

UPPER COLUMBIA CONSERVATION COMMISSION (UC³) MEETING

Wednesday, February 20th, 2019
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks - Region 1 office
490 N. Meridian Rd., Kalispell, MT

AGENDA

9:00 AM	Welcome & Agenda	Lori Curtis, Chair UC ³ , Cons. Districts Rep.; Science & Education Director, Whitefish Lake Institute
9:05 AM	Workshop Acknowledgements	Tom Woolf, Invasive Species Council Representative; AIS Bureau Chief, MFWP
9:10 AM	Introductions	All
9:20 AM	Introduction of Sarah Ganter, Big Sky Watershed Corps Member, Planned Activities & Work Plan; Introduce other partner Big Sky Watershed Corps Members present	Sarah Ganter
9:30 AM	Approval of Minutes, Staff Report AIS Program Evaluation	Kate Wilson, UC ³ Administrator
9:45 AM	Break	
10:00 AM	Education & Outreach Discussion & Action Items	Lori Curtis, E&O Committee Chair Liz Lodman
10:30 AM	Legislative Updates	TBD Rep Curdy
11:30 AM	Budget Review, BOR Funding & Procurement Discussion	Kate Wilson
12:30 PM	Lunch (Provided)	
1:00 PM	Public Comment	
1:15 PM	Next Meeting, 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:		February 20, 2019	Time: 9:00 AM – 1:15 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 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>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>Mike Koopal</u> (Whitefish Lake Institute: member at large), Kate Wilson (DNRC/UC3/FBC Commission Administrator), <u>BJ Johnson</u> (Recreation Organization), Jo Grady (USFWS)</p> <p>Public/Other: GL Hamilton (FWP), Hailey Graf (Flathead CD), Erik Hanson (Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes), Sierra Mahseelah (Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes), Jenny Jarvis (AIS Solutions), Mike Hensler (FWP), Matt Boyer (FWP), Russ Hartzell (FWP), Liz Lodman (FWP), Sarah Ganter (UC³ Big Sky Watershed Corps), McKenzie Schessl (Clearwater Resource Council Big Sky Watershed Corps), Natalie Poremba (Crown Managers Partnership Big Sky Watershed Corps), Cynthia Inglefinger (Whitefish Lake Institute), Onno Wieringa, Cynthia Ingelfinger (Whitefish Lake Institute), Gerald Wagner (Blackfeet), Bryce Christiaens (Montana Invasive Species Council/Missoula County Weed District)</p>			
3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues			
Presenter		Topic/Discussion	
Lori Curtis, Tom Woolf Welcome		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions & agenda overview • Review of 2/19 monitoring workshop (Tom) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FWP monitoring program overview and partner plans for 2018 ○ Goal to increase coordination and enhance program with partners ○ Reporting App ○ Kate reviewed action items (see monitoring workshop notes) • Executive Committee meetings summary: 1/9, 1/24, 2/6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regular agenda: Roundtable updates; Commission business; Funds/grants; Status of projects; Committee membership and work; Agenda planning for upcoming meeting(s); Review action items • Quorum for meeting acknowledged 	
Sarah Ganter Big Sky Watershed Corps Program		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with UC³ to develop marina pilot program and assist with education & outreach (primary role) • Implementation intended to engage marina & boat shop operators and owners • Work Plan currently in development • Based at Whitefish Lake Institute, but will be traveling extensively • Tom: Original idea behind pilot program – notification from infested marinas that have boats leaving to launch in Montana waters 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States of Texas and Oregon have started similar programs – would like to pilot here and come out with some templates and lessons that can be applied widely across region/US • Erik: Need to work on notification from shops when they are expecting shipments of new/used boats – will that be part of project? Tom: Could enhance efforts. • Russ: Potential to train and certify marina staff? Tom: Sure, it’s possible. • Erik: Has happened before – trained staff from all marinas and boat shops around Flathead Lake <p>Other Big Sky Watershed Corps Members at meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McKenzie Schessl: Clearwater Resource Council (Seeley Lake) – monitoring focus. Work with volunteers and generate more. Education & outreach in local community and schools. Develop ‘Clearwater Lakes Alliance’ to provide a cohesive network of watershed groups and HOAs in the Clearwater. • Natalie Poremba: Crown Managers Partnership (stationed at FLBS). Will help sample for AIS with FLBS and will also be working on education efforts such as the ‘mussel walk’ with CSKT. AIS, GIS work and native salmonids.
<p>Kate Wilson</p> <p>Approval of Minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to approve minutes from December 12, 2018 meeting (Stacey). Seconded (Phil). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i>
<p>Kate Wilson/Lori Curtis</p> <p>Staff updates</p>	<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"> ▪ MWCC Annual Meeting ▪ Crown Managers Partnership Steering Committee – monthly calls ○ ‘Mutual Learning’ Skilled Facilitator Training ○ Grant funding – planning, requirements, etc. ○ Education & outreach ○ Website design/planning (invasivespecies.mt.gov) ○ Tracking AIS legislation, budgets and programmatic changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PNWER Capitol visit planning ▪ AIS Info session January 14 ▪ DNRC budget hearing January 29 ▪ HB32 EQC AIS Funding Bill ▪ HB411 Alternate AIS Funding Bill ▪ SB257 Upper Columbia Conservation Commission • AIS Program Evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Responses/highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partner/Stakeholder: 87 respondents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Direct experience’ (program partner and/or funded for AIS work in Montana) • ‘Indirect stakeholder, vested interest, engaged in issue/program, boater, angler) • ‘Other’ (bordering jurisdiction, UC³ Commissioner, etc) ▪ Public: 133 respondents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Direct experience’ (boat inspection, monitoring, training/info session, other) x108 ○ Next Steps: Press Release – UC³ updates, grant funding, AIS Program Evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide summary and data to FWP for consideration ▪ Make summary available to interested parties (website)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FWP Household Survey Results – look at data in both ○ Discussion: Worth keeping the survey up as a means of soliciting information about partner/public experiences moving forward? Good way to get feedback. Kate: Couldn't hurt – could host on new UC3 website. ○ Stacy: Co-ops include 40% of Montanans – could maybe send link through newsletters next time. ○ ACTION: Kate/Sarah to summarize data and send to UC³ ○ ACTION: Liz to send Kate both FWP documents ○ ACTION: Write up and provide summary and recommendations on partner and public perceptions and experiences to FWP ○ ACTION: Explore options for hosting continuing survey on UC³ website
<p>Kate Wilson</p> <p>Budget & Grant Reporting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current budget breakdown <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Base budget/state allocation (\$5,000 annually) - <u>Balance \$3,528 (FY19)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meetings \$956 ▪ Member Travel \$2,572 ○ DNRC AIS Grant (\$15,000) - <u>Balance \$13,160</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Website/materials (Windfall) \$1,840 ○ Bureau of Reclamation AIS Grant (\$120,000) - <u>Balance \$107,750</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Big Sky Watershed Corps (Sarah Ganter) \$12,250 ▪ All out of item 4 (marina/boat shop pilot) • BOR grant amendments approved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Move funds from supplies to contracting (Item 1: E&O) ○ Move funds from contracting to personnel (Item 4: Marina Pilot) ○ Response category – will likely require another amendment • Erik: Can travel reimbursement apply to committee members as well as Commission members? Kate: Not sure, but can ask legal. • Motion: Pending legal review, allow reimbursement for non-Commission committee members (Phil). Mike (2nd). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i>
<p>Liz Lodman, Kate Wilson</p> <p>UC3 Education & Outreach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination with FWP – early season proposal • Liz: Not sure about AIS budget for early season education/advertising – would be helpful for UC³ to augment in the Upper Columbia, esp things that are 'divide-able' by Continental Divide • UC³ potential means of augmenting FWP advertising and outreach efforts: TV/online or social media; print ads; radio ads (MPR); billboard options. • PSAs (Clearwater Resource Council) now available. Showed at meeting – six PSAs focusing on target demographics including ag producers, water & energy users • \$15,000 available to UC³ (BOR grant) for E&O outreach/advertising • Provides ability to work with FWP and enhance efforts in the Upper Columbia. Went over proposal and showed examples of PSAs, print ads and social media ads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Launch PSAs in Upper Columbia (online, social media, TV) – Kalispell, Missoula, Butte (April – June) ○ Print ads: Whitefish Pilot, Daily Inter Lake, Hungry Horse News, Missoulian, Ravalli Republic, Butte Standard (April – June) ○ Montana Public Radio: April - June ○ Billboard option? ○ Gas station TV? Fuel TV • Mike: Most of this drops off after June – what is rationale? Boaters peak in July. Canadian traffic? Liz: End of fiscal year. FWP will have more AIS funding for next fiscal year – would really need more help this fiscal year.

