Parrott		In progress
6	Agenda item for future meeting: Does this body continue beyond next biennium? (HB622 sunsets Jan 2019)	Lori Curtis		In progress
EXISTING ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS				
7	Signage gaps to address boater movement (esp at night)	Education & Outreach Committee		In Progress
8	Finalize Annual Monitoring Plan for EQC submission	ED & Monitoring Committee	10/15/18	In Progress

UPPER COLUMBIA CONSERVATION COMMISSION (UC³) MEETING

Wednesday, December 12th, 2018

Montana Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation Regional Office (2705 Spurgin Rd, Missoula)

AGENDA

9:30 AM	Welcome & Agenda	Lori Curtis, Chair UC ³ , Cons. Districts Rep.; Science & Education Director, Whitefish Lake Institute
9:40 AM	Introductions	All
9:45 AM	Approval of Minutes, Staff Report AIS Program Evaluation Status	Kate Wilson, UC ³ Administrator
10:00 AM	Funding Discussion Administrative attachment budget process; Grants Bureau of Reclamation Funding BOR Funding – Use of Funds Discussion UC3 Budget Update	UC3 Executive Committee (Lori, Tom, Kate) Mark Bostrom, DNRC CARDD Administrator Bryan Horsburgh, Bureau of Reclamation Lori Curtis Kate Wilson
10:45 AM	Break	
11:00 AM	Funding Discussion – continued	UC3 Executive Committee (Lori, Tom, Kate)
11:30 AM	Updates & Action Items Montana Invasive Species Summit Overview/Summary Upcoming Legislative Session (AIS Related Issues/Bills)	Tom Woolf, AIS Bureau Chief Representative Willis Curdy
12:00 PM	Lunch (provided)	
12:45 PM	Review UC3 Purpose, Deliverables, Meeting Rules Commission member involvement, Meeting rules Calendar of Executive Committee meetings	UC3 Executive Committee
2:15 PM	Committee Reports & Updates <u>Education & Outreach Committee</u> Update on Marketing/Website Development <u>Early Detection & Monitoring Committee</u> Early Detection & Monitoring Plan <u>Response & Preparedness Committee</u> <u>Watercraft Inspection Committee</u> October End of Season Wrap-up Meeting Final End of Season Reports	Lori Curtis/ Kate Wilson Tia Metzger, Windfall Mike Koopal Tom Woolf, AIS Bureau Chief & Erik Hansen, AIS Coordinator, CSKT Tom Woolf Erik Hanson Jay Monroe, Blackfeet Nation Chris Downs, Glacier National Park Lindsey Bona-Eggeman, Missoula Cty. Weed Joann Wallenburn, Clearwater Res. Council
3:00 PM	Public Comment	
3:15 PM	Next meeting	Kate Wilson
3:30 PM	Wrap-up & Adjourn	Lori Curtis

All Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC³) meetings are open to the public. The UC³ will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this public meeting. Please contact Kate Wilson (kate.wilson@mt.gov) as soon as possible before the meeting date.

