

# UPPER COLUMBIA CONSERVATION COMMISSION (UC<sup>3</sup>) WINTER MEETING

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

12:30 PM to 4:00 PM

Via Zoom (*contact staff for meeting participation details*)

## AGENDA

<b>TIME</b>	<b>TOPIC/QUESTION</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>	<b>PURPOSE/ OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>PREPARATION</b>
12:30 PM	<p>Welcome &amp; Agenda Overview Meeting Rules</p> <p>Zoom/virtual meeting etiquette</p> <p>CSKT Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet new CSKT AIS Coordinator (Katie Finley-Squeque)</li> </ul> <p>Participant Introductions (roll call)</p>	<p>Lori Curtis, Chair UC<sup>3</sup>, Conservation Districts Rep.; Science &amp; Education Director, Whitefish Lake Institute</p> <p>Tom Woolf, UC<sup>3</sup> Vice Chair; AIS Bureau Chief, MT Fish, Wildlife &amp; Parks; MISC Representative</p> <p>Martin Charlo, CSKT Tribal Council</p> <p>Kate Wilson, UC<sup>3</sup> Administrator</p> <p>Cassidy Bender, UC<sup>3</sup> Coordinator</p>	<p>Welcome Online Meeting Rules</p>	<p>Review agenda and meeting materials provided in advance</p>
12:50 PM	<p>Staff Report <i>Minutes, Staff Report</i></p> <p>Topics covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget Update</li> <li>BOR grant</li> <li>Strategic Work Plan</li> <li>Annual Report</li> <li>UCLN Contract update (<i>closed out</i>)</li> <li>Projects</li> </ul> <p>ACTIONS: Approve Minutes and Updated FY21 Budget</p>	<p>Kate Wilson</p>	<p>Approve Minutes from 11/4</p> <p>Approve Budget Updates (if needed)</p>	<p>Review 11/4 Minutes</p>
1:30 PM	<p>2021 Legislative Session Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AIS Bills (status) Update &amp; Discussion</li> <li>ACTIONS: recommendation to House &amp; Senate leaders re: UC<sup>3</sup> legislators</li> </ul>	<p>UC<sup>3</sup> Legislators (if available); Kate Wilson; Legislative Committee; FWP</p>	<p>Learn about how the session is going and the bills related to AIS</p>	<p>Review weekly legislative update emails; come with any questions</p>
<b>TIME</b>	<b>TOPIC/QUESTION</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>	<b>PURPOSE/ OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>PREPARATION</b>

1:50 PM	<p>Committee Work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>E&amp;O Committee - E&amp;O Strategy &amp; Media Plan 2021</li> <li>Early Detection &amp; Monitoring Plan (2021) - TBD</li> </ul>	<p>Cassidy Bender</p> <p>Chris Downs, Chair</p>	<p>Discussion &amp; invitation to participate on committees and in monitoring workshop</p>	<p>Review E&amp;O component of Strategic Work Plan</p>
2:05 PM	BREAK		<p>Grab a snack, drink, refresh yourself 😊</p>	
2:20 PM	<p>UC<sup>3</sup> Election (Chair, Vice Chair) &amp; review of relevant bylaws</p> <p>ACTIONS: recommendation for new Chair (to Governor); election of Vice Chair; discussion of other Executive Committee position(s); Bylaw amendments</p>	<p>Lori Curtis; Tom Woolf; Kate Wilson; all</p>	<p>Recommend new Chair for Governor appointment (per bylaws); election of Vice Chair</p>	<p>Review bylaws; submit nominations for new officers</p>
2:40 PM	<p>FWP AIS Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordination between states/federal government – Discussion/potential ACTION</li> <li>Strategic Plan Update</li> <li>Summit Outcomes</li> <li>Watercraft inspection stations 2021 season</li> <li>Monitoring plans</li> </ul>	<p>Tom Woolf</p> <p>Paul Kusnierz, Avista</p>	<p>Discuss upcoming season for AIS program &amp; efforts; Q&amp;A for FWP</p>	<p>Review summary of 2020 inspection and monitoring &amp; E&amp;O programs; be prepared for 2021 season discussion</p>
3:15 PM	<p>Update from Partner Programs</p> <p><i>Avista; Blackfeet Nation; Clearwater Resource Council; Conservation Districts; Confederated Salish &amp; Kootenai Tribes; Glacier National Park; Flathead Lake Biological Station; Missoula-County AIS District; Montana Invasive Species Council; NRCS; Swan Lakers; Trout Unlimited; USFS; USFWS; Whitefish Lake Institute; etc.</i></p>	All partners	<p>Learn about AIS activity &amp; efforts from 2020 and into next season; Q&amp;A for partners</p>	<p>Prepare a brief update on 2021 season plans for AIS prevention and/or management</p>
3:40 PM	<p>UC<sup>3</sup> Member Survey findings – discussion on moving forward this year</p> 	<p>Kate Wilson; Cassidy Bender</p>	<p>Overview on findings of UC<sup>3</sup> member survey; final strategic work plan; discussion on moving forward</p>	<p>Complete survey one week in advance of meeting; Review final strategic work plan</p>
3:55 PM	Public Comment			
4:00 PM	ADJOURN			