- Stacey: What is messaging for targeting boaters in the Flathead during the summer? Most people aren't leaving the basin. Chris: Some do, though tend to stay in Montana.
- Lori: Daily Inter-lake does do a combined issue with Alberta – can request that issue. Hailey: Port of Entry (Flathead Beacon) 'all you need to know.' Matt: Good portion of the basin in BC – good idea.
- Erik: CSKT ads on radio and TV in the Flathead (Missoula & Kalispell). Will change strategy a bit this season. Mailing packages to out of state property owners around the lake – target the ones that live elsewhere part of the year (higher risk).
- BJ: When you do inspection – can you incorporate questions about signage, media, etc. to inform us where funding best spent. Ham: Does include a few questions about experience. Russ: Now effort is really to reduce the time boaters spend at inspection stations. Effort to ask less questions. Maybe could do a trial one weekend at a couple stations. Erik: Question used to be on inspection survey – but inspectors actually stop asking the questions that aren't totally necessary. Russ: Maybe could include in region 1 office survey because it's voluntary. Ham: Still taking time away from inspection – boaters still get antsy even though voluntary.
- Liz: FWP conducted household survey getting at motorized/non-motorized boat ownership and knowledge/behaviors related to AIS. Hoping to do FWP household survey again in 2 years.
- Discussion: How do you get out of state boaters to care about whether or not they get a boat inspection?
- Onno: How to make Montanans want to be part of this program and not feel like it's onerous. More boater fees might not sell the program...don't want it to be an irritant. Education programs has to go towards selling the right thing to do. Don't penalize the 'innocent' people to target bad operators. Tiber boaters must feel picked on – pictures of gates being driven through, etc. Businesses around the lakes should be targeted. VRBO/AirB&B targets – how to get to those people? Out of state landowners is good. In-state landowners – education for Montana people who live on lakes has to be better (not there yet). BSWC members could really be a good help with face-to-face education. All state employees, partner groups – we're all Montanans! Part of their training and guidance has to be looking for things that 'aren't right' – obligation if you work for these organizations. FWP experience at parks – 'not trained to do that' mentality.
- BJ: Vacation rentals – how to target? Put a package together and send to property management companies (numerous in the valley that handle vacation rentals).
- TIP-MONT number. Make it easier to call when people see something? What happens if you call 'hotline' on the CDD messaging? Tom: The more we can change the mindset and get people on-side, the better.
- Mike: Are we actively advertising the TIP-MT hotline? Self-policing is hard when you don't know who to call. Liz: Could be better, but it has been advertised. Erik: Is TIP MT ready to handle those calls? Russ: Highway Patrol Dispatch – they haven't been cross-trained to deal with AIS very well. Onno: You need to address the response time issue.
- Discussion: Reserve some funds for anything we haven't thought of or need to adjust for? Kate: Can use some funds out of the contract category as well (Windfall could secure ad space/vendors). Helps me to know up front what you want funds to be used on – have to reserve space in media early on.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: Dedicate \$10k towards FWP marketing plan of 2019 proposal and to authorize Kate to dedicate the remaining \$5k on additional items (see action items below). STACEY. 2nd (Phil). All in favor, <i>motion passes</i>. • ACTION: Look into cross-border publications for AIS advertising (Beacon, Daily Interlake) • ACTION: Look into Fuel TV advertising • ACTION: Explore opportunities to target property management companies with AIS messaging as way to better target visitors
<p>Bryce Christiaens</p> <p>Aquatic Invasive Species Funding Bill</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of AIS bills and placeholders – cover bills that has been introduced (not placeholders). • Legislative website – see current bills and detailed information, fiscal notes, etc. • Two main AIS funding bills (HB32, HB411), both carried by Rep. Curdy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HB32: fair amount of general fund (1/2 for biennium), considerably more than last biennium. Hydro removed and replaced by general fund. Slight differences in angler prevention pass. Added boater fees. Has had a hearing (Feb 4) – a lot of support for program but opposition to bill itself based on funding scheme. Governor’s office ○ HB411: \$3.5M of hydro added back in (no cooperatives though). Anglers prevention pass included, boater registration fee. FWP has seen a decrease in angler licenses. Exemption for youth anglers. Boat sticker required for non-resident boaters only. ○ Chair of Committee (Rep. White) might be putting together a separate working group to attempt to merge or change bills • HB402: Rep. Hertz sponsor, coming from Montana Association of Counties (MACO) resolution. Brought forward by Lake County Commissioner. Counties that are in the Columbia River Basin can already pass resolutions to prevent AIS (from last session) – wasn’t a lot of information about what that would entail in the last session, so this bill clarifies and adds quarantine authority, penalties, and ability to raise funds (property owners, etc.). Vertebrate statute modification – includes ‘invertebrates.’ Intended specifically for zebra and quagga mussels. • All of these bills have fiscal notes attached. • Rep. Curdy also has a joint resolution to congress in the works – specific to federal dollars authorized for use in state AIS programs. • Cuffe Senate Bill 257 is specific to UC³ - increases number of legislators (doubles) and increases membership by geographic areas. • Kate: Adds Conservation organization, natural resource or fishing/hunting groups from Upper Clark Fork River Basin, Bitterroot River Basin, Big Blackhole River Basin (Seeley-Swan), Kootenai River Basin, Lower Clark Fork River Basin and Flathead River Basin (removes ‘recreation organizations’ to create this seat – will request that Gov Office keep BJ in that seat). This would add 5 new voting members to UC³ if this passes. I believe this will address concerns that we’ve heard about UC³ not representing the entire basin and will also help engage more groups throughout basin. Especially at the table as a voting member. • LC recently added by Rep. Reed (Ronan): mandatory decon of ballast boats. • Erik: Tom McDonald (CSKT) conversation with Rep. Reed. Mandates all ballast boats entering state and crossing Continental Divide (to west) be decontaminated and charged \$50 for services. Will make it easier for inspectors to know what to do (decon each one). Looked at volume of wakeboard boats – max 10 a day. Should have capacity at stations to make this work.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIS work session at legislature in January – joint meeting of house and senate Natural Resources Committees (and sub appropriations) to go over information and stats about the AIS program in the past two years. Included budget information. Applause! Went very well. • Mike: Governor’s Bill 411 includes co-ops? Stacey: No it doesn’t. Complete support from electric co-ops for both funding proposals. • Mike: HB402 is enabling legislation for counties? Bryce: Allows those counties who choose to do so to augment invasive mussel prevention. • Interest in supporting one or both bills? • Mike: Motion to support SB257 and after it’s been vetting with the Governor’s Office and instruct Lori to present testimony at the Feb 22 hearing. Phil (2nd). All in favor, <i>motion passes</i>. • Stacey: My thoughts would be that we don’t comment on HB411. We did discuss funding, we explored matrix. UC³ didn’t make a funding recommendation. I believe that the AIS program is going to be funded one way or the other. • Bryce: MISC has taken stance that they support AIS funding and program – but not supporting any specific position. Tom: Agree – no need to weigh in on specifics. • ACTION: Kate to continue to send links for AIS related bills out to UC3. • ACTION: Kate to keep UC3 updated on SB257
Kate Wilson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope based on initial grant agreement - Expansion of current AIS monitoring efforts; development of an annual monitoring plan with maps delineating who is monitoring for which AIS in which waterbodies using which technique; drafting of standard protocol for Upper Columbia Basin. • <u>Budget</u>: \$20,300 available for contract. \$2000 supplies. Balance is indirect. • <u>Timeline</u>: March 2019 – October 2020. • <u>Process</u>: List of potential contractors/organizations. Draft language for procurement with small committee (FWP, DNRC, UC³) comprised of individuals with NO potential to bid on the contract. Send information for ‘limited solicitation’ via email. Committee reviews and ranks proposals and UC³ issues contract. • Discussion on standing up new programs (training, equipment, protocol, etc.) to cover new areas (e.g. Lake Como, Georgetown, etc.) vs supporting existing efforts. Are there groups doing water quality work that would be a good fit to train to do AIS monitoring? Geographic expansion. Way to allow bids under the full amount (e.g. smaller projects)? Kate: Potentially. Will work out with legal, procurement and smaller committee that will be working on the solicitation. • ACTION: Establish committee to draft procurement language and review/rank proposals. Tom Woolf, Stacy Schmidt, Kate Wilson, Erik Hanson, Stacey Schnebel volunteered. • Erik: Question on next FY grants – BOR. Kate: No plans at this point to apply for additional grants and BOR is uncertain how long this particular funding stream will continue.
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bryce: North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) requested Montana consider hosting next conference – Whitefish resort idea. Field trips good there. Reach out to UC³ to partner. Capacity? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cedar Creek Lodge in Columbia Falls is a new good option ○ Columbia River Basin meeting in Spokane June 4-5 • Tom: Week of Oct 7th Western Regional Panel (WRP) meeting in Missoula. Montana hosting. Always good speakers, all western states and major AIS players attend

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kate: Columbia River Basin AIS meeting June 4-5 in Spokane. Will be a good opportunity to work with regional partners and get input on Sarah's marina/boat shop pilot. • Cynthia: MT Lakes Conference Whitefish March 13-15. Lake Ecology 101, USGS, FLBS speakers all free events • Jenny Jarvis: You guys are super awesome. I am new kid on the block – 'super duper comforting.' Don't have a boat, just a regular person. • Tom: Inspections opening in April, trainings happening very soon. If you're interested in attending training, talk to Russ. Talk to people about working for the program – now hiring! Changes in protocols – washing ballast tanks, high risk locations, efficiency improvements. Expediting low risk boaters also a priority. Kalispell office will be open 9-5 weekends, 8-5 weekdays. • March 15th CSKT station opens. Whitefish opens May 1st. FWP early April, Kalispell March 13th. • Other upcoming events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SB257 Hearing February 22, 2:30 pm ○ HB411 Hearing February 22, 3:00 pm ○ Invasive Species Awareness Week February 25-March 1 ○ Montana Invasive Species Awareness Day/Rotunda Event at the Capitol March 1 ○ Big Sky Watershed Corps AIS Training March 5-6 ○ Interested in attending a boat show, fair, etc. on behalf of UC³? Sarah has a list drafted ☺
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: Doodle for dates in late May -(early) June for next meeting.
Wrap up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to adjourn (Phil). Seconded (BJ). All in favor. <i>Motion passes</i> • Adjourned at 12:49 PM

4. Action Items				
Action		Assigned	Due Date	Status
1	Send out meeting notes and updates	Kate Wilson	3/8/19	Completed
2	Figure out next meeting date, location and logistics	Kate Wilson	4/1/19	In progress
3	Kate/Sarah to summarize data and send to UC ³	Kate Wilson/Sarah Ganter	3/30/19	In progress
4	FWP to share household survey results/summaries	Liz Lodman	3/1/19	Completed
5	Write up and provide summary and recommendations on partner and public perceptions and experiences to FWP	Kate Wilson/Sarah Ganter	4/15/19	In progress
6	Explore options for hosting continuing survey on UC ³ website	Kate Wilson/Sarah Ganter	6/1/19	In progress
7	Look into cross-border publications for AIS advertising (Beacon, Daily Interlake), Fuel TV advertising, and explore opportunities to target property management companies with AIS messaging as way to better target visitors	Kate Wilson/Sarah Ganter	3/30/19	In progress
8	Continue to send links for AIS related bills and keep UC ³ updated on SB257	Kate Wilson	On-going	On-going

9	Establish committee to draft procurement language and review/rank proposals. Tom Woolf, Stacy Schmidt, Kate Wilson, Erik Hanson, Stacey Schnebel volunteered.	Kate Wilson to send template and organize call/process	3/30/19	In progress
EXISTING ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS				
10	Plan for another EDRR response exercise next year (2019)	Tom Woolf	4/1/19	In progress
11	Look into railway transport of watercraft as potential high risk vector	Tom Woolf	4/1/19	In progress
12	Quarterly accounting report (by org code)	Kate Wilson	On-going	On-going
13	Add 'know before you go' concepts to FWP CleanDrainDry website if not already covered (target snowbirds)	Liz Lodman (Kate to follow up)		In progress
14	Check on where 'Grow boating' fund goes (fee on products that boat dealers buy – all manufacturers part of program)	Chris Parrott		In Progress?
15	Signage gaps to address boater movement (esp at night)	Education & Outreach Committee		In Progress

DRAFT

UPPER COLUMBIA CONSERVATION COMMISSION (UC³) MEETING

Wednesday, May 15, 2019
KwaTaqNuk Resort (49708 US 93, Polson MT)

AGENDA- REVISED

9:00 AM	Welcome & Agenda	Rich Janssen, Dept. Head, Natural Resources: Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes and Lori Curtis, Chair UC ³ , Cons. Districts Rep.; Science & Education Director, Whitefish Lake Institute
9:10 AM	Introductions	All
9:15 AM	Approval of Minutes Staff Report Marketing Update - Website	Lori Curtis and Ann Schwend (for Kate Wilson, UC ³ Administrator)
9:45 AM	BOR Grant - Monitoring Contract Review Committee Process & Progress Early Detection & Monitoring Committee Discussion	Tom Woolf, Invasive Species Council Rep.; AIS Bureau Chief, MFWP & Lori Curtis
10:15 AM	Break	
10:30 AM	FWP Updates Monitoring Update Inspections Discussion/Roundtable AIS 'Review Group' concept	Tom Woolf
11:30 AM	UC³ Annual Report Planning	Lori Curtis & Tom Woolf
12:00 PM	Lunch (Provided)	
12:45 PM	Legislative Updates (SB257; HB411; HB408)	Senator Mike Cuffe & Representative Willis Curdy
1:15 PM	UC³ Activities Overview of local/regional/national AIS groups/activities National Aquatic Invasive Species Mgt. Assoc. (NAISMA) meeting – potential to co-host/sponsor/support	Tom Woolf Belle Bergner (<i>invited</i>), Bryce Christiaens
1:45 PM	Public Comment	
	Next Meeting, Wrap-up & Adjourn	Lori Curtis
Optional:	Field Trip to Ravalli Watercraft Inspection Station for UC³ Members	

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. Please contact Kate Wilson (kate.wilson@mt.gov) prior to the meeting date.

The mission of the UC³ is to protect the aquatic environment in Montana tributaries to the Columbia River from the threat of AIS in order to protect water resources, downstream interests, and the economic and ecological vitality of the region.

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting/ Project Name:	Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC³)		
Date of Meeting:	May 15, 2019	Time:	9:00 AM – 1 PM
Minutes Prepared By:	Sarah Ganter	Location:	KwaTaqNuk Resort & Casino (Polson)
1. Welcome and Introductions			
Lori Curtis	Welcome. Lori opened at 9:01 AM. Overview of agenda.		
Introductions (Roundtable)	Each commission member provided roll call introductions including commission position. 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>Phil Matson</u> (Flathead Lake Biological Station: private landowner), <u>Mike Koopal</u> (Whitefish Lake Institute: member at large), <u>BJ Johnson</u> (Recreation Organization), <u>Chris Parrott</u> (Jesco Marine & Powersports/private industry), <u>Paul Kusnierz</u> (Avista fisheries biologist), <u>Tom McDonald</u> (Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation at Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes) standing in for Dennis Clairmont, Brian McKeon (Glacier National Park), Ann Schwend (Water Resource Planner, DNRC) standing in for Kate Wilson, Heidi McMaster (USBR)</p> <p>Public/Other: Rep. Curdy, Sen. Cuffe, Erik Hanson (Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes), Sarah Ganter (UC³, Big Sky Watershed Corps), Onno Wieringa (Resident of Flathead), Bryce Christiaens (Montana Invasive Species Council/Missoula County Weed District), Natalie Poremba (Big Sky Watershed Corps, Crown Managers Partnership, Flathead Lake Biological Station), Cameron Boster (DNRC), Gina Hoff (USBR), Rich Janssen (CSKT Natural Resources Department), Lauren Odom (Big Sky Watershed Corps, Lake County Conservation District, Flathead Lake Biological Station), Patrick Reilley (Missoulian/Ravalli Republic Reporter), Nick Mott (MTPR), Bill Junkermier (Holland/Lindberg Lake), Mike Hensler (FWP region 1 fisheries manager), Heidi Fleury (Lake County Conservation District), Bernie Azure (Public Information Officer at CSKT Tribal Health and Human Services Department) Eileen Neill, Mary Driscoll, Caryn Miske (Watershed Protection Advocates), Kenny (last name unknown)</p>			
3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues			
Presenter	Topic/Discussion		
Rich Janssen/Lori Curtis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome, Introductions & agenda overview Call to order 9:01 AM 		
Welcome			
Lori Curtis/Ann Schwend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Motion</u> to approve minutes from March 15, 2019 meeting (Phil). Seconded (Mike). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i> 		
Approval of Minutes			
Lori Curtis/Ann Schwend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff/Chair report (activities and events) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit travel claims Website is set to launch in late May, early June from local to state server. Pop up displays, event materials, 1 pager by windfall (marketing firm) Bios and photos for the website ACTION: bio and photo by end of week for website 		
Staff updates			
Tom Woolf/Lori Curtis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RFP for proposal for monitoring contract to expand citizen monitoring WLI and Bio Station were chosen for the contract Process: Independent Monitoring Contract Review Committee established at the previous UC³ meeting. Comprised of FWP staff (Tom W, Stacey S, Craig M), UC³ staff 		
Budget & Grant Reporting			