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting/ Project Name:	Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC³)		
Date of Meeting:	December 12, 2018	Time:	9:30 AM – 3:00 PM
Minutes Prepared By:	Kate Wilson	Location:	DNRC Missoula (2705 Spurgin Rd.)
1. Welcome and Introductions			
Lori Curtis	Welcome. Lori opened at 9:08 AM. Overview of agenda.		
Introductions (Roundtable)	Each commission member provided roll call introductions including commission position. All commission members were present. All other participant introduced themselves including name, location and organization/interest that they are representing.		
2. Attendees			
<p>UC³ (voting members underlined): <u>Lori Curtis</u> (Whitefish Lake Institute: Chair/Conservation Districts of Montana), <u>Tom Woolf</u> (FWP: Vice Chair/ MISC), <u>Chris Parrott</u> (Jesco Marine & Powersports: private industry), <u>Stacy Schnebel</u>, (Flathead Electric Cooperative/Montana Electric Cooperative Association: hydroelectric cooperatives), <u>Phil Matson</u> (Flathead Lake Biological Station: private landowner), Chris Downs (Glacier National Park: National Park Service), <u>Paul Kusnierz</u> (Avista: hydropower industry), Rep. Matt Regier (HD 4), Bryan Horsburgh (Bureau of Reclamation), <u>Mike Koopal</u> (Whitefish Lake Institute: member at large – phone in AM), Kate Wilson (DNRC/UC3/FBC Commission Administrator)</p> <p>Public/Other: Mark Rellar (BPA), Erik Hanson (Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes), Germaine White (Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes), Joann Wallenburn (Clearwater Resource Council), Lindsey Bona-Eggeman (Missoula County Weed District), Onno Wieringa, Rob Rich (Swan Valley Connections), Jay Monroe (Blackfoot Tribe), Caitlin Mitchell (Blackfoot Challenge), John O’Bannan (FWP), Deb Tirmenstein (MT Black Dog Services), Gary Wiens (Montana Electric Cooperatives Association), Cynthia Ingelfinger (Whitefish Lake Institute), Patrick Reilly (Missoulian), Alexandra Latta (Lake County), BL Azure (CharKoosta News), Gerald Wagner (Blackfeet), Caryn Miske (Watershed Protection Advocates), Liz Lodman (FWP – phone), Barbara Chillcot (DNRC – phone), Mark Bostrom (DNRC – phone), Stephanie Hester (DNRC – phone), Mark Bostrom (DNRC – phone)</p>			
3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues			
Presenter	Topic/Discussion		
Kate Wilson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion to approve agenda as presented (Phil Matson). Seconded. (Chris Parrott). Agenda approved. 		
Approval of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion to approve minutes from September 26, 2018 meeting (Stacey Schnebel). Seconded (Paul Kusnierz). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i> 		
Kate Wilson/Lori Curtis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff/Chair report (activities and events) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination with regional groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crown Managers Partnership Steering Committee – monthly calls Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species (Nov, Tacoma) Columbia River Basin/100th Meridian AIS Group (Dec, Boise) BC Columbia River Basin AIS Group (Dec, phone) Grant funding – planning, requirements, etc. Education & outreach Website design/planning Law Review & MISC Summit planning Tracking AIS legislation, budgets and programmatic changes AIS Program Evaluation 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Both partner/stakeholder survey and public survey are out now (online – Survey Monkey). Good response on partner survey. Just sent out public version (in attempt to not confuse the two). Reminder on partner survey sent last week – over 60 responses). ○ Recommendations to FWP once compiled. Provide recommendations on program improvement – all areas of program
<p>Mark Bostrom, DNRC CARDD Administrator</p> <p>Administrative Attachments, Role of DNRC, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Creation of UC³ listed as Title 2 Agency (HB622), administratively attached to DNRC ● DNRC obligated to provide staff for administrative functions. No provision in statute for UC³ to hire own staff. Not always the case; some confusion with other attachments on requirement to provide staff. ● Staff authorized in HB2 last session (0.51 FTE) – Kate Wilson. Switch back and forth between both FBC and UC3. Halftime for both Commissions. “One time only” – through June 30th 2019. Seeking solutions to that – permanent position to cover administrative needs for UC³ (and FBC). ● Broader funding bill SB363 funded UC³ operations at \$10,000 for biennium (2017-2018). ● Funding authorized for DNRC’s portion of the Invasive Species Program, \$354k annually. Half of authority was ‘federal special revenue,’ the other from state special revenue (AIS funding). Federal funding is authority to spend federal dollars but in the UC3 case there was no cash behind it – good to see the BOR grant moving forward, will help UC3 implement projects and is a good faith effort to try to meet legislature’s intent to seek federal funding. ● Phil: Clarification on federal funding/spending authority. Mark: \$354k per year - \$177k was appropriated as ‘federal special revenue,’ authority to spend, and prompts agency to pursue federal funding. ● AIS funding in legislative session – includes allocation for UC³ ● AIS grant funding source needs to move from Reclamation Development Grants (HB7 which draw from natural resource projects account, funded via (RIGWA) Resource Indemnity Groundwater Assessment. Reclamation Development Grants are intended for repair/mitigation from non-renewable resource extraction). ‘Crucial state need’ is how AIS grant funding initially came from that funding source. Makes more sense to move source to grant program already existing for AIS at 80-7-1017 MCA. ● Rep. Regier: where will the money come from? That is the question. ● Stacey S: So you want to move the \$10k source? Mark: No, HB7 \$250k per fiscal year in AIS grants. Would look for like amount out of AIS account to fund the grants under title 80, either statutory or ‘Cat and dog bill’