*The mission of the [Upper Columbia Conservation Commission \(UC<sup>3</sup>\)](#) 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 (UC<sup>3</sup>) meetings are open to the public. The UC<sup>3</sup> will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. Please contact Cassidy Bender ([cassidy.bender@mt.gov](mailto:cassidy.bender@mt.gov)) for meeting details (e.g. virtual meeting links/teleconference information) or to request accommodations prior to the meeting date.*

# MEETING MINUTES

<b>Meeting/ Project Name:</b>	<b>Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC<sup>3</sup>)</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	Wednesday Feb 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	<b>Time:</b>	12:30pm-4:00pm
<b>Minutes Prepared By:</b>	Cassidy Bender	<b>Location:</b>	Zoom/Call In

## List of Acronyms

AIS	Aquatic invasive species	FLBS	Flathead Lake Biological Station
BOR	US Bureau of Reclamation	FWP	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
BSWC	Big Sky Watershed Corps (AmeriCorps)	GNP	Glacier National Park
CEMIST	Central Eastern MT Invasive Species Team	MCWD	Missoula County Weed District
CFC	Clark Fork Coalition	NPS	National Park Service
CRB	Columbia River Basin	NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
CRC	Clearwater Resource Council	UCLN	Upper Columbia Lakes Network
CSKT	Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes	USACE	US Army Corps of Engineers
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality	USFS	US Forest Service
DNRC	Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation	USFWS	US Fish & Wildlife Service
eDNA	Environmental DNA	WLI	Whitefish Lake Institute
E & O	Education & Outreach	WRDA	Water Resources Development Act
EQC	Environmental Quality Council	WRP	Western Regional Panel

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

### Welcome Agenda Overview Meeting Rules

Lori Curtis,  
Chair UC<sup>3</sup>, Conservation  
Districts Rep.; Science &  
Education Director,  
Whitefish Lake Institute

Kate Wilson,  
UC<sup>3</sup> Administrator

- Lori Curtis called meeting to order at 12:30pm. Quorum confirmed.
- **Welcome from Lori-** “On behalf of the executive committee I’d like to thank you all for taking the time to come to the meeting today and for all your positive attitudes and willingness to work... The last year was tough worldwide and the commission is undoubtedly going to face many challenges. This year we have new department directors, funding stressors, and continuation of the pandemic. With all of that, I believe it is more important than ever that UC<sup>3</sup> remain an open forum for the exchange of ideas and information regarding AIS in the basin.”
- Meeting rules were presented (Zoom/Virtual Etiquette) and it was specified that voting should be done in the chat, which will be saved for the record.

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- **Welcome from Martin Charlo, CSKT Tribal Council Representative-** “Good Afternoon. I would like to welcome everyone and thank the organizers for bringing us together in this difficult time. It is a different world and I look forward to meeting everyone in person someday. Due to the tribe’s geographical location, we are the gatekeepers for a lot of the water that flows out of the mountains near us and we take that responsibility very seriously. Our AIS workers consider themselves ‘Water Protectors’ and they are working through the pandemic.”
- Welcome to the NEW! CSKT AIS Coordinator- Katie Finley-Squeque.
- All commission members and participants introduced themselves including name and organization/interest that they are representing.
- Agenda overview: Staff Report (reports, budgets, projects, grants & contracts), Committee Work (E&O & Monitoring), Legislative Committee/session updates, Election

	& By-laws, FWP AIS report, AIS reports from partners, Member Survey Results, public comment and adjourn.
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**2. Attendees**

**UC<sup>3</sup> (voting members underlined):** Lori Curtis (Whitefish Lake Institute: Chair/Conservation Districts of Montana), Tom Woolf (FWP: Vice Chair/ MISC), Chris Parrott (Jesco Marine & Powersports/private industry), Stacey Schnebel (/Flathead Electric Cooperative, Electric Cooperatives), Martin Charlo (CSKT Tribal Council), Phil Matson (Flathead Lake Biological Station: private landowner), Paul Kusnierz (Avista, Hydropower), Larry Lack (Sanders County AIS Task Force Lower Clark Fork), Rob Rich (Swan Valley Connections), Andrew Gorder (Clark Fork Coalition, Upper/Middle Clark Fork), ‘BJ’ Brain Johnson (Sea Me Paddle Owner, Flathead River Basin), Jeremy Anderson (Bitterroot River Basin), Monica Pokorny (NRCS), Heidi McMaster (BOR), Gina Hoff (BOR), Michelle Cox (USFS Region 1 Invasive Species Coordinator), Theresa Thom (USFWS), Kate Wilson (Commission Administrator), Cassidy Bender (Commission Coordinator), Brant Dupree (UC3/MCWD BSWC)

**Absent:** Paul Bradford (Libby Rod & Gun Club, Kootenai River Basin), Sen. Mike Cuffe (Eureka), Rep. David Fern (Whitefish), Sen. Janet Ellis (Helena), Rep. Neil Duram (Libby), Brian McKeon (Glacier NP),