	<p>(Kate W), UC³ member (Stacey S) and UC³ monitoring committee member (Erik H). Committee developed RFP with DNRC template/assistance, reviewed and ranked all proposals, and had call to discuss both applications. Kate and Tom W. reviewed with legal prior to contract being awarded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom, Erik, Kate, Stacey- Monitoring Contract Review Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion on contract: Mike and Phil work for the organizations that were awarded contract but both are also on the Early Detection and Monitoring committee. Mike offered to step down as chair from Early Detection and Monitoring Committee if needed to eliminate any conflict of interest. Could have the commission work on it as a whole if necessary. ○ Legislation states that we have to make an annual monitoring plan. General agreement for Mike to step down as chair. Agree on need for transparency but there are also good reasons for remaining on the committee (both Phil and Mike represent organizations that do a fair amount of monitoring in the basin). There needs to be a separation of who's doing the work and who's delivering the product. What if the review committee stayed in place to ensure no conflict of interest takes place? That could work. • <u>Motion</u>: Request that the Monitoring Contract Review Committee continue the process and keep the committee instated and appoint a new chair (Tom M). Seconded (Paul K). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i> • Recognize the Monitoring Contract Review Committee as the group that will provide oversight on the deliverable products generated through the contract. • <u>Motion</u> for new Chair to take over on Monitoring Committee (Tom W). Second: Paul. All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i> • Clarification: keep the Monitoring Committee intact but when conflict of interest comes up, we look to the Contract Review Committee for assistance. <p>Ann: My perspective is that there are 2 steps in this process, procurement and contract management, and it is important to separate the service providers (contractors) from the UC³ oversight of contract award and deliverables.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of proposals: DNRC managed the procurement process correctly, and the contract between DNRC and the contractors has been reviewed by our legal staff and is being finalized now. The contractors were not involved in any of the review of the submitted proposals, so no conflict of interest in the process. • Contract management and deliverables: As long as we have a UC³ subset (Monitoring Contract Review Committee, led by DNRC staff) that are not involved with either of the organizations that are providing the monitoring services (Flathead Biological Station and Whitefish Lake Institute), there is not a conflict of interest.
<p>Tom Woolf, local partners</p> <p>FWP Updates Monitoring Update Inspections Discussion /Roundtable</p> <p>AIS 'Review Group' concept</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination with FWP – early season proposal • 2019 season inspection station updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improving efficacy and efficiency of the program, moved and closed stations as needed; expanded partner participation; added 310 permit language. ○ Updated data system for inspection and monitoring- funding for next fiscal year is ongoing. ○ Monitoring app has been updated and ready to roll out- contact us and coordinate with us. ○ Over 4500 inspections have been done so far this season, 5 mussel fouled vessels.

- Contracted stations, CSKT, Blackfeet, Missoula county, Garfield CD, McCone CD. Others (not contracted): glacier, bighorn, NRA, Whitefish Lake. Idaho is set up through CD and there are receptive partners here in MT.
- Extended hours/season- complicated. Trying to have a local CD run it (talking to folks out east to have local enforcement involved, ex. Wibaux).
- Lincoln was closed, clearwater junction is open in both directions, Broadus (highway 212) is a main road that has a gap, trying to set up additional station and we have money to put that in place. Before 4th of July.
- All stations will be open by 5/25- info is on website and will have regular updates.
- Flathead basin inspection before launch rule is set to expire HB622, we are putting petition to extend that; will be posted in the next few weeks.
- Ballast boat bill (HB608): Erik: it was passed a few days ago.
- Monitoring 2019.
 - Crew is being trained this week
 - Divers snorkeling, substrate and shorelines surveys planned for Tiber and Canton Ferry. Tiber eDNA with Bio station: does almost real time body DNA
 - If we don't have any further detections at Canyon Ferry (over 3 years) we can delist after this season, but we will continue aggressive sampling forever
- Glacier (Brian): Waterton, Lake McDonald North Fork waters last sat, motorized will be allowed on McDonald and Bowman (hand launched) for less than 10 horsepower, 30-day dry time for glacier.
- Whitefish (Mike): WLI is open, State Park and City Beach. We have entered into an MOU with the city of whitefish to move the decontamination station to the overflow parking lot on Edgewood. If you leave WL you can get an exit seal and if you come back to WL with the seal unbroken you will have less of a wait time.
 - Mike: ED monitoring for eDNA on local lakes in the WF area, including a partnership with USFS on HH reservoir (USFS committee grant) -Beth Gardner from USFS
- Flathead Lake Bio Station (Phil): Water has been too cold to sample for veligers, CSKT to sample south side, Jayden Duckworth to sample North? Sample 31 sites 3x a year, most are shoreline sites, 12 boat sites. Have student interns from SKT and BSWC assisting with monitoring. eDNA get sent to UM eDNA lab, veligers get sent to Helena lab.
 - Gina: do you deploy any plates? Substrate samplers? Phil: no, but we are trying to get high school students to help out with that.
- CSKT (Erik): With BOR funding we are operating in the valley 24 hrs., 4-5 days a week, local enforcement and drive-bys. We have increased compliance
 - Additional sampling for aquatic plants moving into the flathead reservation.
- Missoula County (Bryce): clearwater station is open and we have a roving inspection for Clearwater and Seely Lake. County Weed District provides additional funding for CRC, SVC, BF challenge from Missoula Weed District for monitoring or outreach
- Discussion:
 - Sen. Cuffe: page 4 of the Daily Interlake today- not much info 14/7000 checks were confirmed. Tom W: working with Idaho to better communicate on these boats that are intercepted- have their boats been out of the water for a long time? Are the mussels dead? --- midwestern states are still a problem, they have laws but they are not enforced

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sen. Cuffe: Pacific North West Economic Region (PNWER)- we think we are gaining success on the southern end (Havasus, Powell, Meade), we are trying to work on the west now. ○ BOR (Heidi): approved \$50K worth of improvements- something to look into. Coordinate with GL regional panel to connect dots ○ Onno: As good as everything is going, there are still gaps, if you see something, say something (regarding boats), it's got to be part of their job to call Tom or someone because there is a huge source of organizations to reach out to. Tom W: of course, it can't just be FWP, please reach out ● Tom W: Do we want to see more info (re: monitoring)? Reviewed spreadsheet he sent out earlier this month? Mike: yes, subheading ex (under eDNA, what type found? Months of reproductive cycle- when? So, we can coordinate—on the website are you delineating between microscopy and eDNA? Maybe use different icons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Heidi: where are the samples being taken? off docks, on boats etc., whether or not they are adults etc. ● Tom W: do we want UC³ to help with this or just FWP? We can add dates/timelines, more into on target of eDNA, we can have UC³ provide input and updates and put in online. Some sort of online doc. Phil: Bio station sends out info to FWP and Montana Heritage program is that seems like a great idea for it to be housed at FWP. Tom W: sheet is static. Phil: dropdown menu instead of just yes/no. Tom W: great. That can come from you, so be specific in your updates to us. Mike: if your spreadsheet is too much, we can tabulate the spreadsheet at the bottom for specific areas of interest ● ACTION: Tom W. to allow access to mapping database to partners (public facing, with map if possible) ● ACTION: All to provide feedback and ideas on mapping spreadsheet, database and sharing of monitoring data to Tom ● Tom: want to have a coordinated message to send out to people ● ACTION: If you need materials or AIS information contact Liz Lodman with FWP ● Tom working on creation of an AIS Advisory Group for Montana <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ provide regular updates, ○ forum to provide observations/recommendations/feedback, ○ AIS summit this fall- get everyone together Helena, maybe other locations, review what happened this season, solicit input, plan for 2020 (seasons overlap) ○ Advisory group is just going to be an email list to go out and to get feedback from anyone ○ Tom M: who is your email list? NGOs, nonprofits, irrigators etc. are interested. ● ACTION: Tom W. to update AIS Advisory Group ASAP
<p>Lori Curtis/Tom Woolf</p> <p>UC³ Annual Report Planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Required report to governor's office for what we have accomplished (required of all boards and commissions). How can we change/improve this for this year? ● Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Phil: Pretty complete. Sen. Cuffe: in regard to outreach: where do we get materials from/distributed? Lori: Kate has a couple of boxes of materials and from FWP. UC³ specific we have the annual report specific and 1pager ○ Sen. Cuffe: Suggested to put at campgrounds. ● Natalie: At earth day event, activity successful: take 2 tubs of water and a plastic boat; 1 container you put dill and quinoa and the other has clean water. They see that the dill and quinoa stick to the boat etc. Lori: there are lots of fun outreach materials

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: Current photos to include in report please send to Lori Curtis • ACTION: Share thoughts for report with Lori/Kate
<p>Sen. Cuffe</p> <p>Legislative Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During this session, stayed out of AIS a bit because wanted other folks to have an interest in it and they did step up. • <u>HB32</u>- Environmental quality council (EQC) provides oversight on FWP, DNRC, DEQ. 12 interim committees to provide oversight on certain aspect of the state gov't. Charged with mission to propose AIS funding. Initially proposed bulk of funding to come from the general fund and angler pass. Hope Stockwell helped us come up with how much each section would be. FWP and gov office was researching funding. • Decided to introduce <u>HB411</u>: hydro, prevention pass for anglers, boater prevention pass (non-resident) and resident boat registration fee. Decrease in sale of nonresident fishing license- lowered that fee and remove the fee for anyone under 16yo. FWP had already been assessing new boat trailers based on size of the boat and trailer. Under HB32 each boat owner would be charged for each boat they owned. FWP proposal suggested a 1 x fee based on the size of the boat. Out of state boat fee, annual with 10\$ non-motorized fee. Use 1.5 mil from bed tax fee. Went to senate and added hydro, adding \$500K every biennium. House to remove boat fee for residents and use general fund to replace that. Non-resident boat fee for both motorized (\$30) and non-motorized (\$10) still in place (annual fee). • HB411: Willis Curdy carried both funding bills. HB411 passed but wasn't the only bill funding AIS. \$5.5 mil per year, I was happy that we could reduce the request due to efficiency. We had good information coming into the session this year with an AIS information session that the state and partners hosted. PNWER attended as well. Legislators appreciated efforts. • Rep Curdy was on EQC- everyone wanted to be part of it. Got it funded 17 to 19. We will continue to improve funding package. I think it should be funded by a general fund. From bed tax to power generation (hydro). Approved, passed it to senate and then to the house. House wasn't happy (thought bed tax was their idea). • <u>SB257</u>-Wanted more of a legislative connection to UC³: helps with funding, setting priorities, building strong relationships. There have been some concerns that the UC³ membership is focused mostly on the Flathead Valley- need outreach elsewhere too. Section 2- changes to area. Tried to boost membership and outreach area. Passed substantially. • Added 2 additional legislators and 5 new members representing specific sub-basins within the Upper Columbia (individuals that can represent a 'natural resource, conservation organization or hunting/fishing group') that can represent the following areas: Upper Clark Fork River Basin, Lower Clark Fork River Basin, Bitterroot River Basin, Big Blackfoot (Seeley-Swan), Kootenai River Basin, Flathead River Basin. • Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ACTION: recommendations for positions ○ Ann: any listservs etc. to send this out? Lori: Yes, UC³ has ListServ. ○ Tom M: partner is missing. Need to get State and Federal highways involved because check stations are located along these routes. It's a constant struggle to get a reoccurring spot. Permanence for public awareness. ○ Tom M: Have we thought about courting EQC or Dept of Transp. And actively reach out is there a way to get on the agenda for DOT? Cuffe: Yes, they have a committee, but invite Mike Tooley (agency director)