<p>Bryan Horsburgh (BOR)</p> <p>Bureau of Reclamation AIS Funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Impetus behind ‘quagga funding’ in 2017: Secretary Zinke showed interest in federal engagement in AIS issue. Scott Cameron (Policy Management/Budget) stood up ‘Safeguarding the West’ initiative for Dept. of Interior (DOI). All DOI Bureaus came together to put together a set of commitments to roll out at a Western Governors Association meeting (Whitefish, 2017). ● Windfall of funding for BOR. \$1.2M in 2017, \$4.5M in 2018 (reclamation wide), on top of regular appropriations for BOR. Each region asked to put together a spending plan. ● Western Governors’ Association (WGA) submission process. Most of projects were funded by BOR. There was one project funded from Montana and three from Washington. State projects a priority. BOR directed to work with partners to work on grant applications last year. ● 100% funded, no match required based on ‘rec fish and wildlife’ program. Unusual to not have to require match.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant period ends Dec 2020 but have up to 5 years to spend with an extension. Almost like having a checkbook – can draw from funds within that period as needed. • Very broad in scope – source allowed grant funding to cover more AIS related activities than ever before (e.g. not just watercraft inspections and monitoring like Water Resources Development Act [WRDA] funding). • Part of issue associated with 2018 funds is the timeline. Continuing resolution didn't allow for release of funds. Had June-October to work with proponents to put together applications. Expedited timeline, but all grants in place now. • Chris D: \$120k over period of grant or annual? Bryan: Yes, over grant period. • Mark B: BOR funding starts to hit a portion of federal special revenue – this funding goes toward amount that was previously granted authority to spend. • Tom W: FWP funding – aiming to match 50/50 all AIS activities (state/federal). Used WRDA and hydro/prevention pass as match. • Germaine W: What is process for granting a 'no cost extension?' Bryan H: Just a matter of written communication between recipient and grants officer (in Boise). • Erik H: Funds aren't all AIS, specific to zebra/quagga mussels? Bryan H: Correct. All of \$4.5M that I referenced. • Erik H: \$120k amount fixed or eligible for other projects? Bryan H: Can be changed, but best to be similar in scope to the original submission. Would entail renegotiation of costs and evaluation of whether meets source criteria. Sole source grants (not competitive) so don't need to go through that process again. If major changes, might need to go back to DOI Secretary and request approval. • Stacey S: 'Program' language. Grant would provide for activities that meet UC³ statutory duties and can be counted towards federal special revenue? Kate W: Yes. • Mark B: Continuation of BOR funding? Bryan H: It's a short-term deal. In 2019 we have \$4M available but unfortunately the opportunity to put in for that funding has sunset already (70 submissions totaling \$10M). By 2021, BOR will probably be back down to base funding (\$350k for all AIS in pacific northwest region). • Kate W: Was that mussel funding distributed across all BOR regions? Bryan H: \$4.5M distributed across 5 BOR regions, but pacific northwest region received more due to Columbia River Basin prevention emphasis. • Mark R: BPA has agreed to fund the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission/100th Meridian Columbia River Basin AIS group (\$250k). This is down 1/3 from last year, but those funds can be used for matching WRDA funds. Umbrella organization that covers entire region and serves coordination role.
<p>Lori Curtis, Tom Woolf, Kate Wilson</p> <p>UC³ Bureau of Reclamation Funding</p>	<p>UC3 BOR Funding Components (Kate)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background on BOR funds, \$120k allocation for quagga mussel prevention in the Upper Columbia Basin • Timeline: Sept 2017 solicitation of projects (WGA); March 2018 (BOR notification) Sept 2018 (Agreement signed) • Reimbursement-based. Funds available Oct 2018- 2021 • Grant administration: follow all state procurement laws/policies; DNRC administers on behalf of UC³ (12.05% indirect). Unique org codes for UC³ and BOR funding. • Agreement based on original projects submitted for consideration: 1. UC3 - coordination activities, AIS prevention, monitoring, response planning (granted); 2. Moored Vessels/Marina Pilot (granted); 3. Scientific Advisory Panel (Funded by MISC, held in April); 4. Research on mussel/veliger mortality in ballast tanks (BOR/Utah conducted experiment). • <u>Component 1: Education & Outreach (\$60,000)</u>