**Committee Members/Partners/Public/Other:** Chris Downs (GNP, Monitoring Committee Chair), Lindsey Bona-Eggeman (MCWD), Cynthia Ingelfinger (WLI, UCLN), Kate Finley-Squeque (CKST), Liz Lodman (FWP), Jennifer Riddle (FWP, BSWC), Russ Hartzell (FWP), John O’Bannon (FWP), Zach Crete (FWP), Mike Hensler (FWP), Mark Bostrom (DNRC), Richard Janssen (CSKT), Stephanie Hummel (FLBS), Hailey Graf (FCD), Michael Wallace (Swan Lakers), Michael Locatelli (Yellowstone NP AIS Biologist), Deb Tirmenstein (Montana Black Dog Services), Ron Catlett (Sen. Daines Office)

**3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues**

Presenter	Topic/Discussion
Approval of Minutes Kate Wilson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Motion:</b> to approve minutes from Nov 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting (Paul). Seconded (Stacey). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i></li> </ul>
Staff Report Kate Wilson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on staff activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting/action item follow up and planning</li> <li>Bi-weekly Executive Committee planning and participation</li> <li>Grant &amp; Budget management (writing/reporting/tracking)</li> <li>Website management</li> <li>3 yr. Strategic Work Plan and E&amp;O strategy development/implementation</li> <li>Annual media plan &amp; augmenting FWP E&amp;O efforts</li> <li>Annual UC<sup>3</sup> Monitoring Plan</li> <li>BSWC member supervision, projects &amp; planning- industry outreach project</li> <li>Tabling at events (Covid permitting)</li> <li>Partner E&amp;O monitoring &amp; report</li> <li>2021 Legislative Session Bill &amp; Committee Tracking</li> <li>Legislative Committee meetings/follow up</li> <li>EQC/Agency/Gov Office Reporting</li> <li>Tracking AIS in CRB/West</li> <li>Flathead Basin Commission (50% of staff time)</li> <li>Crown Managers Partnership steering committee (represent both Commissions)</li> <li>North American Invasive Species Management Association (president-elect)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Staff Report**

Kate Wilson

- PNWER (co-chair of invasive species working group)
- Western Regional Panel (chair of Fire AIS protocol committee)
- BC Columbia River Basin Steering Committee (member)
- Pend Oreille Basin Commission (Ex-officio, MT upstream rep)
- County Assist Team (CAT) Public Information Officer & Liaison Officer
- Graduate School- MPA Certificate (Kate)

**Budget**

- FY2020 Budget: \$40,000 Operating
  - State Gov Fiscal Year= July 1-June 30
  - Expended on member travel, meetings, UC<sup>3</sup> materials, staff/office supplies, projects (outreach, events, advertising, CDD materials), BSWC member
  - **\$40,000 Expended**
- FY2021 Budget: \$40,000 Operating
  - State Gov Fiscal Year= July 1-June 30
  - Expended \$26,532
  - Accrued to contracts: \$8,125 (from FY20)
  - **Current balance \$21,511**
- BOR Federal Grant: \$120,000 CLOSED
  - Funding timeline: 2017-2021 (4 years)
  - Education & outreach; monitoring; website and materials
  - Expended \$120,000
  - **Current Balance: \$0**
- BOR Projects Completed:
  - Education & Outreach (\$75,000) - *Complete*
    - Dev. of materials; engagement of public, stakeholders & partners; webpage dev. & maintenance (Windfall contract)
    - E&O work/advertising in Upper Columbia Basin
  - Expansion of Monitoring Network (\$25,000) – *Complete*
    - Citizen science AIS monitoring expansion through Upper Columbia basin; protocol development; support for monitoring committee
    - Supplies & equipment
  - Industry Outreach Pilot (\$20,000) – *Complete*
    - Engagement of water-based businesses in the Upper Columbia Basin; partial support for Big Sky Watershed Corps member; development & dissemination of outreach materials; pilot transferrable to other locations nation-wide
  - Indirect (DNRC, 11.73%) - *Paid*
  - Final grant report to be completed (by 12/2021)
- We have accrued some DNRC divisional funds from FY20 toward BSWC and Windfall contracts. We are proposing an increase in the following items to allocate these funds.
- **FY21 Line Item Budget w/ Proposed Changes (in red):**
  - \$13,748/**\$20,000** AIS Education & Outreach\*
    - **\$16,366** previously approved (11/4); **recommend \$20k total**
    - Augment FWP/partner AIS advertising in basin
    - Coordinate/fill gaps in annual E&O media plan
    - Targeted outreach & events
  - \$6,000/**\$13,125** BSWC Project 2021\*
    - **Accrued \$3,125** (FY20)

**Staff Report**

Kate Wilson

- **\$8,000 previously approved (11/4); recommend \$10k for staff & supplies**
- \$0/\$5,000 UCLN continuance & training video production
  - Video production (for use statewide) – split between FY21/22
  - UCLN maintenance (annual) – likely minimal for FY21
- \$3,857/\$4,000 Member travel/meetings & sponsorships
- \$2,080/\$4,000 Annual Report, E&O plan, Additional Projects, Misc.\*
  - **Accrued \$5,000 (FY20) between this & E&O work**
- \$929/\$2,000 Staff supplies/travel/office
- **\$48,125 TOTAL FUNDS (including accruals)**