- BJ: what position am I in now? Lori: Flathead Basin rep for recreation. Legislators wanted to keep odd number of voting members.
- HJ17- Asked congress to sign resolution from Sen Crapo (ID), Sen Bennett (CO), for AIS prevention on Upper Columbia and Missouri River Basins. Bill died and has not been reintroduced.
- B/c MT fishing season starts March 1st, new numbers of previous pass don't change until march of next year- unfortunately we will be charging like previously.
- Discussion:
 - Phil: you mentioned there was \$800k for Tiber? Curdy: Yes, this is BOR money and to be spend down the line, once it's gone it's gone. Very complex funding. \$650K for DNRC (staff and AIS grants). Key role player here is the tribes, couldn't do it without them. At each point along the political process they were here to support. Credit to Sen Cuffe and Sen Vincent for their work in 2017.
 - Lori: Thank you both for supporting UC3
- Sen. Cuffe: Genuine threat to ag, hydro, recreation, Sen. Nolan, Sen Cuffe. So, I'm going to have to step up to the plate. With term limits- someone else is going to have to step up to the plate--- in 6 yrs. Big thing was 1. To get the funding through 2. Biggest thing, we aren't coming back to this 2 years from now (it's not every session reboot now). Curdy: I agree; you have to establish some continuity of the program and let it run.
- Discussion:
 - Patrick: SB352 that struck some of the boat fees that went to the GF. Curdy: during the Leg session, there was a companion bill that started in the house, passed to the senate--- at the end there became part of a free conference bill that stuffed everything together- government made a proposal to tax inv brokers, passed to house, senate sat on it. In the end on of the comp. bills became HB352. 1 was 35. To 4 mil for radio system for law enforcement and patrol. We have serious comm holes here (I've seen it first hand), took rest of GF \$ to replace res boat fee (HB411 was stripped out and replaced by GF \$). What's going to happen will have to wait until next session.
 - Heidi: this is the first time/first meeting where we've had legislators come to the meeting. I am very impressed, and I appreciate Mike and Willis that you came to the meeting to update us. I have not been to another meeting that coordinated this. Curdy: thank you. I need to attend meetings to hear what is going on. I really appreciate this and think Mike would feel the same way. Heidi: having a direct line of comm is great.
 - Tom M: I wanted to thank you and Mike for this. One thing I noticed that Rep. White said was "what are the downstream states providing to the headwaters outside of MT boundaries". Bonneville, new FWP- wanted brick and mortar funding for check station construction. Curdy: that would be great. My caution is that we need to make sure this is for us in the MT border. I'm saying that because there is some concern that our program can be taken over by other. If they come up with the money that would be great. BPA needs to step up because they have a lot to lose in this situation. Need to see a more aggressive input and work from neighboring states, CO, ID, etc. are doing great. Lake Powell, Meade and Havasu are a serious prob. SNOWBIRDS go to those 3 and about this time, they come north on h93, I15, etc. Fed gov and parks service needs to require mandatory inspection when they come out from those 3. ID has seen this; this is why CO has ginned up

	<p>lately on their inspections. I think we are more focused on the Midwest and that southern region is really imp.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tom W: we intercepted a boat from lake Havasu going to AB, case in point. ● EQC: first meeting mid-June- Rep. Curdy will be there.
<p>Tom Woolf/Bryce Christiaens</p> <p>UC³ Activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overview of AIS groups in the west: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Columbia River Basin (CRB) team is essentially a subcommittee of the Western Regional panel. Used to be called the '100th Meridian.' Very focused on inspections and monitoring across the basin. Includes both US and Canada. Meet in Spokane in June 4th 5th ○ The Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species (WRP) meets in OCT 8-10 in Missoula. Great way to see what is going on in the west and meet them. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACTION: Potential for next UC³ meeting to partner with that group and have meeting same week, get people to WRP conference? ○ Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) meets July 22 in Saskatchewan. Each annual summit has at least one full day dedicated to invasive species. Has helped a lot with federal legislation and awareness. ○ Crown Managers Partnership: Crown of the Continent focused organization that works on several key issues, including aquatic invasive species. Work on this has decreased as state/provincial programs have been developed over the years, but continue to monitor issue and assist with education, such as the reprinting of the AIS CCE identification guides. ○ Montana Invasive Species Council: ○ North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) is a multi-taxa organization that works to enhance coordination and communication across North America. They meet in New York October 1-4. ● Ann: Combine the AIS Advisory Team and this? Tom: Not sure, this is a new concept, details TBD. ● Bryce: Invasive Species Council: NAISMA reached out to ISC and asked if we could host the 2020 conference. Want to move it back out west, whether it is AIS or other similar taxa. Oct 5-9- Lodge at WL and UC³ to be additional partner to plan that conference. ● ACTION: potential field trips or interest in planning: Mike, Sen. Cuffe, Gina, Heidi ● <u>Motion</u>: Mike: motion for members of UC³ commission to join the planning committee for the NAISMA conference. Phil Second. All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i>
Public Comment	N/A
Wrap up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Motion</u> to adjourn (Chris). Seconded (Phil). All in favor. <i>Motion passes</i> <p>Adjourned at 1:01 PM</p>

4. Action Items				
Action		Assigned	Due Date	Status
1	Draft minutes sent to members with suggestions for next meeting date	Kate Wilson	6/30/19	Completed

1	Bio and photo by end of week for website- sent to Lori Curtis	ALL	5/24/19	In progress
2	Tom W. to allow access to partners for spreadsheet for monitoring	Tom Woolf	7/1/19	Completed
3	All to provide feedback and ideas for the AIS Advisory Group to Tom W.	ALL	7/1/19	In progress
4	If you need materials or info contact Liz Lodman with FWP	ALL	On-going	On-going
5	Tom W. to update everyone on AIS Advisory Group happenings. Include UC ³ members in communications.	Tom Woolf	On-going. Updates sent in June, August, October	Completed
6	Current photos to include in UC ³ annual report please send to Lori Curtis	ALL	7/15/19	In progress
7	Share thoughts to Lori about UC ³ annual report	ALL	On-going	In progress
8	Potential for next UC ³ meeting to partner with that group and have meeting same week, get people to WRP conference	Kate Wilson	6/30/19	Completed. Mtg 10/7 before WRP
9	Potential field trips or interest in planning for the NAISMA conference (October 2020)	Mike, Sen. Cuffe, Gina, Heidi	On-going	On-going
EXISTING ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS				
10	Plan for another EDRR response exercise in 2019-2020	Tom Woolf		In progress
11	Look into railway transport of watercraft as potential high-risk vector	Tom Woolf, Chris Parrot		In progress
12	Quarterly accounting report (by org code)	Kate Wilson	On-going	Completed. Review at meeting.
13	Add 'know before you go' concepts to FWP CleanDrainDry website if not already covered (target snowbirds)	Liz Lodman (Kate to follow up)		In progress
14	Check on where 'Grow boating' fund goes (fee on products that boat dealers buy – all manufacturers part of program)	Chris Parrot		In Progress?
15	Signage gaps to address boater movement (esp at night)	Education & Outreach Committee		In Progress

UPPER COLUMBIA CONSERVATION COMMISSION (UC³) MEETING

Monday, October 7, 2019
 DNRC Forestry Division (2705 Spurgin Rd., Missoula, MT)

Directions: From North Reserve, turn right on Spurgin Road and take your 2nd left onto 27th Street. Take the first right into DNRC Forestry Division – large building on north side of parking lot. Conference room behind front desk.

AGENDA

TIME	TOPIC/QUESTION	PRESENTER	PURPOSE/ OBJECTIVE	PREPARATION
10:30 AM	Welcome & Agenda Overview	Lori Curtis, Chair UC ³ , Conservation Districts Rep.; Science & Education Director, Whitefish Lake Institute		Review agenda (packet)
10:40 AM	Introductions	All	Learn about UC ³ members, stakeholders and citizens	N/A
10:50 AM	What Has Staff Been Up To? <i>Minutes, Business Updates and Staff Report</i> ACTION: Approve Line Item Budget	Lori Curtis; Kate Wilson, UC ³ Administrator	Approve Minutes from 5/15; BSWC member partnership for 2020; website & materials update; discuss and approve line item budget	Review Minutes from 5/15 (packet)
11:20 AM	Do our By-Laws Need Updating? Are the Standing Committees Relevant/Functioning? ACTION: Discuss/Approve Changes to By-Laws	Lori Curtis; Kate Wilson	Update By-Laws to reflect new membership. Discuss what is working and what could be better (re: organizational structure, operations, committees)	Review existing by-laws with comments (packet)
NOON	LUNCH	All	Network & have a meal together	N/A
12:45 PM	How is Our Big Sky Watershed Corps Member's Outreach Project? Changes to the Bureau of Reclamation Federal Grant & Marina/Boat/Angling Industry Outreach Project	Kate Wilson; Sarah Ganter, Big Sky Watershed Corps	Learn about Upper Columbia Marina/Boat and Angler Shop Outreach Project and requested changes for federal grant	Review the Upper Columbia Marina/Boat and Angler Shop Outreach Project Work Plan (packet)
1:15 PM	What Should Our UC ³ Annual Monitoring Plan/Report Cover? Updates on the UC ³ Monitoring Contract ACTION: Decide on content for annual monitoring plan (e.g.	Executive Committee Chris Downs, Glacier National Park; all	Discuss and decide on content for annual monitoring plan; include in annual report	Review draft annual report outline. Review UC ³ Monitoring Contract (packet)

	augmenting FWP's plan)			
1:45 PM	How Did the AIS Program Run this Summer? Highlights, Updates and Feedback from FWP & Inspection Partners	Tom Woolf, AIS Bureau Chief – Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks; Inspection Partners	Learn about how the 2019 season went; discuss what worked well and challenges	N/A
2:30 PM	New Zealand Mudsail Detection	Tom Woolf	Learn about detection at a Montana hatchery and what is being done	N/A
2:40 PM	BREAK			
3:00 PM	What Strategies Should be Considered for Quality Control at Watercraft Inspection Stations?	Tom Woolf; All	Discussion of QA/QC practices in west/MT and ideas on how we might approach next season	N/A
3:30 PM	What Would You Like to Improve Regarding AIS Prevention in 2020? ACTION: Any recommendations for Changes in 2020?	All	Opportunity to discuss any potential recommendations that UC ³ may make for the 2020 season (e.g. rules, fees, structure, etc.)	Brainstorm elements of AIS prevention that may be strengthened in the future
4:00 PM	What Projects, Activities and/or Grants Should UC ³ Consider for Implementation? Short & Long-Term Goals/Ideas	Lori Curtis	Opportunity to discuss new/different areas of AIS prevention for UC ³ to consider/explore	Brainstorm potential AIS activities, projects and/or funding options to pursue in the future
4:30 PM	When Should We Meet Next? Are You Attending Western Regional Panel (WRP) Annual Meeting? Overview and Agenda for Week Evaluation Exercise	Kate Wilson	Discuss and decide on future meeting date(s) if possible; provide overview of Western Regional Panel Meeting (rest of week) What worked well for you for this meeting? What could we do differently next time?	Ensure availability for future meeting; decide on attendance at WRP meeting
4:45 PM	Public Comment			
5:00 PM	ADJOURN			

The mission of the Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC³) is to protect the aquatic environment in Montana tributaries to the Columbia River from the threat of AIS in order to protect water resources, downstream interests, and the economic and ecological vitality of the region.

All Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC³) meetings are open to the public. The UC³ will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. Please contact Kate Wilson (kate.wilson@mt.gov) prior to the meeting date.