- Style Guide, website (currently in development with existing contract), materials (UC³ specific, Clean Drain Dry, etc.).
- Link to UC³ Statutory duty: *develop & implement AIS education & outreach strategy specially in the UC Basin; encourage close coordination*
- Component 2: Monitoring (\$25,000)
 - Expansion to entire Upper Columbia Basin (Citizen Science) - currently limited to NW Montana (mostly within Flathead Basin). Provides for development of annual monitoring plan, staff, training, equipment, travel and analysis of samples
 - Link to UC³ Statutory duty: *Monitor condition of aquatic resources using cooperative strategy; develop annual monitoring strategy; encourage close coordination*
 - Cynthia I: NW Lakes Network: BPA funds water quality portion, FWP funds AIS portion. Lake, Lincoln, Missoula and Flathead Counties (current scope of program). Lots of groups interested in expanding monitoring (esp on AIS). Working on figuring out who is doing what. Increase efficiencies and productivity. Consistency among partners on protocols, decontamination.
 - Joann W: WLI not only entity doing monitoring in that basin. Lori: One of hopes is to expand coordination and share equipment within the basin.
 - Tom W: AIS citizen science state-wide something that FWP really pushing. All AIS, plankton tows if possible. More people we can get involved, the better.
 - Lori C: A lot of activity in the Flathead and the Swan basins, not so much south of Missoula County. Need to do a better job.
 - Stacey S: This isn't enough money to monitor whole region. Tom: FWP has monitoring teams all summer – this provides for addition of citizen scientists.
 - Joann W: Question purchase of hydrolabs and surveyors. CRC had to cut funding for nets this year. Focus specifically on AIS. Only one lake in Bitterroot that might even be a risk in AIS. Need to identify where the holes are – are there that many places we need to be doing more monitoring? NW program doing 40+ lakes, CRC do 13 – how many more are there? Let's find out how many we're missing. Kate: Really that should be the emphasis of the UC³ annual monitoring plan.
 - Erik H: How are you going to parse out citizen science just for AIS. Requirement for match funds? Tom: Has to be separate for funding source.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Kate to work with monitoring committee on solicitation process**
- Component 3: Response & Preparedness in Upper Columbia Basin (\$15,000)
 - Development of tools and materials to augment EDRR Guidelines for Columbia River Basin (Montana Natural Heritage Program – existing MOU)
 - Link to UC³ Statutory duty: *develop & implement AIS education & outreach strategy specially in the UC Basin; encourage close coordination & build partnerships*
 - Mark R: Use oil as model for response – advanced info and technology.
 - Rob R: What capacity would local groups have to get involved in EDRR exercise or general preparedness? Tom: Invite folks in future events. Rob: Interested and constructive to be engaged in what a response would entail. Also could do a day-long workshop on roles and responsibilities (like we did east of the divide last summer).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Component 4: Marina/Boat Shop Pilot Program (\$20,000)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Engage marinas/boat shops in prevention. Build relationships, assess capacity for engaging in AIS Program; develop materials for marinas. Serve as pilot for others, esp in infested areas (e.g. notification of moored vessel movement). Limited solicitation process. ○ Big Sky Watershed Corps member secured (Jan –Nov). Need to request modification to change from contract to direct implementation. ○ Link to UC³ Statutory duty: <i>develop & implement AIS education & outreach strategy specifically in the UC Basin; encourage close coordination & close partnerships</i> ○ Tom: Idea been cooking for 10 years. All the boats that we intercept are coming from boat slips somewhere – program that could be transferred across the country to engage marinas. Not working directly with infested states but could explore challenges and successes of working with marinas. Those components could be transferred to other areas. Great way to address greatest risk. ○ Germaine: WGA workshop – slide on where boats going when they leave AZ. Snowbirds huge risk. Transporting directly from infested waters. ○ Tom: Opportunity to work on this key vector. • Joann W: Forbid indirect costs on DNRC grants but take it yourself? Clarification requested. Mark: Goes back to funding source for AIS grants (RGL) – only gov entities allowed to apply, so assumption that administrative costs covered. Most frequent recipient of that grant source is DEQ. Stephanie: Long standing policy with RDG that stems back to 1990s – allow 10% of admin, but no indirect allowed. Mark: Will be better structure to use Title 80 grant program, won't have some restrictions (e.g. state agencies and local government only). Indirect • Budget update: \$4,101.09 remaining balance of base allocation (\$10,000 biennium). This covers member travel, meetings, food, registration for events, etc. • Paul K: Appreciate the effort and detail put into what is entailed, goals and link to statutory duties. Lori: Long overdue, glad that you brought to attention. • ACTION: Quarterly accounting report (by org code)