**Discussion**

- Operating and personnel are separate pools of funds that come from the same account (State Special Revenue). Half of our staff times comes out of the personnel pool, the other half is covered by the Flathead Basin Commission. The \$40,000 operating budget does not include staff time/salaries.
- Accruals have to go to an active contract so the accrued money will not be new projects but will expand projects that we already have.
- We have until July 2021 to spend those accruals and we will not have any trouble doing so. The only one that may be tricky is the UCLN monitoring contract 5k balance, to be used for maintenance and a citizen science training video (coordinated with FWP and other monitoring partners to use statewide).
- **Motion:** to approve amended FY21 budget (Phil). Seconded (Martin). All in favor.  
*Motion passes.*

**Upper Columbia Lakes Network Monitoring Contract: Complete**

- Competitive RFP process – spring 2019
- Contract issued to Whitefish Lake Institute, subcontractor: FLBS
- Contract Contacts: Cynthia Ingelfinger (WLI), Phil Matson (FLBS)
- **Total contract amount: \$20,300 (balance \$0)**
  - Objectives: Increasing monitoring partners in Upper Columbia; engaging new partners in AIS
  - Strategies: Outreach to watershed, conservation & HOAs, outdoor groups; provide in-person training and materials; website development (<https://ucln.net/>); regular AIS reporting; development of UPPER COLUMBIA LAKES NETWORK
- 2020 Review (Cynthia): Successfully held two trainings before COVID, pulled together all the protocols for volunteers. 12 volunteers over 8 partner groups have these monitoring kits. All data was uploaded into FWP Survey123 app. Creation of the training video would be great to host on the UCLN website with background information and resource for the volunteers. Was difficult to get people to FLBS even if we are in person.

**Discussion:**

- How to maintain and continue to expand UCLN w/o BOR funding?
  - Maintaining would require continuing to get ethanol and bottles to volunteers every year, Cynthia's time distributing those, continuing to collect the data and upload into FWPs data app. Volunteers were great about getting samples to the FWP office, a lot of volunteers absorbed the shipping cost but it would be great to be able to cover that in the future.
  - Cynthia has quite a bit of ethanol that was purchased through UCLN, easier to get than the ethanol used for eDNA.
  - FLBS can get eDNA ethanol with a special license but are not able to distribute it. Permitting process is a huge pain, Cynthia has tried but it is exhaustive.

**Staff Report**

Kate Wilson

<p><b>E&amp;O Updates</b></p> <p>Cassidy Bender, UC<sup>3</sup> Coordinator</p>	<p>Microscopy samples (mussel veliger samples) use a different, easier to get ethanol through Carolina lab supply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Phil looking at the efficacy of ever clear for citizen science monitoring.</li> <li>● Creation of training video (for use statewide)</li> <li>● Monitoring Workshop topic: We do want to nail down specific deliverables and estimate costs for maintenance and expansion so we can have an annual realistic line item to support the network.</li> <li>● Anyone who wants to chat about this further come to the monitoring workshop for a more robust discussion.</li> </ul> <p><b>UC<sup>3</sup> Education &amp; Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>Goal:</u> Increase public awareness in the Upper Columbia Basin related to AIS impacts, State AIS program rules and personal responsibilities.</li> <li>● 3-year UC<sup>3</sup> E&amp;O Strategy (2020-2023): document housing E&amp;O goals, objectives, target audiences and communication strategies is now available on our website.</li> <li>● We are planning for the 2021 season to augment FWP advertising and outreach efforts with a coordinated media plan.</li> <li>● Currently have secured a billboard from March-Sept '21 in Evaro (prior to Ravalli WIS)</li> <li>● We are working with Windfall to design new motorized targeted advertisements and will be implementing a media plan with those new designs including print, tv, radio &amp; digital advertisements.</li> <li>● Implemented a survey of partner AIS E&amp;O efforts in 2020 to include on the FWP+UC<sup>3</sup> media plan. This information is exhibited in our <a href="#">2020 Annual Report</a>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Will help is assessing exposure, medium, &amp; timing in the basin in order to coordinate and not duplicate efforts.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>BSWC Industry Outreach Project Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Introduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The 2020 Industry Outreach Project was a continuation of the 2019 Marina/Boat and Fishing Shop Pilot Program and we are back for the third year of this project.</li> <li>▪ The goal of the program is the spread the Clean Drain Dry message and ensure that businesses have all the correct information, materials, and resources to inform their staff and customers.</li> <li>▪ Joint BSWC member w/ Missoula County Weed District, Brant Dupree back for second term!</li> <li>▪ Working with 2021 FWP BSWC member- Jennifer Riddle who is implementing the Industry Outreach Project concept on the east side of the divide.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ We have created a partnership with businesses met with so far. They sign on to become a Clean Drain Dry Partner in which we receive a commitment from them that they will spread their knowledge to customers and staff in dedication to protecting Montana's waters. We have been featuring Clean Drain Dry partners on the <a href="#">FWP Protect Our Waters Montana Facebook Page</a>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Committee Updates</b></p> <p>Kate Wilson</p>	<p><b>Committee Work</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Executive Committee: Chair, Vice Chair, staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Business/oversight between meetings</li> <li>○ Meets bi-weekly (Wednesdays @ 9:30), open to public</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Education &amp; Outreach Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide feedback on UC<sup>3</sup> E&amp;O efforts and associated E&amp;O strategy</li> <li>▪ Support the Industry Outreach Project</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Legislative Committee Update**