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting/ Project Name:		Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC³)	
Date of Meeting:		October 7, 2019	Time: 10:30 AM – 5:00 PM
Minutes Prepared By:		Kate Wilson	Location: DNRC Forestry Division (Missoula)
List of Acronyms			
AIS	Aquatic invasive species	FWP	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
BOR	US Bureau of Reclamation	NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
BSWC	Big Sky Watershed Corps (AmeriCorps program)	NPS	National Park Service
CSKT	Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribe	USACE	US Army Corps of Engineers
DNRC	Montana Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation	USFS	US Forest Service
eDNA	Environmental DNA	USFWS	US Fish & Wildlife Service
FLBS	Flathead Lake Biological Station	WRP	Western Regional Panel
1. Welcome and Introductions			
Lori Curtis	Welcome to all. Lori opened at 10:30 AM.		
Introductions (Roundtable)	Each commission member provided roll call introductions including commission position. All other participant introduced themselves including name, location and organization/interest that they are representing.		
Mark Bostrom	Welcome. Brief history of Commission establishment from agency perspective. Administrative attachment to DNRC – we have five in Conservation & Resource Development Division. One of our support functions is to provide staff for Commissions. Kate has two jobs – ½ time to UC ³ and ½ to Flathead Basin Commission. The administrative day-to-day paperwork, budget tracking, etc. eats up a lot of time. Administrative assistant being hired to help.		
New Legislators Introduction	<p>New Commissioners (Legislators) introduce selves and interest/history in water and/or aquatic invasive species issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sen. Janet Ellis – Finance & Claims Committee. Was on Environmental Quality Council previously – looked at AIS funding options for the 2019 session. • Rep. Neil Duram – State Trooper (day job). Come from enforcement angle. • Sen. Mike Cuffe – Lincoln County. Active in Montana AIS Programs for several years – especially since mussel larvae detected in 2016. Wrote language that established UC3 and modifications to membership in last session. Passionate about this issue. 		
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>Phil Matson</u> (Flathead Lake Biological Station: private landowner), <u>Mike Koopal</u> (Whitefish Lake Institute: member at large), <u>Chris Parrott</u> (Jesco Marine & Powersports/private industry), <u>Stacey Schnebel</u> (Electric Cooperatives: Flathead Electric Co-op), Chris Downs (Glacier National Park), Heidi McMaster (BOR); Michelle Cox (USFS Region 1 Invasive Species Coordinator); Sen. Mike Cuffe; Sen. Janet Ellis; Rep. Neil Duram; Kate Wilson (Commission Administrator)</p> <p>Phone: <u>Paul Kusnierz</u> (Avista fisheries biologist), Gina Hoff (BOR), Monica Pokorny (NRCS)</p>			

Public/Other: Erik Hanson (CSKT), Sarah Ganter (UC³ Big Sky Watershed Corps), Onno Wieringa (Resident of Flathead, Flathead Lakers), Bryce Christiaens (Montana Invasive Species Council/Missoula County Weed District), Bernie Azure (Public Information Officer at CSKT Tribal Health and Human Services Department), Laura Lundquist (Missoula Current), Russ Hartzell (FWP AIS Supervisor), Zach Crete (AIS Prevention Coordinator), John O'Bannon (FWP AIS Supervisor), Larry Lack (Sanders County, USFS Lolo Resource Advisory Council), Liz Lodman (FWP Public Information Officer), Haley Gamertsfelder (Missoula County Weed District Big Sky Watershed Corps), Bill Junkermier (Lindbergh Lake), Hailey Graf (Missoula County Weed District), Joann Wallenburn (Clearwater Resource Council), Jeremy Anderson (Trout Unlimited, Bitterroot Chapter), Lindsay Bona-Eggeman (Missoula County Weed District), Mark Bostrom (DNRC), Kate Sheridan (Flathead Lakers), Michael Howell (Bitterroot River Protection Association), Deb Tirmenstein (Montana Black Dog Services)

3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues

Presenter	Topic/Discussion
Lori Curtis Approval of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Motion</u> to approve minutes from May 15, 2019 meeting (Phil). Seconded (Chris). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i> • <u>Discussion</u>: Sen. Ellis requested that we provide guide with acronyms
Kate Wilson Staff updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff/Chair report (activities and events): Exec Committee mtgs; action item follow up; marina/boat/angling shop outreach project; Western Regional Panel planning; Transboundary CRB Conference; Crown Managers Partnership; North American Invasive Species Management Association; EQC Reporting; Gov Office Reporting; grant & budget management; meeting attendance and tracking AIS in Columbia River Basin • Budget Status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FY2019 Budget: \$5,000 Operating. Expended on: member travel, meetings, UC³ materials, education & outreach ○ FY2020 Budget: \$40,000 Operating (allocated) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$2,387 expended: member travel, BSWC project (education materials) ▪ \$37,613 Balance ○ ACTION: Proposed Line Item Budget FY2020 (PLAN A: BOR grant covers BSWC project continuation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$5,000 Member travel/meetings ▪ \$5,000 NAISMA Conference (MT Oct 2020) ▪ \$2,000 BSWC Project 2020 ▪ \$3,000 PNWER Summit (MT July 2020) ▪ \$20,000 AIS Education & Outreach (coordinate with FWP) ▪ \$2,613 Annual Report, Projects, Misc. ○ ACTION: Proposed Line Item Budget FY2020 (PLAN B: BOR grant does not cover BSWC project continuation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$5,000 Member travel/meetings ▪ \$5,000 NAISMA Conference (MT Oct 2020) ▪ \$16,000 BSWC Project 2020 ▪ \$7,000 AIS Education & Outreach (coordinate with FWP) ▪ \$2,500 PNWER Summit ▪ \$2,013 Annual Report, Projects, Misc. • Sen. Cuffe: PNWER AIS Big Sky Summit (Kate Co-Chairs Invasive Species Working Group). Hosting in MT this year in July. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encourage and push other states to take on more AIS issues. Op-ed went to Wall Street Journal from MT legislators on funding spent on other states

	<p>compared to ours (protecting Columbia River Basin). Encourage more funding from other states (downstream).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on budget, fiscal year, deadlines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pre-planning (actual conferences occur in FY21) for NAISMA FY21 (next year's budget). PNWER FY20 (this year's budget). ○ One of mandates is to monitor aquatic resources, should we allocate resources to monitoring? Early Detection/Rapid Response (EDRR) or monitoring needs? Potentially next year, but pretty well covered in monitoring contract this year (FY20). • <u>Motion</u> to approve FY20 line item budget – 'plan A' if BOR modification comes through; 'plan B' if it doesn't. Authorize Kate Wilson to amend based on status of BOR grant (Stacey). Seconded (Chris). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i> • Other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Submit travel claims when traveling for any UC³-associated business, we allocated funding for this so members should use the travel allocation. Clear with Chair/staff first if not regular meeting, etc. ○ Website (UC3.mt.gov) is set to launch in next couple of weeks. Can access directly or through new landing page (invasivespecies.mt.gov)
<p>Kate Wilson/Lori Curtis</p> <p>By-Law Discussion & Revisions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article II, Section 5: Discussion on staggered terms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Everyone upon initial creation of Commission was appointed at the same time (no staggered terms). ○ Decision: With new appointees, we can request that the terms be staggered. Also up to discretion of Senate President and Speaker of the House to determine whether the same legislators will serve a second (two-year) term. Acknowledge in amended by-laws. • Article II, Section 6: Discussion on term limits. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For those relevant in AIS field – shouldn't necessarily be term limits for those people. Tom (FWP) example. FWP role in state – no specific seat for agency at UC³ table (no state agencies). Would require a legislative fix if we want to add state agencies (membership). ○ Concern is that there could be issues if FWP excluded intentionally or otherwise. With agency managing lion's share of AIS in state, should potentially be addressed. Ex-officio role? ○ ACTION: Discuss adding state agencies to UC³ membership, as would need to address before the next session if we want to change the membership. ○ AIS community/expertise small enough that I don't think you want term limits. Appointments take care of themselves (move on to different job, etc). ○ Serve the Governor – serve UC³ until Commission term ends (then can reapply). Sitting Governor makes appointment for four-year term. ○ Decision: Remove term limits. • Article II, Section 8: Discussion on incomplete terms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Since each member is individually appointed by the Governor, is there value in taking a majority vote on which member(s) the Commission recommends? It's an open process. ○ Decision: Advertise vacancy, do not require a vote but let process vet and appoint new members. • Article III, Sections 3-4: Discussion on presiding Officer/Vice Chair term limits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Longer term – stagger Office and Vice Chair. Vice Chair moves to Chair and then elect new Vice Chair. Pretty traditional way to approach.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Good in theory but hard in practice. Appropriate to hold an election every two year, even if same people get elected. ○ Vice Chair should serve two years, along with Chair. ○ Governor appoints presiding office – reason to have election? ○ Decision: Election every two years for UC³ to choose vice chair. Provide recommendation to Governor for Chair. ● Article,V Section 2: Discussion on Proxy voting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Usually limited to people already on the Commission/board (give your vote to a specific person). ○ Sen. Ellis: Proxy usually an individual voting member, in writing/email with prior notice. On legislative committees can have proxy but must be on committee already. ○ Stacey: Unique seat representing electric co-ops. Would like to be able to send somebody from my board to sit in my place. ○ Erik: CSKT would like a tribal representative. ○ Could assign an alternate so isn't somebody new each time. ○ Each person is appointed as an individual, not an appointment from a given group, so allowing any proxy could be problematic. ○ Look at decision points beforehand and assign proxy to vote in the manner in which you choose, let chair/staff know prior to meeting. ○ Decision: Proxies limited to existing (voting) members only. Notify chair/staff in advance. ● Article VI: Discussion on Committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Committees have not been particularly active, discuss other options or desire to retain this standing committee structure. ○ Montana Invasive Species Council (MISC) decided to do away with standing committees, refer to them as 'networks' that can be alighted as needed. ○ Monitoring committee hasn't met/decided on anything for quite a while. Not sure that UC³ meetings 4x a year, hard to go into substantive discussions about what should be monitored and where – opinion that this is what this group should be doing. Go into more detail than FWP guidelines. Detailed waterbody monitoring plans. Idea for monitoring committee to stay as standing committee give statutory duty. ○ Decision: Keep the rest of the committees but don't make them standing committees – no specific names are mentioned. Give Exec Comm the authority to rekindle or strike a committee as needed. ○ Letters of interest for committees: Keep requirement. ○ Committee Chairs by majority vote or executive committee. ● Motion to approve changes to by-laws (Phil). Second (Stacey). All in favor; <i>motion passes</i>.
<p>Kate Wilson/Sarah Ganter</p> <p>Big Sky Watershed Corps Member Activities & Outreach Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overview: The federal BOR grant provided funds for a marina/boat/angling/outdoor retailer outreach project. Initially the plan was to specifically target marinas to conduct site visits and build relationships to work on industry assistance (e.g. inquiring whether boaters have been inspected, reporting suspect species, etc.), but we modified slightly to get a solid foundation with the outdoor industry. We saw a need to develop/update an inventory of all of the potential industry partners, and to conduct outreach with each individual business to conduct a site visits. Site visits included discussing the AIS issue, running the owner/manager through the recent changes (e.g. rules, funding structure, inspection stats), and asking them a series of questions. We also purchased a lot of outreach materials so that we could leave

	<p>them with the appropriate entities to disperse (e.g. rack cards, stickers, koozies, etc.) to customers. They also were asked to complete a pledge to become a 'Clean Drain Dry Partner' and were given a large metal sign to display.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events & activities: Sarah provided overview of activities she attended over her tenure with UC³ (e.g. boating and fishing events, fairs, farmers markets, Heritage Days, etc.). Averaged one per month all season. • Results of outreach project: ~80 total industry partners (marinas, boat shops, angling/fly shops, outdoor retailers) throughout the entire Upper Columbia Basin. Will compile final report with recommendations for continuing the project in the future (next season with a second Big Sky Watershed Corps member). • Discussion/Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anybody <i>not</i> really receptive? Smaller fly shops, attitude 'we already know.' Probably only 5/80 weren't very receptive. ○ Feedback on what materials wanted, how to approach? Not really, they seemed to appreciate the laminated inspection maps and rules to hang up. And the stickers. • Is there a certain population that you would say is pretty educated vs. those that need more attention? Bitterroot/Hamilton very receptive/knowledgeable. Libby area could use more targeted efforts. Big signage in those areas would probably be good. Most areas in Flathead very knowledgeable, but still want resources to hand out. Will need to continue to provide those so we can have a larger reach. • Made it to most of the businesses in the inventory: Some were closed as we got started later in the season. Marinas ~11/22, fly shops ~21/40, boat shops ~27/35, outdoor stores (14/14). Original list has private yaht clubs – no office or number. Some closed for season. • ACTION: Send final report to UC³ once complete. • Real value of this is having one person to implement one-on-one education in a specific region. Industry was overall really appreciative of us taking the time. • Way to weigh in to events that we cover? Winter show season (sportsman shows). Boat shows often before BSWC members start for season, but maybe Commissioners and partners can help cover events too. • Script vs. conversation. Idea to add a question: 'If we could do one thing to help you get this message out, what would it be?' Might bring creative ideas forward for program. • ACTION: Send event spreadsheet around to UC³ – request volunteers for members to cover events. Add events that aren't on list.
<p>Lori Curtis/Chris Downs/Tom Woolf/Kate Wilson</p> <p>Monitoring Plan</p>	<p>Monitoring Plan (2019)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of contract with Whitefish Lake Institute. • Process: Independent Monitoring Contract Review Committee established at the March UC³ meeting. Comprised of FWP staff (Tom W, Stacey S, Craig M), UC³ staff (Kate W), UC³ member (Stacey S) and UC³ monitoring committee member (Erik H). Committee developed RFP with DNRC template/assistance, reviewed and ranked all proposals, and had call to discuss both applications. Kate and Tom W. reviewed with legal prior to contract being awarded. • Monitoring Contract Review Committee: Mike (WLI) and Phil (FLBS) work for the organizations that were awarded contract but both were also on the Early Detection and Monitoring committee. Mike stepped down as chair and the Executive Committee asked Chris Downs to fill in.