<p>Tom Woolf and Kate Wilson</p> <p>Western Governors' Association & Montana Invasive Species Summit</p>	<p><u>Western Governors' Invasive Species Initiative Workshop (Tom W.)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WGA Workshop (Helena, Nov 14): Series of panels on high priority invasive species topics in the west (rapid response, regional mussel partnerships; invasive annual grasses; when/where to intervene; eDNA tracking; monitoring invasive species and vectors; international coordination on feral swine management). • WGA Mussel Workshop Denver Jan 30-31: Enhance coordination across the west on mussel related issues. Focus on role of federal agencies in watercraft inspection programs (clarify federal law) and engagement in response, eDNA, encourage continued prioritization of AIS in individual states. • Onno W.: What is meant by 'mandatory' in reference to federal agencies? Tom W: States have mandatory inspections, but feds have not been following suit to date. • Stacey S: How would federal mandate work with Montana's program? Tom W: Federal facilities that have mussels would be better addressed at those sources (e.g. Lake Powell, Lake Mead, Lake Havasu, etc.). • Currently, state has taken lion's share of decontamination for national recreation areas, but at capacity (e.g. Utah model). • Gary W: What about other non-infested reservoirs such as Fort Peck? Tom W: National Invasive Species Council organizations – don't believe that it includes the US Army Corps of Engineers.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris D: Scale is massive – thousands of boats coming off each day from these large infested reservoirs. How can it be gone? What is needed in those areas? What percent are they inspecting now? Tom W: Utah has staff at 5 ramps on Lake Powell during daylight hours but haven't heard a good number on what percentage they are catching. Utah over capacity, need more help from federal agencies. All boats, not just day use. • Erik H: Capacity to inspect 1000 boats a day, would have to be at least \$10M annually, would have to be huge budget to go with federal mandate. Tom W: High volume of traffic coming north – Lake Powell is the biggest issue right now. • Germaine W: What is Colorado seeing? Tom: Had about 50 boats fouled. <p><u>Montana Invasive Species Summit (Kate W)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summit theme and sessions based on Montana invasive species law review conducted in past year in coordination with UM Law School. Findings of law review broken into session topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One all-taxa invasive species list: Montana's myriad of agencies that manage invasive species have different lists, processing for listing/de-listing, authority, funding, etc. ○ Managing pathways instead of species: Concept of addressing vector (hay, firewood, watercraft) instead of individual species (thistle, emerald ash borer, mussels) to increase efficacy and prevention efforts. ○ Species with economic benefits with known environmental impacts: 'Lightning round' on specific species – feral cats, N. pike, Russian olive. ○ Aquatic invasive plants: Clarify authority, funding and roles of Montana agencies regarding the management of aquatic invasive plants. ○ Regulatory and enforcement: Learn about current AIS enforcement; explore models in other jurisdictions that have implemented specified penalty for watercraft failing to stop for inspection and drain plug rule; address issues with county enforcement with noxious weed laws. ○ Political champions: Panel of 5 legislators state-wide discussing invasive species bills they have carried in the past, AIS funding, and what is needed for the future (Tempel, Redfield, Cuffe, Ellis, Curdy). • Tom W: MISC mtg Jan 23 in Helena – will go over final report from summit, 'Squeal on Pigs' campaign (first detection in Montana in Oct), aquatic invasive plants (next steps. FWP lead on aquatic plants – outcome of Summit. Funding for control still needed), develop species listing committee and comprehensive Invasive Species Act committee. • Lindsay E: FWP to take on riparian plants too? Tom W: Take the stuff that counties don't want. They can take the lead where they want to. Riparian areas are probably more of a county role, though FWP does survey for riparian plants.
<p>Rep. Willis Curdy (HD98)</p> <p>Aquatic Invasive Species Funding Bill</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You're sitting in my district - between Clark Fork and Bitterroot Rivers in Missoula • Member of EQC Interim Committee. Since Legislature only meets 90 days every two years, a lot of business takes place between sessions. FWP, DNRC and DEQ oversight. • Portion of EQC program is to develop draft legislation for funding AIS Program. 4 Representatives; 4 Senators; 4 community members. • EQC meets 4 times a year. Has been working to reach consensus on how to fund next 2 years of AIS funding • Looked at variety of options, realized promises made during last session, and tried to address things that haven't worked too well from last session