Kate Wilson

Andrew Gorder,  
Legislative  
Committee Chair

- Provide ideas and a sounding board for future E&O efforts & events
- Members: Lori Curtis (CDs/WLI), Liz Lodman (FWP), Lindsey Bona-Eggeman (MCWD), Chris Parrott (new!), Rob Rich (new!), Big Sky Watershed Corps members, staff
- We would like to expand and engage the committee more, let staff know if you would like to participate (do not have to be commission members to join).
- Early Detection & Monitoring Committee:
  - Objectives:
    - Develop annual monitoring plan
    - Develop recommendations for gaps/areas of improvement for AIS monitoring in the UC
    - Provide feedback and oversight on the continuance of the Upper Columbia Lakes Network
  - Members: Chris Downs (GNP), Craig McLane (FWP), Phil Matson (FLBS), Joann Wallenburn (CRC), Mike Koopal & Cynthia Ingelfinger (WLI), Lindsey Bona-Eggeman (MCWD), CSKT
  - Any new volunteers? Let staff know if you would like to participate (do not have to be commission members to join).
  - Invitation: Monitoring Workshop & Development of 2021 Upper Columbia Basin Monitoring Plan (zoom), *Date/Time TBD*
  - Chris Downs (Monitoring Committee Chair): Upcoming committee tasks include putting together the monitoring plan (at workshop), expand the Colorado database and get more folks to use this (GNP participating 2021), Phil improving eDNA protocols (white paper), discuss UCLN future support, veliger survivability studies and more.
  - As an attachment to DNRC we are required, with the new administration, to get permission for all public information (newsletters, press releases, etc.)
  - We will get a listserv/meeting notice and an agenda out to everyone prior to the workshop date.
- Legislative Committee + Session Updates:
  - Legislative Committee: Andrew Gorder (Chair), Lori Curtis, Tom Woolf, Erik Hanson, Phil Matson, Sen. Cuffe, Rep. Duram, Sen. Ellis, Rep. Fern, FWP staff
  - 11/4/20 meeting: UC<sup>3</sup> voted to support two draft bills (AIS List/authority clarification & Pull the Plug)
  - Session Update:
    - Participation has been challenging
    - Both bills currently tabled
    - Uncertainty around concerns or issues with bills
    - MISC bill (SB 40): added UC<sup>3</sup> membership to MISC moving forward.
    - Big thanks to Rep. Duram! Phil Matson, Chris Parrott, partners
  - Background on recommendations/Leg Comm:
    - Recommendations generated in MISC law review, discussed at 2019 AIS Summit & subsequent UC<sup>3</sup> meetings
    - Prioritized by Legislative Committee
    - Discussions/correspondence with FWP & DNRC agency directors & staff; monthly committee meetings; recommendations based on discussions and changes over time
    - Sought answers to questions and potential unintended consequences & 'pros/cons' for each

**Discussion:**



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kate and Tom provided information for the AIS listing bill (HB 42). There was a republican caucus in which they voted to table the bill in executive action. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The only information Kate was able to get was that there was general apprehension on providing agencies (FWP) rule making authority.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• There was one opponent during the Pull the Plug (HB 152) hearing: Bob Gilbert, lobbyist speaking for Walleyes Unlimited and various other warmwater fishing organizations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ His most direct concern was worry about folks not remembering to put their plugs back in and sinking boats/causing danger to individuals.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ideas for reintroducing next session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Add testimony of what AIS will actually do to the ecosystem (i.e. less walleye)</li> <li>○ Add testimony from warm water fisherman from other states</li> <li>○ Get stats for boats that have actually sunk from this rule</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Andrew has submitted written comments on behalf of the Clark Fork Coalition and has reached out to Clayton Elliot to see if Trout Unlimited can submit comments, as well.</li> <li>• The session is difficult because the hearing for this bill was scheduled/announced on a Friday for the following Monday. Timeline for contacting partners, attending hearings and gathering testimony is very short.</li> <li>• The legislative committee is ad hoc and has some standing actions including sending a letter to South Dakota to encourage AIS support. However, it is a tough time for sending letters to other states with new administrations, we will table now and revisit.</li> <li>• Our annual report was sent out with a note to all the legislators in the UC Basin.</li> <li>• Kate has reached out to the new boards and commissions coordinator for reappointments and terms. This may be an opportunity to work our mission in and remind them who we are when we are asking to reapprove our appointees.</li> <li>• Lori drafted a letter of thanks to the senate and speaker of the house, for appointing our legislators and requesting they be reappointed.</li> <li>• <b>Motion:</b> Send a letter to request current legislative members are reappointed by the Senate President and Speaker of the House (Phil). Seconded (Paul). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i></li> <li>• <b>ACTION:</b> Get an invitation for our next commission meeting to the Governor's office and legislative services.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Announcement of Retirement</b></p> <p>Lori Curtis, UC<sup>3</sup> Chair</p>	<p><b>Lori Curtis, UC<sup>3</sup> Chair is Retiring!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lori Curtis will be stepping back from her role as chair of the commission and retiring from her work at the Whitefish Lake Institute in July of 2021.</li> <li>• On behalf of staff and DNRC, Lori has been a great leader getting the commission off the ground and we are incredibly grateful for her time and dedication to UC<sup>3</sup>. There will be a gift in the mail for her to celebrate her great service and a happy retirement.</li> </ul>
<p><b>By-Law Review &amp; Discussion</b></p> <p>Kate Wilson</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Section 3:</b> Agency Representatives – Discussion on USACE, NWPCC, BC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There are some agency seats on the commission (USACE, NWPCC, BC, etc.) that have been harder to engage, they operate at a much larger scale and have difficulty engaging at our smaller commission scale.</li> <li>○ If anyone has a recommendation for new people to engage from these organizations, please share contacts with staff.</li> <li>○ Doug Grabb appointed to NWPCC from Flathead Electric and may be able to attend meetings and speak on the work they do. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>ACTION:</b> Stacey to contact Doug Grabb (NWPCC) about possible participation on commission.</li> <li>▪ <b>ACTION:</b> Russ with share USACE contacts from Libby Dam.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**By-Law Review & Discussion**