<p>Annual Report Overview & Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recognize the Monitoring Contract Review Committee as the group that will provide oversight on the deliverable products generated through the contract. ● ACTION: Remove 'draft' from 2018 plan. Check up on tasks to be completed. Turn over to Mike for update on monitoring contract. ● Mike: Website being developed for additional monitoring network (Upper Columbia Basin). Contractors will include recommendations to UC³ on monitoring in basin. Can provide assistance with monitoring plan as part of contract (e.g. mapping, etc.). Training and resources out to new monitoring partners. More consistency (data, survey app, protocols, standards). 2/4 training workshops now completed with FWP, FLBS and WLI staff. ● Phil: Training in June at FLBS – most attendees new to monitoring for the most part. Kootenai basin needs more outreach – potentially go there next. Water quality and AIS training. Learn how to use survey app (FWP). Would like to add macroinvertebrate identification as well. ● Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New groups/locations that haven't been monitoring in the past? Trout Unlimited, Georgetown Lake residents, Bitterroot, etc. ○ Goals of AIS monitoring? Broaden outreach, early detection/monitoring efforts from local partners. Contact FWP if they find something suspicious. ○ Legislation requires that we have to make an annual monitoring plan. Add to annual report? Yes, makes sense from 2019. ○ Clarification: keep the Monitoring Committee intact but when conflict of interest comes up, we look to the Contract Review Committee for assistance. ● ACTION: Work with Chris, Mike and Phil to compile 2019 monitoring overview/plan. <p>Annual Report (2019)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Required report to governor's office for what we have accomplished (required of all boards and commissions). How can we change/improve this for this year? ● Success stories concept – recruit ideas for those that are working well/doing positive things for AIS prevention ● FWP (Liz Lodman) working on AIS Summit (Dec 4-5 Helena) – using same vehicle to solicit these success stories. ● Include annual monitoring plan, FWP's plan, detailed financials, etc. ● ACTION: Draft and send for review.
<p>Tom Woolf, local partners</p> <p>How Did AIS Program Run this Season?</p> <p>Highlights, Updates and Feedback from FWP and Inspection, Monitoring & Outreach Partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Funding 20/21: \$5.3M (\$4.6M to FWP; \$650k to DNRC for UC³, MISC, and AIS grant program) ● Hydro, prevention pass (anglers/non-resident boaters \$30 motorized/\$10 non-motorized), bed tax, general fund from increased broker fees ● Sen. Cuffe: AIS funding – new taxes not a popular idea among conservative legislators. Some legislators were still worried about promises/perceptions in the past. Bed tax new source of money that was there. Majority leader in senate (Fred Thomas) had idea for broker fees (securities). (Pushback from bed tax recipients. Decided to take a backseat, let others step up. Rep. Willis Curdy carried bill. ● Why was gas tax taken out of funding package? Janet: Lose match required for federal funds (formula). ● Ballast boat – mandatory decontamination of tanks. Rule rolled out mid-season but it went ok.

- Inspections: Over 112k inspections, 30+ inspection stations, over 200 staff (FWP, CSKT, counties, conservation districts, etc.). 15 mussel-fouled. Contracted stations: CSKT, Blackfeet, Missoula Co. Other partners: Big Horn NRA, Glacier, Whitefish Lake.
- Monitoring: Over 2100 plankton tow samples collected. Expanded partner participation. Lab contracts with Missouri River Basin states as well – detected new infestation in Kansas.
- Tiber & Canyon Ferry 2019: 200 tows; eDNA; divers; substrates; dredge grid survey; shoreline survey; mussel detection dogs. No sign of mussels in 2019. Delist in 2020? Tiber has a 15' drawdown – can be hard for zebra mussels to establish in those conditions.
- New detections: Eurasian watermilfoil (Beaver Lake, Whitefish); Asian clams (Lake Elmo, Billings. Work to eradicate with drawdown.); Curley leaf pondweed (Upper Yellowstone, Miner); New Zealand Mudsnaills (Hamilton)
- Outreach: Targeting specific user groups and demographics. Help with early detection/monitoring. Get materials to partners to help deliver the message in local communities. Work with partners to get the message out.
- Coordination: Great Lakes Panel – Tom speaking at their panel in November. Work on strategy to get boats better addressed (commercially hauled, purchased online). Lots of regional groups working on this issue as well. PNWER also listed this as an action item (coordinate better with Midwest/Great Lakes region – need solutions).
- Sen. Cuffe: National Invasive Species Council (NISC) and Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) now de-funded. Was nominated for ISAC but group fell apart before then. Regional groups are a mainstay.
- Discussion/Questions:
 - How to get message out? How do out-of-state boaters know they need to get inspected prior to launch?
 - Will inspection stations be involved in education out-of-state boaters? Tom: Won't check at inspection stations for boater fee. Enforcement pointing to online sales for prevention pass. Can show printed pass or mobile phone receipt.
 - Will you put AIS outreach materials at adjacent state stations? Tom: Will try. We work closely with the Columbia River Basin/100th Meridian group.
 - Don't forget northern border – Alberta, BC, Customs agents. Internet information/sites – put on fishing/tourism sites (prevention pass, new rules). Geofencing an option? Liz: We have done some targeted geofencing around inspection stations and specific waterbodies.
 - With the non-motorized – is there a length requirement? Liz: No. And canoes and paddleboard exempt from 'non-motorized.' Tom: Will require targeted outreach.
 - Work with other local states/coordinators and cross-referencing websites (links to rules in other areas).
 - Do we accept other jurisdiction's decontaminations? Tom: If we have an MOU and they have decontaminated the ballast, yes. We all follow same protocols. If it's a boat with mussels though, we always follow up with them.
 - Lab turnaround time? Tom: High risk waterbodies (e.g. Tiber, Canyon Ferry, Fort Peck, Flathead, etc.), never more than 2 weeks.
 - When was our last detection in MT? Tom: 2016 larvae detected.
 - What if Canyon Ferry is delisted – what will that transition look like? Tom: One veliger in one sample (western standard specified two positives)

	<p>required for 'positive' waterbody). Funds currently used at Canyon Ferry exit inspections can be used to augment hours/season at other stations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Penalties for driving by the station - \$85. Not a strong deterrent – one of the findings of the law review as well. ○ Concerns about northeastern border with Saskatchewan. Tom: Moved Culbertson station to Nashua due to traffic patterns and difficulty in staffing/enforcing. Major routes of travel covered. Still trying to make Wilboux work better. <p>PARTNER UPDATES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clearwater Resource Council (Joann): Work through Missoula County Weed District (AIS grant eligible). Work with Swan Valley Connections to cover area lakes. This year is the least sampling that we've done due to lack of funding for monitoring efforts. ● Glacier (Chris): We had a lot of non-motorized watercraft (11k). Detection at Tiber shut down motorized options – but now allowed with a 30-day quarantine. Motorized allowed at McDonald, Two Medicine and Bowman Lakes. ● Whitefish (Mike): Location of decontamination station changed (City Beach overflow parking area). Much more convenient for boaters. City of Whitefish has taken over staffing for both inspection stations and the decontamination station. Still a funding partner, but the MOU has improved efficiency and overall health of the program. ● CSKT (Erik): Ran Plains and Ravalli stations this season. BOR funding allowed enhanced hours and enforcement. 'Dummy' warden truck 24 hrs/day. 90% of drive-bys returned to station with warning or ticket. Have had to put body cams on staff to deal with angry/threatening boaters. Most local boaters good though. Season went pretty well. CSKT Game Wardens can write state citations as well. ● Missoula County (Lindsay): Ran Clearwater inspection station – 21k boats. Were nervous to check traffic in both directions and have new ballast boat rule, anticipated way more traffic and time per inspection (ballast). Most issues were staff issues, to be expected. Roving inspector up the Swan, will probably end this season unless more funding comes through. Macrophyte (plants) efforts moving forward. ● DNRC – Conservation District Stations (Mark): Contract for funding Conservation Districts to assist more with eastern inspection stations. Now running four stations. As far as partner network, extending eastern border essential – more infested waters as you move east. Enhance protection and cover for state by covering eastern border entrances. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tom: Conservation Districts really running stations well – can pay staff more and recruit/retain staff in isolated, difficult areas. Local ownership and community support makes a big difference. Broadus example – major corridor from Dakotas. Work with local taxidermy shop to check boats. ● ACTION: Provide the number of ballast boats decontaminated in 2019.
<p>Tom Woolf</p> <p>New Zealand Mudsail Detection in Hatchery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New Zealand mudsnails: Move really well on wading gear (operculum makes it easy for them to move). Clonal (only takes one to reproduce). First found in North America in Snake River (Idaho, 1987), have spread throughout west since, primarily through wading gear (suspected). ● Now in Madison, Yellowstone, Bighorn and Missouri Rivers. First detection west of the divide. ● Impacts: Typically localized, rapid reproduction, outcompete native benthic invertebrates, 'boom and bust cycle,' can survive being digested by fish and eaten by wading birds (tough). No major impacts detected on fisheries -but not a good food value for fish.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hatchery owner (private hatchery) didn't do anything wrong – were inspected annually, but inspectors missed snails. Hatchery under quarantine – couple elevated raceways, delivered to private ponds from raceway. All dewatered and being decontaminated. Raceways flow into outdoor ponds – which will be excavated and frozen to attempt control. • Irrigation canal connectivity (dead ends), though irrigation ditches run to Bitterroot River. • Standard across the west (Western Regional Panel discussion) for hatchery inspections (moving forward). • Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plan/timeline for inspections? Tracing ponds that were stocked with fish from this hatchery? Tom: AIS monitoring team starting now (trace out). ○ How best to identify? Tom: Any small pointy snail! Diagnostics on snails this small better to get to FWP for identification. ○ Can private pond owners go out and start looking? Tom: Yes, in letter they received, we ask for samples to be sent to FWP for analysis. ○ Incident Command System used for mussels, why not NZ mudsnails? Tom: Widespread in state already. Eradication options limited if snails are widely distributed.
<p>Lori Curtis/Tom Woolf/All</p> <p>What Strategies Should be Considered for Quality Control at Watercraft Inspection Stations?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges with managing stations: seasonal employees, remote locations, expanded hours/locations, supervision challenges. • Need to get more staff out on the side of the road. Difficult to manage personnel issues day-to-day without being physically present. • Hired a lot of people after 2016 and then fired a lot of people...trouble with retaining quality staff. Trying to do a better job vetting for quality staff. • Now that things have begun to stabilize in the program, quality control at inspection stations is the next big issue to tackle. • Five regional supervisors – mostly on the road, manage multiple stations, many staff, running daylight hours. It's a lot of work. • Eastern manager oversees an area the size of Washington state. Conservation Districts have really stepped in to help run stations at Nashua, Flowing Wells, Wilboux, Broadus and St. Xavier. • Look for good and willing partners to run stations – especially in areas that need more local buy in/staffing. Contractors can also add positions such as on-site supervisors and pay more than the state can. • Quality control: ensure that inspectors out there on the ground are doing what they are supposed to do, every single time. Following protocols. • Finding and keeping quality inspectors continues to be a difficult task. • Plan/ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expand supervision and oversight at stations. The stations that were established early on seem to run more smoothly than the ones established after 2016 detection. ○ Revise training. Make trainer easier to understand. Bringing in consultant from UM to ensure that message hitting mark. Currently two-day training and some on-site later at specific station. ○ Simplify protocols. Clear from evaluations and exit interviews that this has been a factor for many staff. Streamline according to risk. ○ Improve work environment. Sheds are better than tents, ACs & heaters. ○ Roving trainers. Get people out there to improve quality control at each site.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cameras? ● Mussel boat at Wilbaux station – came through station (from Chicago). Contracted station from Garfield Conservation District, inspector didn't follow protocol. Ravalli intercepted later in the day. Things like this happen, but they shouldn't. ● Many inspection stations throughout the west (some redundant), to tighten things up and ensure that boats are being inspected prior to launch. ● Wilbaux a challenge because of labor pool and traffic pattern. Consider closing it? Adjust hours/season and shut it down when it isn't working anymore. Considered moving to Miles City but miss turn to Fort Peck prior to station. ● Current inspection station map: Best we've come up with, but not 'end all be all.' ● This area (UC³) in particular – a lot of baggage in the area relating to AIS prevention efforts. Through this group, we can facilitate those conversations better than we have in the past. Throwing bombs from the outside doesn't help anybody. We have a willing group of partners who want to help. Focus on solutions to known problems. ● AIS Summit Helena Dec 4-5: Provide ideas and input; identify agenda topics; help expand communication and coordination; continue to improve program. ● Summit topics: identify gaps and needs; strategies to improve QA/QC; gaps/needs in Statute and Rule; strategies to make program more efficient/effective; results of summit to be included in updated AIS Strategic Plan. <p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Erik: Quality control essential. Ravalli intercepted mussel boat because the staff are taught to question all inspections. We don't really trust other stations. That boat also stopped at Anaconda, but because it had already been inspected at Wilbaux, they did not check the boat. ● Rep. Duram: Part of challenge is 15 fouled boats out of 112k inspections – maybe creating some 'false positives' through stations. Potential for using silicon examples of mussels to be placed in private boats prior to their inspection at any of the stations. FWP supervisor could be the one to place them. Phil knows some artists that are making examples. ● Mark: quality assurance different than quality control - systematic approach to ensuring you're checking the right elements. Would benefit AIS inspections by creating system and culture of continuous improvement. If done correctly, runs on its own momentum. Willing to help with quality assurance, has experience with developing. Tom: Absolutely – would love to bring you in for review of proposal. ● Tom: QA/QC would require resources – would need to reallocate.
<p>Lori Curtis/Tom Woolf/All</p> <p>What Would You Like to Improve Regarding AIS Prevention in 2020?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Any recommendations for changes in coming year? ● Lori: Conversation better suited for AIS Summit. ● How will AIS Summit be structured? Tom: Working on it. Generate ideas and input that will be put into strategic plan. ● Heidi: Forwarded to Great Plains BOR office (new staff in Billings), hopefully they will attend the summit. ● All other fee-based states have resident fees as well as non-resident ● Mark: Conservation Districts in Montana operate a bit differently than elsewhere – fire restoration, stream restoration, weed control, AIS stations. Thinking how in the future, projecting out, how do I keep the Conservation Districts whole? Protect water resources as well as other natural resources – completely dependent on coal severance tax for funding currently. 'Place-based' state – people love where they