- HB32: fair amount of general fund (1/2 for biennium), considerably more than last biennium.
 - Charge a fee for out of state boats, in state watercraft (including non-motorized).
 - Reduce angler prevention pass from \$15 to \$7.50 based on drop in number of fishing licenses – attributed to higher costs.
 - Charged youth same amount – now all down to \$7.50
- Not a static process, very dynamic. We see a number of suggestions have been made by FWP and the Governor’s Office. Still looking at other potential sources of funding for next biennium.
- Not sure when we’ll introduce the Bill; will be awhile before it moves ahead.
- Draft Bills/placeholders (in addition to HB32) submitted to date: LC0060 & LC0063 (Keane) – generally revise invasive species laws; LC1379 (Lynch) – revise laws regarding AIS expenditures and funding; LC1510 (Morigeau) – revise AIS laws; LC0703 (Jones) – Revise county weed laws; LC1746 (Shaw) – revise county weed laws; LC1879 (Skees) – Generally revise AIS laws; LC1968 (Hertz) – standardize penalties for AIS; LC2023 (Curdy) – Joint Resolution to Congress asking to fund AIS programs
 - LC2023 Draft Joint Resolution (House/Senate) asking congress to mandate the DOI to do their watercraft inspections as they leave DOI facilities/waterbodies/recreation areas/parks. Effort to raise awareness. If Legislature approves, will be sent to all members of US Senate, US House, Western Governors – cover far and wide. This bill also includes funding request (federal). More and more problems with funding coming from federal sources. Interstate commerce bringing AIS into Montana. Congress’s responsibility to provide the means to fund these prevention programs. Two senators (CO and ID) currently pushing bill through legislative process. All of legislation will have to be reintroduced once federal session ends.
- Joann W: Are these things all online for public now? Rep. Curdy: Generally, what we call ‘placeholders.’ If somewhere in session and issue comes up, legislators can draft during the session. We are given a deadline of where we can introduce an unlimited number of draft bill. That deadline was Dec 5th – every legislator was filling out these sheets and getting them in the process just in case they need to run with in during the session. Can go to the legislator with placeholder and ask them to use it if it fits (‘horse trading’)
- Bryan H: As observation, should that bill go through, we are in a position now where we have put framework together to make that resolution more effective. Question on boater/angler fee – won’t that be a double tax for those who boat and fish? Rep. Curdy: You bet. Threat from those sectors is real.
- State of MT doesn’t have the money to do EVERYTHING for AIS, so we depend on you folks, your programs, education, etc. I’m also a commercial pilot – so have been concerned about seaplanes coming to Montana. We’ve reached out to those pilots to increase awareness of the issue and potential impact.
- When bill is heard before committees, probably will end up in house tax, house natural resources (minority vice chair), etc. helps to have supporters in the crowd.
- Rep. Regier: What is the status of the gas tax in the current bill? Rep. Curdy: there is a small amount in there for motorboat gas tax. Changed several times. CORRECTED LATER – no gas tax in the current draft of the bill.
- Stephanie H: MISC Executive Committee meeting – MISC will be sending weekly updates on legislation. Kate will forward to UC3 Listserv as well.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stacey S: Electric co-ops are very supportive of current funding matrix. Cost causers paying supported by the hydroelectric cooperatives – hope to see this move forward. Also supportive of the Joint Resolution and seeking broadest funding base.
<p>Lori Curtis</p> <p>UC3 Purpose, Deliverables and Meeting Rules</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori presented slides outlining purpose, statutory duties and deliverables • Executive Meeting – every 2nd Wednesday. Chair, Vice Chair, staff. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kate takes notes – can be provided if requested ○ ACTION: Post notice of executive committee calls on website. • Stacey: Events that one or both of you are attending on behalf of UC³ – share with entire Commission. Would be interested in sharing with constituents and maybe sometimes even attending as well. • Meeting rules: Basic, Roberts Rules. Respectful. Anything that needs to be voted on must be on the agenda (posted publicly in advance). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Voting: avoid hand votes with people on the phone. ○ “Point of Order:” if error is made (in protocol, rules, etc.) ○ Issues: Bring to Chair’s attention and she can address
<p>Lori Curtis, Tom Woolf, Phil Matson (Committee Chair absent)</p> <p>Committee Updates: Monitoring</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phil M: UC³ Monitoring Plan pretty robust, nearly finalized. • Joann W: CRC has been doing AIS monitoring for several years, but moved to more of a prevention approach this past season. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ‘Inspection before launch’ program – trained watercraft inspectors, rove around to different boat launches. Not a great use of trained inspectors, education only. Evolved into ‘boat launch monitors’ who know all rules and can verify that boaters are following protocols and aware of the AIS program and associated rules. Worked out well – 377 hours of staff time on the launches. 1 boat per hour (avg), spread throughout day. ○ Export to Browns Lake (can be accessed from Tiber boaters directly w/o coming across and inspection station), Lindberg (landowners engaged, will help fund), Seeley Lake (7 public boat launches, permission from USFS). How do we get more people at the boat launches? • Tom W: suggest workshop prior to season (winter) – could turn into 2019 monitoring plan. • Erik H: How do we prioritize waterbody? Open up black box. Are we sampling enough? Tom W: It’s not a black box, we can talk about it. Workshop would be good. • Jay M: No invasive species detected in monitoring efforts in Blackfeet • Cynthia I: Same for NW program • Tom: Over 12k plankton tows by FWP (only faucet snails – new detection). Only accept samples from mussel negative waters – but detected some in Missouri River samples for first time. • Still no detections in Canyon Ferry and Tiber – but holding to western standard of listing/exit inspections (one more year at Canyon Ferry, three at Tiber) • Phil M: Does FWP have equipment they can loan out? Tom W: Not at this time, but could look at purchasing. Or using DNRC AIS grant or BOR funding.
<p>Jay Monroe, Erik Hanson, Chris Downs, Lindsey Bona-Eggeman, Tom Woolf (Committee Chair)</p> <p>Committee Updates: Inspections</p>	<p>Blackfeet (Jay Monroe)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of activity this season. Total season stats: 7228 inspections. 600 certificates of inspection issued for Blackfeet waters (multiple sources of watercraft). • Fly fisherman with with NZ mud snails on boots from Big Hole River – caught early (end of April). Good educational experience. • Hwy 2 W, 5,017 inspections, 900 certificates issued. 2722 individuals. • Hwy 2 E, 1,267 inspections. 983 individuals.