Kate Wilson

- WGA was interested in making sure there is good communication between the governors and state IS councils. Maintaining that connection is important.
- **Section 4:** Ex-Officio Members – ‘additional representatives from federal entities, state agencies, local gov organizations, tribal governments, Montana universities & private and for-profit organizations with an interest in the wellbeing of Montana pertaining to invasive species’
  - No changes, just including to inform decisions.
- **Section 5:** add language ‘Senate President & Speaker of the House’
  - We don’t get to decide who is a UC<sup>3</sup> legislator, the senate president and speaker of the house appoint legislators to boards and commissions.
  - Adding this language would specify that we would send a recommendation to the Senate President & Speaker of the House.
- **Section 8:** Incomplete terms – may recommend a new member (CDs)
  - Because the conservation district seat is a governor appointed position, we still have to follow appointment process, but we can send a letter of recommendation for that seat.
  - Terms are set by the governor’s office for gov appointees.

**ARTICLE III: ADMINISTRATION**

- **Section 4:** Chair & Vice Chair – add terms. ‘The VC shall be eligible for additional two-year terms, but an election shall take place every two years.’
  - It is specified in the by-laws that the chair has a specific term, but it does not specify for the vice-chair.
  - This change would add a two-year term with no term limit (can serve endless 2-year terms but need to be re-elected every 2 years).

**ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES**

- **Section 4:** Executive Committee – discussion of FWP membership (either as formal ex-officio member OR ExComm)
  - Current executive committee consists of staff, chair, and vice chair.
  - Tom’s official seat on UC<sup>3</sup> is MISC representative as well as vice-chair.
    - Tom is an FWP employee, but he doesn’t represent FWP on UC<sup>3</sup>.
    - MISC seat is a voting member on the commission.
    - Technically there are no state agencies seats on UC<sup>3</sup>.
  - In order to ensure we have FWP representation in some form we need to create a seat for them.
    - Options to address: 1) Vote to make FWP ex-officio member seat, and/or 2) Add FWP representative seat to the executive committee.
  - Additionally, if we want to make the executive committee bigger, we need to vote to make that change to the by-laws.
  - Some background, the idea of UC3 (created by Sen. Cuffe) was to structure a commission that would be advisory in nature with actionable items, that was not led by an agency or dominating group, all of those who participate from agencies would do so in an ex officio roll.
- **Motion:** Add FWP to UC<sup>3</sup> as a formal ex-officio member and as a seat on the executive committee (Stacey). Seconded (Paul). All in favor. *Motion passes.*
- **Motion:** To accept by-law revisions as written (Mike). Seconded (Martin). All in favor. *Motion passes.*

**Election**

1. **Chair** (2 year)—Recommendation only (requires Governor appointment)
2. **Vice Chair** (2- year term)