	<p>live; keep Conservation Districts in the mix for partners for invasive species prevention and management statewide.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bryce: AIS penalties, drain plug rule, aquatic plant listing/management, no regulatory authority specified in statute on list of AIS – potentially provides too much ambiguity. • Sen. Cuffe: Initial feedback on legislative elements/bills, UC³ could get more involved in future bills/legislation. Potential areas of improvement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FWP/agencies with seat on UC³ ○ Locations of meetings (not just Missoula and Kalispell) ○ Non-resident boater fee (sticker vs. online system) ○ Penalties for not stopping for inspection ○ Drain plug rule ○ Other findings from law review ○ AIS Trust Fund (cannot access until at \$100M) • Layout of statute/rules spread between four agencies is also confusing.
<p>Lori Curtis/Tom Woolf/Kate Wilson/All</p> <p>UC³ Activities & Projects: Short/Long Term Goals/Idea Generation</p> <p>Future Meetings</p>	<p>DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phil: Engage with legislators more. Rotunda event and things like it. • Joann: Monitoring is key but higher priority should be prevention. I would like to see some exploration of local-based boat launch-based inspections. I saw it in place in Utah and I think we should explore if that can be done in a fiscally-responsible way. • Eric: One of gaps is pet and pond trade. Assess risk of pathway and take ‘Don’t Let It Loose’ to another level in Montana. Improperly identified species in pet/pond stores is a common problem. People don’t even know they purchased an invasive species. • Mark: There should be some consideration for what the cap is on the AIS trust (\$100M). If there is \$500k leftover in AIS account, goes to trust. Originally was \$10M cap but changed due to interest rates. Either sources of funding to trust or cap needs to be revisited. Target for people to raid until it can be used. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sen. Cuffe: Source of funds to flow into that account as federal funds take place of state dollars. Insurance for ‘bad times’ that we could reach into that account. ○ Bryce: Noxious Weed Trust Fund model (\$10M cap) started in 1985. When started, meant to get dollars to local programs and didn’t have the same kind of partnerships that we have not in AIS. Start cap low and build up to higher amounts. Can probably use same model here to make it more useable in the short term. • Sen. Cuffe: We had a May meeting but didn’t meet until fall (too long). Legislators would like orientation at next meeting. Include new members when appointed. • ACTION: Set up quarterly meeting on doodle poll (yearly schedule).
<p>Upcoming Events & Announcements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species (WRP) meets in OCT 8-10 in Missoula. Great way to see what is going on in the west and meet them. Share agenda for week. • North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) is a multi-taxa organization that works to enhance coordination and communication across North America. They met in New York October 1-4 and in Montana (Whitefish) Oct 5-9.
<p>Public Comment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Howell: Boost idea of quality assurance plan. Have benefited greatly from DEQ QA/QC program. Could be more robust – happened with DEQ and programs benefited greatly. Now can set up own forms and programs. Thanks to Mark.
<p>Wrap up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Motion</u> to adjourn (Phil). Seconded (Mike). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i>

4. Action Items				
Action		Assigned	Due Date	Status
1	Draft minutes sent to members with suggestions for next meeting date	Kate Wilson	10/30/19	Completed
2	Discuss adding state agencies to UC ³ membership as would need to address before the next session if we want to change the membership.	Executive Committee – add to agenda in future	12/15/19	In-progress
3	Send final report to UC ³ once complete.	Kate Wilson	1/15/19	Completed
4	Send event spreadsheet around to UC ³ – request volunteers for members to cover events. Add events that aren't on list.	Kate Wilson	1/20/19	In-progress
5	Remove 'draft' from 2018 plan. Check up on tasks to be completed. Turn over to Mike for update on monitoring contract.	Mike Koopal/Chris Downs	11/20/19	In-progress
6	Work with Chris, Mike and Phil to compile draft 2019 monitoring overview/plan.	Executive Committee	11/20/19	Completed
7	Provide the number of ballast boats decontaminated in 2019.	Tom Woolf	1/29/19	In-progress
8	Set up quarterly meeting on doodle poll (yearly schedule).	Kate Wilson	11/15/19	Completed
9	Potential field trips or interest in planning for the NAISMA conference (October 2020)	Mike, Sen. Cuffe, Gina, Heidi	On-going	On-going
EXISTING ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS				
10	If you need materials or info contact Liz Lodman with FWP	ALL	On-going	On-going
11	Tom W. to update everyone on AIS Advisory Group happenings. Include UC ³ members in communications.	Tom Woolf	On-going. Updates sent in June, August, October	Completed
12	Plan for another EDRR response exercise in 2019-2020	Tom Woolf		In progress
13	Look into railway transport of watercraft as potential high-risk vector	Tom Woolf, Chris Parrot		In progress
14	Add 'know before you go' concepts to FWP CleanDrainDry website if not already covered (target snowbirds)	Liz Lodman (Kate to follow up)		In progress
15	Check on where 'Grow boating' fund goes (fee on products that boat dealers buy – all manufacturers part of program)	Chris Parrot		In Progress?
16	Signage gaps to address boater movement (esp at night)	Education & Outreach Committee		In Progress

AIS Early Detection & Monitoring Workshop

Hosted by FWP and UC³

Tuesday, February 19th

9:00 to 5:00

Fish, Wildlife and Parks Region 1 Office

490 North Meridian Rd, Kalispell

Objectives:

- Share information on early detection and monitoring efforts state-wide;
- Share information on early detection and monitoring efforts in the Columbia River Basin;
- Develop a Sampling Plan for the 2019 season for partners and FWP;
- Review sampling methods and protocols;
- Review FWP AIS survey data app;
- Obtain information to update the Upper Columbia Monitoring Plan.

Agenda:

- 9:00 AM **Welcome:** Jim Williams: Region 1 Supervisor, FWP
- 9:15 AM **Introduction: Coordination and working together** Lori Curtis: Chair, UC³
- 9:30 AM **Why we are here and what we are trying to do?** Tom Woolf: AIS Bureau Chief, FWP
- 10:00 AM **FWP AIS Early Detection / Monitoring Program** Stacy Schmidt and Craig McLane, FWP
- Overview: 2018 season review (stats/numbers)
 - Data Management / data flow
 - FWP / MT Heritage Program. (website and maps)
 - 100th Meridian regional monitoring (website and maps)
 - FWP AIS Lab – staff, history, capacity, etc.
 - Protocols:
 - How we sample (methods)
 - What we are looking for (species)
 - How we decide where to sample (logistics, monitoring teams, risk assessment)
 - Changes to the program proposed for 2019 season
 - FWP AIS Program Plans for 2019
 - Discussion
- 12:00 PM **Break for Lunch** (provided)
- 12:30 PM **Monitoring in the Columbia River Basin**
- The UC³ Early Detection & Monitoring Plan
 - Partner 2018 monitoring updates / plans for 2019
 - Partner updates
 - Northwestern Montana Lakes Volunteer Monitoring Network
 - 2018 accomplishments and future efforts
 - AIS monitoring network expansion (BOR grant and procurement language)
 - Discuss next steps.
 - Review and discuss early detection monitoring plans for 2019 (Map)
 - Locations, frequency and schedule
 - Identify gaps, overlaps and additional needs
 - Review and discuss a cooperative sampling strategy for 2019

3:30 PM **Discuss Data app**

- Who used it
- How it works

4:15 PM **Training opportunities, potential dates and next steps**

- Other opportunities to coordinate
- Other monitoring needs
- Coordination and discussion.

4:50 PM **Public Comment**

5:00 PM **Wrap-up, next steps, adjourn**

UC3/FWP Monitoring Workshop

February 19, 2019

Attendees: Jim Williams (FWP), G.L. Hamilton (FWP), Craig McClaine (FWP), Stacy Schmidt (FWP), Jayden Duckworth (FWP), Gail Johnson (FWP), Russ Hartzell (FWP), Stacey Schnebel (Flathead Electric Cooperative, UC³), Beth Gardner (USFS Flathead National Forest), Lori Curtis (Whitefish Lake Institute, UC³), Cynthia Ingelfinger (Whitefish Lake Institute), Mike Koopal (Whitefish Lake Institute), Erik Hanson (CSKT), Dillon Tabbish (FWP), Tom Woolf (FWP), Sarah Ganter (UC³ Big Sky Watershed Corps), Mckenzie Schessl (Clearwater Resource Council Big Sky Watershed Corps), Phil Matson (Flathead Lake Biological Station, UC³), Natalie Poremba (Crown Managers Partnership Big Sky Watershed Corps), Sierra Mahseelah (CSKT), Chris Downs (Glacier National Park), Caitlin Mitchell (Blackfoot Challenge), Joann Wallenburn (CRC), Liz Lodman (FWP), Jenny Jarvis (AIS Solutions), Nori Pearce (MSU Extension), Jeff Kemp (Swan Lakers), Paul Kusnierz (Avista, UC³), Gerald Wagner (Blackfeet), Juli Thurston (Sanders County Task Force), Deb Tirmenstein (Montana Black Dog Services), Leo Rosenthal (FWP)

Introduction/Welcome:

Jim Williams (FWP Region 1 Manager). Welcome to the Flathead – ground zero for AIS, and extra water protections for AIS prevention. Representative Curdy has two AIS funding bills in the legislature to spread costs around to other users/impacted parties.

Lori Curtis (UC³, Whitefish Lake Institute): Welcome on behalf of UC³. Share common goals. All collectively better/stronger together than on our own. Thanks everyone for being here.

Tom Woolf (FWP): Turnout exceeds our expectations. People show up because they care. FWP has done AIS monitoring for a long time – good opportunity to share what the state is doing, identify ways to coordinate and improve how we monitor. Working together, especially in this region, is a great opportunity to enhance coordination. Going to be a dialogue today. Went over roles of FWP monitoring staff. The labs see veligers – both the 2016 Montana veliger detections and from other areas (they accept samples from outside of the state).

FWP AIS Monitoring/Early Detection Season Review:

Stacy Schmidt (FWP): Over 2000 total plankton tows, 238 unique waterbodies. Tiber & Canyon Ferry – did not have any positive samples in 2018. Used all tools in toolbox – dogs, eDNA, artificial substrates, plankton tows. New AIS detections in 2018 (species).

Sampling in 2019 ‘similar to 2018’ in sites/numbers. Add geothermal (hot springs) sampling, FWP dive team, 3 seasonal crews of 2 people. Reestablish regional meetings, utilize mobile data collection (staff, all partners), annual monitoring plan review, partner trainings. Crews in central and eastern Montana.

Craig McLane (FWP): New web-based application (‘Survey 1-2-3,’ ARC GIS online). Map of all data points (including partners). Part of larger system. Demonstrated web-based tools (map viewer from FWP, but also MT Natural Heritage Program). Results from lab can be added in real time – as soon as samples have been analyzed. GIS team have just turned internal monitoring ‘dashboard’ (website) over to FWP staff; they are interested in making publicly available. Would be a way to see what monitoring activities have taken place on a specific waterbody.

UC³ Monitoring Committee – collecting info on eDNA and plankton tows in annual monitoring plan. Can we add eDNA data to this as well? Yes – all methods able to be incorporated into system (those that FWP know of/have info for are already in there). Can you see changes over time or just points on the map? Only points on the map viewer, but the survey 1-2-3 app can record all kinds of data.