- Birch Creek: 698 inspections, slow this year. Probably had to do with the weather.
- Hwy 89/Babb (local waters only): Didn't get funding approved until late in season (to move to mandatory highway inspection). 246 inspections, roughly 1/3 high risk. 200 certificates issued for local fisherman. 346 individual inspections
- Kudos to partners, way smoother this year. Coordination better.
- Game wardens conducted over 80 inspections; over 75 watercraft turned around and brought back to station
- Gerald W: Need to add AIS as a line on every permit (not just boats, but all potential vectors that touch raw water)

CSKT (Erik Hanson)

- Provided overview and handout (specific to Ravalli)
- Lori C: Did you have to purchase light banks for nighttime? Erik: Job site lights on pole, worked just fine. No issues with staffing really.
- Joann W: Feel for percent of drive-bys? Erik: Boats just aren't out at night as much as day. Probably intercepted 90% of drive-bys; over 30 citations written.
- Idaho stats similar – fewer boats at night, but still are moving. Even though low numbers, can be high risk.
- Erik H: Is \$6.5M enough to address all of the traffic coming into the state?

GLACIER (Chris Downs)

- Compete for federal funding for Glacier National Park AIS program.
- Intermountain region has some funding to go to AIS this season – all the way to Amistad TX.
- Highlight collaborative nature of these groups has allowed Glacier to be successful in getting additional funds for AIS (such as UC³, FBC, CMP).

MISSOULA COUNTY (Lindsey Bona-Eggeman)

- Nothing to add from last meeting
- End of season inspections workshop great!

FWP (Tom Woolf)

- Inspections workshop (Oct): Most of partners made it to the post-season workshop and discussion of how things went during the season. Really helped with those stations contracting with FWP. Some outcomes/recommendations for 2019:
 - Hiring/contracting and quality control – reiterate protocols
 - Assemble/deploy specimen collection kits for AIS found on boats
 - Develop/distribute weekly AIS updates to inspectors and partners
 - Update training/coordinate with partners
- Stats 2018: 99k inspections/16 fouled boats
 - Data app was a bit clunky – number of issues. CO framework didn't capture all of the data that we wanted. Working on addressing, will hopefully be ready next season.
 - Comparisons: 2016: 5 staff; 39k inspections; 610 samples. 2017: 12 staff, 86k inspections, 1670 samples. 2018: 12 staff, 99k inspections; 2100 samples. A lot of changes occurred last season: sheds for shelter, updated protocols, electronic data app.
- 2019: A lot more changes planned. Improve protocols, oversight, quality control, expand coordination with partners, education efforts. Now moving into next year –

funding uncertain. Needs to be reauthorized. EQC plan but others too – uncertainty about sources, duration, amount. Add 310 permit language. Enhance regional coordination (esp. on containment and transport issues). ‘AIS Program Coordinator’ position – focus more on inspections.

- Move stations, close Lincoln (operate Clearwater station both directions). Increase local partners on station operations (try new approach) - Wilbaux, Flowing Wells.
- Updating passport. Great educational tool and proof of inspection.
- Mandatory hot wash for all boats recently in mussel-positive waterbodies.
 - Erik H: Thought it was mussel positive states. Tom W: Not sure we have capacity – example of Dakotas, places with only a handful of mussel-infested waterbodies. Default to hot wash if any uncertainty.
- Tiber/Canyon Ferry changes: Improve hiring, training, oversight. Site improvements (campground for staff, inspection sites), locks on gates that record users, open Willow Creek launch (add inspection station), hot wash required for all boats leaving, sampling/survey – expand eDNA efforts.
- Evaluating everything, trying to make things better every year. Program has come a long way in a short period of time.
- Chris P: What about internal ballast? Tom W: Yes, for boats coming from mussel-infested waters. For Powell, going to keep quarantine rule (lock to trailer for at least a week).
- Kate W: Any discussion of continuing research on mussel viability in ballasts (e.g. duration, days, transport, etc.)? Tom W: Yes, BOR funding set aside for this purpose.
- Discussion on temperature of ballast rinse (120 degrees) and risk of new boats coming in that are tested in surface waters and farm equipment (irrigation pipes)
- Chris P: Railway shipments of boats happening more and more (esp. during busy season). **If pattern increases, will be a vector we need to watch and address.**
- Chris P: Aside from hot water, any environmentally friendly way to treat ballasts? Tom W: Currently no real chemical labeled and accepted by practitioners at this time. Recent study showed mussels can even live in anti-freeze!
- Adjusted hours/opening dates by station with intention to best address risk.
- Gerald W: What about on-water inspections? Ensure that boats were inspected prior to launch. Effective? Tom W: I don’t think we’ve marketed it well enough or communicated like we should - some wardens do that, but limited coverage. Erik H: No way to differentiate between those that came from out of state vs. in state
- Gerald W: Game Wardens on reservation – spot checks on lakes. Record that there was a check. Curious to see if that will make a difference – increase compliance amongst boaters.
- Erik H: FWP operational hours – most stations operated 16 hrs/7 days a week? Tom W: Not all, but some. 16 hr days require switch shifts - crew of 4 in state vehicle, then 2nd crew in 2nd vehicle. Remote stations with tough labor pool issues.
- Stacey S: Appreciate snapshot of programs. In regard to EDRR, watercraft inspections data – what is central repository for data? Does that exist already? Tom W: Right now repository is FWP. [Montana Natural Heritage Program](#) also has invasive species distribution and monitoring efforts now too – public website.
- Gerald W: Fishing licenses – communicate AIS and rules to anglers? Tom W: Requested change to system so angler would have to read requirements and check a box that understand rules. Have targeted them more with education, but not formally through licensing system. Gerald W: Yes, should be a no brainer. Not sure what political barriers are, but that should happen.