**Election**

<p>Kate Wilson</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendation of chair will have to go through the process for the governor’s office.</li> <li>• Lori recommends Stacy Schnebel (Flathead Electric Co-op) as new UC<sup>3</sup> chair.</li> <li>• <b>Motion:</b> Recommend Stacey Schnebel to serve as the next chair of the UC<sup>3</sup> (Paul). Seconded (Phil). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i></li> <li>• <b>Motion:</b> Tom Woolf to serve another term as vice chair of the UC<sup>3</sup> (Mike). Seconded (Paul). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i></li> <li>• Lori- “Commission has really grown, and we are doing great work with so many great folks. Tom and Kate and I have had meetings where we have said I wish we hear more from most of the group. We are not directing you; we are leading, and we want direction from you. Stay involved and thank you!”</li> <li>• Mark- Thanks Lori, we will go through getting Stacey up to speed on administrative attachments and how those work, the role DNRC plays, etc. Welcome Stacey!</li> <li>• No action needed today but now that Lori is retiring, the conservation district seat is open on the commission. If you know of anyone who would be interested in that seat and is in the Upper Columbia basin, let staff know.</li> <li>• <b>ACTION: Kate/Lori to draft letter of recommendation for Stacey as new chair of UC<sup>3</sup> and send on to the boards and commissions office for review.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>FWP AIS Report</b></p> <p>Tom Woolf</p>	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We want to make sure everyone knows what’s going on behind the scenes of the states AIS program. UC<sup>3</sup> is here to enhance the state AIS program and is an excellent forum to talk about any questions, issues and/or concerns. Please bring forward ideas and suggestions, this is how we better protect the state from AIS.</li> </ul> <p><b>2020 Program Review</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Record number of: watercraft inspected, mussel fouled boats intercepted, weeds found on boats, boats inspected by partners, early detection samples collected, and level of partner involvement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No Dreissenid mussels detected!</li> <li>○ 35 mussel fouled vessels in 2020 mostly coming from the Midwest and the southwest, no mussel detections in our waterways.</li> <li>○ 144,000 interviews conducted in 2020 -&gt; 174, 423 boats inspected</li> <li>○ Tiber reservoir is our one mussel positive waterbody. Mussel veligers were detected in 2016 and have not been detected since then.</li> <li>○ Canyon Ferry was delisted as a mussel suspect waterbody last season and we kept the inspection station there in 2020. In 2020, we will be removing this station and be using those funds towards Ravalli night operations.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Contracted partner stations now conduct more boat inspections than anyone else. Specifically highlighting Whitefish Lake and Glacier NP stations, FWP does not contribute any funds to these programs but does coordinate on the data system, trainings, materials, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Continuing to work on continuity around the state, Glacier NP is moving to the Colorado data system and now every state in the west except Idaho is using it.</li> <li>○ Working closely with Swan Lakers on their inspection program in Seely/Swan.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• AIS Sampling/Surveys: Collected by FWP, FLBS, CRC, USACE, WLI, GNP, Avista, Yaak Valley Forest Council, etc. There is opportunities for expanding this citizen science potential that we are working on through UC<sup>3</sup> and UCLN. The more we can get people out in the water looking around, know what we are looking for and know to report something they can’t identify, the better.</li> <li>• Tiber reservoir is our one mussel positive waterbody (detected 2017 and haven’t seen since then). Mandatory exit inspections and decontaminations will be required through 2021 at Tiber reservoir and if we sample to the same degree next year and have no</li> </ul>

mussel positive waterbodies, FWP will move to delist in 2022. Has been five years since initial detection.

- Statewide outreach program works closely with UC<sup>3</sup> on print, radio, digital, and geotargeted ads. Specifically targeting boaters that are visiting the state, making sure they are aware of CDD requirements, inspection requirements, fee requirements, etc.
- Trout Unlimited received a DNRC AIS grant program to install CDD stencils at fishing accesses sites, boat put ins, etc.
- We have signage to put up at boat ramps. This is something commission members can help with. We still have a lot of the old 'Mussel Alert' signs out there that we need to get replaced with the new signage. Our monitoring staff are going around the state looking for these signs and replacing them, but we can always use more eyes out there.
- Lastly, we have various billboards including the Gallatin River Billboard funded through the "Come Clean, Leave Clean' DNRC AIS grant, as well as billboards through UC<sup>3</sup>.

#### **2021 Program Plans**

- Extended hours & season, specifically at border stations.
- FWP will be funding CSKT night operations this season. Will also be investigating night operations with warden support (Hardin station) to see what boat movement is happening at night.
- Expanded outreach: UC<sup>3</sup> supported 'Pull the Plug' bill, whether that passes or not it is beneficial to get that message out there and emphasized.
- Last year for containment at Tiber.
- Continue focus on QA/QC at inspection stations, making sure inspectors do what they're supposed to do, every time. New initiatives to push this more in 2021.
- Stations begin opening mid-March (Dillon, Ravalli, Anaconda), hiring has already started, and trainings will be underway soon.
- Early detection survey initiated in May: three crews of two people traveling around the state collecting early detection samples at all major water throughout the season.
- 2021 Focus Areas:
  - Expand partner involvement and engagement
  - AIS Survey & Outreach (trainings and materials for local partners)
  - Targeted enforcement (putting warden in areas we have had compliance challenges in the past)
    - Implemented last year at Anaconda and compliance drastically improved. Went from ~8% drive by's to ~4%.
  - Improve QA/QC: Expanded training, increased supervision, refresher trainings, performance reviews, spot checks, public survey, etc.
    - Secret shopper: contractor goes around to each station twice a year to evaluate inspection stations and inspections.
    - 3 visits per station
    - Follow up with station staff when issues are identified.
    - Additional targeted visits with secret shoppers with FWP staff (monitoring crew undercover) to check on stations with persistent issues and challenges.
    - Does UC<sup>3</sup> have capacity to help? There is history of an outside group trying to show how bad we are, so we have baggage here. But if it we developed a well-coordinated group, there may be opportunity here.
  - Expanded Coordination to encourage consistency/continuity and minimize duplication of efforts/maximize efficacy.
    - Locally: Tribes, Counties, Cities, Conservation Districts, Irrigation Districts, NGO's UC3, CEMIST, etc.
      - Identify and address locally driven gaps and needs.

