

**WBWG WNS Subcommittee Conference Call Notes**  
**February 9, 2010**

Attendants: Mike Baker, Pat Ormsbee, Toni Piaggio, Ella Rowan, Mylea Bayless, Greg Falxa, Katie Miller

National Plan

- The National Plan is being developed using the Chronic Wasting Disease template
- It consists of a base plan and an implementation plan
- The base plan is being reviewed by the steering committee; it will then be sent out for a broader internal review (this will consist of select state and federal agencies – these are invited reviews); there is a question as to whether or not it will go out for the full public comments (announced in the Federal Register)
- There is a meeting in mid-March in Kentucky for the steering and writing committees and some technical experts
- Mylea asked whether or not NGOs, such as BCI, will have an opportunity to comment. Unless they are invited to review, they will likely fall under the “public comment” issue, which is currently undecided

WNS Signs

- Diane was unable to make the call, so there is no update
- Pat still needs to review the current sign designs and provide comments; she swears she will look at it this week

Review of WNS documents/position statement

- There is resistance in The West to adopt decontamination protocols
- The WNS committee needs to do a better job of providing information to the Officers
- Pat reviewed the documents already created by the WNS subcommittee and they include the 1) Recommendations from WBWG to address WNS in North America, 2) WBWG Rationale for the Recommendations, 3) WBWG WNS brochure, and 4) WBWG decontamination protocols. All are available on the website. The Action Plan is a document that, once approved by the Board, will be added to this list of products. Additional products include the presentation for WAFWA and the letter from WBWG to state agencies to require decontamination protocols in scientific collection permits.
- The WBWG BoD call on 2-8-2010 identified the desire to update the recommendations. Ella has offered to pull together all the information and produce a draft document which identifies the background on WNS and why we need decontamination in the West. She will have an outline by the next conference call (correct me here if I'm wrong, Ella!). She is especially keen on getting endorsement of the rationale from wildlife veterinarians.

- There was also extensive discussion on the WBWG BoD call to create a position statement by WBWG on WNS. We concluded that such a document should be put in the WNS Action Plan and prioritized accordingly.
- The USFS had a national level conference call about WNS between wildlife and AML to get a policy in place about surveys and decontamination
- USFWS is revising the underground decontamination protocol. An issue with the development of this is that USFWS is responsible for T & E species and may have to require decontamination after underground entry of individual sites, because that best protects T & E species (as opposed to regional decontamination, i.e., between watersheds). The USFWS protocol will be a national protocol; it will be directed at implementation nationwide including in the West.

#### Updates on New Data from the East

- Alabama Bat Working group had a recent meeting; there are high concerns about new closures; they have developed a WNS plan that is in revision
- Kentucky has been surveying all hibernacula but no WNS behavior has been identified; they have not yet surveyed sites closest to WV
- Anecdotal information has been reported that WNS infected bats seem to be leaving hibernacula and returning to maternity colonies – apparently to die
- Since several Myotis maternity colonies are in buildings in the East, we may expect an increase of reporting by the public of bats at maternity sites in the winter months. How can states tackle acquiring that information?
- There is an upcoming NaturServe conference that will provide information on a new reporting portal for the public: Kestral. This may be a method to get public information. Is there a possibility of providing a bat-specific portal?

#### Multi-state WNS SWG

- A very difficult process that had way more applicants than expected – this exceeded the funding cap for the application
- States that were funded were all WNS states, and WNS proximate states – the furthest West being Missouri and Arkansas
- To allow for continued participation in WNS by Western affiliates, BCI has applied for travel funds for all Western states that applied. This will allow Western state personnel to attend WNS conferences in 2010 and 2011. The travel funds will be funneled through BCI
- We will find out in April/May if the SWG is funded

#### Conference call with the AML subcommittee

- The WNS subcommittee wants to have a joint conference call with the AML subcommittee to discuss decontamination
- We identified three dates/times to meet and Pat will provide that information to Jason Williams to coordinate the call

The WNS subcommittee will have its next conference call on March 30, 2010 at 9am PST. This will allow Pat to attend the meeting for the National Plan and report on its progress to the team.