<p>Erik Hanson (Committee Chair), Tom Woolf, Germaine White</p> <p>Committee Updates: Response</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom W: Columbia River Basin Driessenid Mussel Exercise held at Flathead Lake September 11-13. Provided important enactment of statewide guidelines – have to practice to ensure we’re as prepared as we could be. Reality is that Flathead Lake would be one of the more difficult places in the nation to respond to given size, scope and joint management. Need to plan for another EDRR response exercise next year – likely won’t be Flathead again, but open to ideas. • Erik H: Went really well, many experts and knowledgeable people that can be called on to help in the event of a detection. • Germaine W: Great exercise. Not enough to just have a plan. Number of participants good – lots of diversity. Really good exercise. Media event was positive too.
<p>Lori Curtis (Committee Chair), Tia Metzger (Windfall), Germaine White, Tom Woolf</p> <p>Committee Updates: Education & Outreach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom W: Liz Lodman dedicated PIO for AIS Program. Provide E&O tools to Conservation Districts and partners. Educator trainings offered for free in 2018 (3 statewide). Targeting diverse audiences in addition to boaters. • Germaine W: Mussel Walk middle school kids across the Reservation, very successful. Hundreds of kids, curriculum developed. This year partner with Salish Kootenai College and get some student interns. • Presentation from Tia Metzger (Windfall) – awarded contractor for MISC, UC3 and invasivespecies.mt.gov and fine-tuning the branding. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Completed phases: Phase 1: Work plan development, timeline. Phase 2: Research and discovery, look at other sites, access and knowledge of state website system. Phase 3: Brand development (for MISC, UC3 and FBC). ○ Brand and style guide: identity, color palette (coordinate with MISC look and feel) ○ Website: site map finalized, design and layout next. Ensure that design can work on state platform. Gathering and updating content. ○ ACTION: Add Tribal sites to partners page ○ Summit materials, table cloths, thank you cards in the works/completed. ○ Deadline for suggestions on materials – 2nd week in January (send requests). ○ Next: Website development – Jan 31; functionality/quality control - March 15th final approval. Launch this spring. • Jay M: Know before you go – focus on materials to target snowbirds. • ACTION: Suggest adding ‘know before you go’ concepts to FWP CleanDrainDry website if not already covered
<p>Public Comment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stacey S: Economic impact analysis- status? Kate W: Presenting results to executive (agency directors, Governor’s Office) next week. Pending results of that, should be able to release soon. Also will have published peer-reviewed journal article in Biological Invasions (<i>pending</i>) that outlines process, formulas and outcome. • Gerald W: East vs west side of the state – inspections breakdown? Where does East start? Tom W: Concentration of stations within Upper Columbia. Gerald W: We’re on the west side of state, but east side of Divide. Up until 4 years ago, really hadn’t heard much about invasive mussels. Now a priority for all of these partners.
<p>Next Steps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doodle for dates in February for monitoring workshop (early to mid February) • Check in with Jay M on training dates in February
<p>Wrap up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to adjourn (Phil M). Seconded (Stacey S). All in favor. <i>Motion passes</i> • Adjourned at 2:41 PM

4. Action Items				
Action		Assigned	Due Date	Status
1	Send out meeting notes and updates	Kate Wilson	12/18/18	Completed
2	Figure out next meeting date, location and logistics	Kate Wilson	1/5/19	Completed
3	Work with monitoring committee on solicitation process	Kate Wilson	2/5/19	In Progress – new process agreed upon
4	Quarterly accounting report (by org code)	Kate Wilson	1/31/19	In Progress – will provide as needed
5	Post notice of executive committee calls on website	Kate Wilson	2/15/19	Completed
6	Look into railway transport of watercraft as potential high risk vector	Tom Woolf/FWP	4/1/19	In progress
6	Plan for another EDRR response exercise next year (2019)	Tom Woolf	4/1/19	In progress
7	Add Tribal sites to partners page (invasivespecuies.mt.gov)	Kate Wilson	1/31/18	Completed
8	Add 'know before you go' concepts to FWP CleanDrainDry website if not already covered (target snowbirds)	Liz Lodman/FWP		
EXISTING ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS				
	Check on where 'Grow boating' fund goes (fee on products that boat dealers buy – all manufacturers part of program)	Chris Parrott		In Progress?
	Agenda item for future meeting: Does this body continue beyond next biennium? (HB622 sunsets Jan 2019)	Lori Curtis		In Progress
	Signage gaps to address boater movement (esp at night)	Education & Outreach Committee		In Progress
	Finalize Annual Monitoring Plan for EQC submission	ED & Monitoring Committee		In Progress