Stacey -Labs (FWP): Three different locations for labs in the state. Samples have increased since 2005 when lab first established. Until recently, lab staff had a lot of other duties, now focused on monitoring analysis. Capacity issues in the past – trying to address by adding ‘add on’ duties to 2 permanent staff, limited space in lab, and adding an FTE. Turnaround times for analysis have been an issue. Process currently in order of samples received. Trying to resolve with lab improvements and seasonal staff. Implement a prioritization system in 2019 – assigned risk factor based on *dreissenid* mussel establishment. As samples come in, highest priority samples to be analyzed first. Small batches will work best – for large batches, would be very difficult. Available to help with identification of species as needed.

ACTION: list of all ranked waterbodies in the Upper Columbia Basin.

Concern about ability to mail samples. Post office too expensive (over \$5 per bottle) and fed ex restriction on alcohol content. Government courier service option? UPS used by Whitefish Lake Institute. FWP regional offices for courier service an option as well. Ship all samples to Helena and they figure out which lab will analyze.

Stacey Protocols (FWP): Why we sample (have to know what’s here). Try to use all tools in toolbox, though do have standard methods (shared across most western states). Whirling disease example. Monitoring teams (base locations, geographic areas to sample, etc.). Ranking and lab prioritization based on a risk assessment conducted several years ago. Data that feeds into ranking of waterbodies includes pH, calcium, hardness, conductivity, substrate composition, dissolved oxygen, water velocity as well as social factor (e.g. traffic, access, fishing pressure, etc.). Most of data came from fisheries information (biologists collect). Recreation boats that are NOT fishing are difficult to assess. Also include proximity to infested waters, elevation. These are the data used to rank the relative risk of waterbodies.

Discussion: Temperature data – one time only? Average? Surface only? Whatever temperature data was available is what was used. Ideal to have detailed limnological data. Suggestion for adding communities that are dependent on their waterbodies for tourism, drinking water, etc. if the risk assessment is reevaluated in the future. Concern about streams being the same risk factor as lakes in assessment. Prioritizing for all AIS monitoring using these data (e.g., fish, plants, other invertebrates). Issue with putting streams on the risk map. Same with economic impact in eastern Montana ignored biological factors. What waterbodies are you talking about particularly? Bitterroot River as an example – 8 plankton tows per season. Doing all taxa surveys – why pass up opportunity to take a plankton tow on the river since we’re already there (monitoring for other taxa)? State and Flathead Lake Biological Station have limited capacity for storing samples (2 years after analyzed). UC³ consider taking up issue with lack of space to archive samples? Would be a great resource for the future.

ACTION: Compile all comments from regional meetings.

Stacy and Craig coordinate entire state-wide monitoring system. Interactive map demonstration – can see multiple sampling events. Hit most major lakes in state, at least once. The higher risk/more popular

lakes, hit 2-3 times per season. Fish Lake – access issues (and lower risk for that reason). Some lakes have multiple entities monitoring one lake – no coordination on when sampling takes place. Good to know dates to decrease duplication and focus on times that are not being covered already. FWP groups geographically by HUC levels, work upstream to downstream.

Timing of sampling can be depended on species being sampled. Coordinating on dates with partners would increase efficiency and cover more of the summer sampling season. Helps FWP staff as well know what/where partners are sampling as they can make adjustments as needed. Distribute sampling plan to all partners. What are next steps? FWP doesn't need to know when partners are sampling but does help to know when to expect samples to lab. Team consists of 4 permanent staff and 6 seasonal staff.

ACTION: Craig to send schedule/locations to partners.

Partners not able to get alcohol from MSU? No. Would Missoula County Weed District be able to get alcohol from UM for preservation? Need solution for all non-gov entities (not one-offs). Ethanol vs. alcohol depending on eDNA vs. microscopy.

ACTION: Check into BOR grant to see if can provide alcohol for preserving samples for partners.

Option for aquatic plant identification workshop? Yes. Would really help with partners and citizen scientists. FWP trying to offer more partner trainings – would be happy to come up here. Every couple years the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) staff offer aquatic and riparian plant training as well (Andrea Pipp). Might help with increasing citizen scientists as well – expand to homeowner associations, watershed groups, etc.

ACTION: Explore options for aquatic plant training.

ACTION: Look into when MNHP aquatic plant identification might be offered again.

Upper Columbia 2018 Monitoring Plan

Mike Koopal (UC³ Monitoring Committee Chair/Whitefish Lake Institute): Overview of what partners are monitoring and where. Case studies on flowering rush and Curlyleaf pondweed in Flathead Lake and Eurasian watermilfoil in Noxon Reservoir – all cases are in 'control' phase. Lesson being that we didn't catch the species early enough to be able to eradicate it. Fourth case study is more of a success – Beaver Lake. Treated with bottom barriers and diver suction dredging. Included map of all known monitoring locations but did not have the detail that FWP monitoring staff has provided today. Upper Columbia River Basin annual plan – in an effort to avoid duplication, can enhance coordination with FWP and describe that plan (and/or parts applicable to Upper Columbia Basin) as part or all of UC³ annual monitoring plan.

An emerging threat in the Upper Columbia Basin is fragrant waterlily – Holland Lake. Could use some help addressing this issue. Include in annual monitoring plan. Because state couldn't determine that the plant was invasive, it was not listed as an invasive plant. Conflicting information on origin. FWP can input all data points in the state's system (regardless of monitoring method).

Chris Downs (Glacier National Park): Focus on lakes that used to allow motorized boat use. Still have McDonald where motorized boats are allowed. Five samples annually twice a year in park lakes (eDNA May & June) and plankton tows (July & August). Sample cooperatively with Waterton Lakes National Park. Waterton Lakes instituted a 90 day quarantine for motorized boats now – very rigorous. National

Park Services AIS funding is focused on mussels, but they try to maximize to cover additional species as well.

Phil Matson (Flathead Lake Biological Station): Support smaller watershed groups with supplies and equipment. Coordinate with CSKT, getting a lot of interns to train. Plans to sample at Tiber alongside FWP using both eDNA and microscopy.

Erik Hanson (CSKT): Still developing plan. Will go to Tiber this year as well, may have underwater ROV to use as well. Will focus on gaps in the Flathead.

Joann Wallenburn (Clearwater Resource Council): Work cooperatively with Swan Valley Connections and Blackfoot Challenge. Have had some issues getting samples to FWP Helena office and securing alcohol for preservation.

Beth Gardiner (USFS): Three-way partnership with Swan Valley Connections and Missoula County Weed District has been sampling for eDNA (only in the Swan). [Flathead Forest plans to begin eradication of fragrant waterlily in Holland Lake. They are also hoping to expand surveillance for this species in downstream water bodies. They are looking for help in both eradication and monitoring methods.](#)

Gerald Wagner (Blackfeet): Working on getting 2019 planning together. Three inspection stations. One run of sampling (with FWP). Looking for results of sampling – plankton tows and aquatic plant sampling. USFWS conducted plankton tows last season. Craig sent aquatic plant sampling results to Jay Monroe. Gerald hoping to get into eDNA initiated this season – need QAPP for grant funding to cover.

Mike Koopal (Whitefish Lake Institute): Continue plant monitoring and control in Beaver Lake.

Cynthia Inglefinger (Northwestern Montana Volunteer Lake Monitoring Network): Cover Eureka to Holland Lake. Citizen scientists do secci disk and identification but not plankton tows. Must decontaminate boat and equipment between visits – lot of logistics and planning involved. Used FWP reporting app for the first time, went well. Sometimes difficult to use when working alone. Worked with Swan Valley Connections to use their boat in a few instances, which really helps with streamlining the program and maximizing efficiency.

Erik Hanson (CSKT): Presented information on mussel establishment in flowing waters. Different interpretations and definitions of ‘river’ depending on location. Presented literature detailing mussels having a two-week development time (can only settle at end of development). Larvae travel 190 miles. Only time you really have to be concerned about establishment in flowing system is when you have an infested reservoir upstream. Also, larvae are fragile – esp. in river system with turbulence and higher flows (usually only see establishment in first 10 km/6 miles downstream). Rideau Canal (Ottawa, Ontario) and Mississippi River examples – these are not the types of ‘rivers’ that we have in Montana.

Tiber Reservoir – would mussels make it down to Fort Peck? Not necessarily the larvae (wouldn’t likely survive), but potentially the adults. All taxa surveys have demonstrated that eddies and sloughs do harbor invasive species. Focus on where dams are. Prioritize based on introduction vector – e.g. driftboats on rivers vs. houseboats and wakeboard boats on lakes and reservoirs. Recommendation: more sampling on lakes and reservoirs. Change the prioritization map – risk of Flathead Lake shouldn’t be categorized the same as rivers and streams. Perhaps even different color scheme on risk map. Spending more time on lakes and reservoirs does take more time – what do you recommend cutting

because it all takes time? Funding really comes from mussel detection – impact of zebra and quagga mussels much greater than other species. Yes, will take away from other sampling, but for a good reason. This discussion is surrounding prioritization. Creates gaps when you have to cut sampling in others areas.

Stacy Schnebel: Pacific Northwest Utilities conference last month gave compliments to Montana AIS Program. UC³ should be focusing on mussels given that that is the reason I am at the table – hydro and co-ops are paying for the program.

ACTION: Request that UC³ explore/provide recommendations on increased sampling in high risk lakes/reservoirs as well as reduced sampling in areas where the risk is lower. Prioritization and risk assessment based on Upper Columbia Basin needs. Also consider including processing time for lower risk samples or eliminating (e.g. 1s and 2s).

Kate Wilson (BOR grant update): Scope based on initial grant agreement - Expansion of current AIS monitoring efforts; development of an annual monitoring plan with maps delineating who is monitoring for which AIS in which waterbodies using which technique; drafting of standard protocol for Upper Columbia Basin.

Budget: \$20,300 available for contract. \$2000 supplies. Balance is indirect. Timeline: March 2019 – October 2020. Process: List of potential contractors/organizations. Draft language for procurement with small committee (FWP, DNRC, UC³) comprised of individuals with NO potential to bid on the contract. Send information for 'limited solicitation' via email. Committee reviews and ranks proposals and UC³ issues contract.

Stand up new programs (training, equipment, protocol, etc.) to cover new areas (e.g. Lake Como, Georgetown, etc.). Are there groups doing water quality work that would be a good fit to train to do AIS monitoring? Geographic expansion. Way to allow bids under the full amount (e.g. smaller projects)?

ACTION: Establish committee to draft procurement language and review/rank proposals. Tom Woolf, Stacy Schmidt, Kate Wilson, Erik Hanson, Stacey Schnebel volunteered.

2019 Sampling Efforts/Discussion

Craig McLane (FWP): Need permit to sample on CSKT waters (south end of Flathead Lake) – used to submit to Germaine but she's retired. What is process now? Submit to Rich Janssen (dept. head) first and he delegates to Erik. Can be general – more specific details on locations but timing is ok to be vague.

Noxon/Cabinet Reservoirs – existing group to enhance mussel monitoring efforts? Sanders County EWM Task Force. Have been really focused on one aquatic plant – would they be able to expand to all AIS? They do discuss all aquatic plants now, but not mussels. Avista interest?

Paul: Task Force hasn't engaged in invasive mussel prevention efforts. Something probably willing to discuss. But considering some of the higher-level things going on with funding, that could frame how the discussion takes place.

Groups in the southern half of the basin that may be interested in AIS sampling: Bitterroot Water Forum. Forest Service. TU Chapters. Clark Fork Coalition.

Tom Woolf (FWP): How to approach soliciting comments on the upcoming season plan? Email comments to Craig and Stacy? UC³ Monitoring Committee to review and consider recommendations relating to prioritization and/or feedback on FWP monitoring program/process. March timeline for feedback is good. Start sampling in May.

ACTION: Craig to send interactive map along with excel spreadsheet.

Craig McLane (FWP) – Data Reporting App: ARC GIS online map – stores data in cloud. Works on smart phones, tablets or can use GPS unit and enter on your desktop. Do not need cell service in the field to use the app. Stores data on device and then uploads when you do have service. Process – ‘invited group,’ so interested parties get in touch with Craig and he gives you access. If you already have an ARC GIS online account, it’s even easier, Craig can look you up and invite you directly. If you don’t have an account, FWP can create a temporary account for partners. Currently this is free for the agency (to add others). Benefits include time entering data, less errors, real-time information.

Some data will be uploaded to viewer right away, others take a little longer as samples need to be processed by the lab. You can choose more than one water quality parameter.

Training: May 2019 probably doable for FWP staff/partners. Can design based on specific partner needs.

Calcium: Erik conducted sampling for calcium in Flathead Basin lakes a few years ago, most results matched FWP. Foy’s Lake an exception. Cynthia has calcium data from Northwest program (2016). Contract specifies every 5 years must be completed. Free calcium in the water or calcium carbonate? Total calcium.

ACTION: FWP requested Erik and Cynthia’s’ calcium data (newer than data used in risk assessment).

Wrap up/Public Comment:

Meeting adjourned at 4:02 pm