- Relying on groups like UC3 to identify additional gaps and needs and identify strategies for addressing these.
  - Draft AIS Strategic Plan distributed for review this summer.
- Regionally: State & Province AIS programs, WRP, CRB, PNWER
  - Containment at mussel source waters.
  - Address other pathways (used boat sales, pet stores).
  - Develop standards and protocols (through WRP).
  - Engagement with the Dakotas: Call last week with CDs in MT and South Dakota. They are looking to contract with South Dakota CDs to operate in that state for the first time.
- Nationally: Federal partners (WRDA, QZAP), NISC, NAISMA
  - To address funding issues and research needs.
- We are looking for ideas and strategies to reward inspectors for good work. We are trying to change 'every feedback being negative', worked with TU to do some reward programs last year but are always looking for more ideas on how to reward.
- Important if people see something going on or not going on at the station, let FWP know so they can follow up. Seeking more UC3 member feedback and involvement.
- FWP got a call on plastic octopus from a local ice skating in Helena, is was great that someone saw and called, raising that awareness is extremely beneficial.

**Regional Coordination- State/Federal AIS Coordination**

- Interest in mussels in the west was elevated immediately in the west in 2016 with mussel detection, new government administration, and DOI plan.
- Groups involved in Federal Coordination: Columbia River Basin Team, WRP of the ANS Task Force, WGA, PNWER, DOI (Safeguarding the West)-BOR, USFWS (QZAP, State ANS Plans), USACE, USFS, etc.
  - Montana AIS program receives lots of state funds but also funding from BOR, BLM, QZAP, State ANS plans, USACE (\$2 mil each year w/ 50/50 match program), USFS, WRDA.

**Discussion:**

- Paul- There are a lot of moving parts with AIS management. Concern that Montana seems to be doing well but there are gaps in AIS management, and those gaps seem to come from other states. For discussion:
  - Do we think that we are getting enough guidance... is there something that could be done on a federal level whether it is a set of guidelines for states to follow or inspection protocols?
  - Is there opportunity for us to make some statements to our governor to say we need a bit more guidance to help us as a whole?
  - Is there enough funding available federally (for MT and other states with smaller/less developed programs)?
  - Are there things that could be done to change the funding framework to get those states with smaller or no programs the funding that they need?
  - For discussion and possible future recommendation (not optimal time to make recommendations now).
- There is a current discussion on changing the match strategy for WRDA from 50/50 to 75/25, discussing now on finding better ways of getting the funding on the ground.
- USFWS tried to ask if we could wave the match requirements for the state ANS grants thinking there may be some state deficits from COVID protocols, takes about a few years to get that waiver, that is put on hold.
- Things are moving in the right direction and federal partners are trying to find ways to make things work and fill those gaps.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USFWS has a really long-standing effort to ‘build consensus in the west’, bringing the states together to talk about watercraft inspections and what a detection meant. WRP has moved discussion forward (esp. with mussels) whole series of documents from WRP on BMPs for WIS programs and consistent protocols, we are tied together with other states using those WRP protocols to improve consistency.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Member and Partner AIS Program Reports</b></p> <p>Partner Programs in the Upper Columbia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sea Me Paddle- Brian ‘BJ’ Johnson:</b> We own Sea Me Paddle kayaking tours on Flathead Lake. COVID was a weird year, we lost 6 weeks of winter business and lost all of summer staff after FWP was unsure if they would authorize permit. At the end of the season, summer business was up 74% and we did it with 8 people. With bookings of this coming season, will see a very similar pattern. Winter business was very busy, and the park and campgrounds have been packed.</li> <li>• <b>Trout Unlimited- Jeremy Anderson:</b> Education and outreach at the fly shops and quite a bit of youth programs “Trout in the Classroom”. Have incorporated water quality issues, disrupting the balance of ecosystems and food cycle with AIS, spreading the knowledge with the next generation through that curriculum.</li> <li>• <b>Avista- Paul Kusnierz:</b> Last year we collected a couple mussel samples from Cabinet Gorge reservoirs, doubling collection this year with Noxon (2 samples) and Cabinet Gorge (2 samples). Partnering with FWP to research modify EWM beds for fisheries management purposes, working on the Environmental Assessment. Anticipate treatment in those reservoirs, as we have been doing the past few years.</li> <li>• <b>Blackfeet Nation- Gerald Wagner:</b> Working with FWP on getting contract agreement reviewed for opening the Browning station. Phase II of opening for Covid, hopefully we will open up more in the next few months. Finishing up some funding for fishing sites on Cut Bank creek (border of the reservation), Birch creek (south side of reservation).</li> <li>• <b>CSKT- Martin Charlo:</b> Gearing up for the season, last year we had a tremendous amount of traffic and looking to get ready for that this season. AIS HB 241- committee yesterday. If that does pass, it will have far reaching implications for recreation on the lower half of Flathead Lake and the agreement we have with FWP for hunting and fishing on the reservation. Our sovereignty is being challenged in the legislature this year and the legislative process/session is the biggest thing we are dealing with. The Water Compact has passed, and we are now in control of the Bison Range.</li> <li>• <b>MACD- Lori Curtis:</b> Tough time, things are on hold with budgets in the legislature.</li> <li>• <b>Glacier NP- Chris Downs:</b> Only Lake McDonald was open to watercraft last year, still did ~10,000 inspections, unsure of what lakes will be open this year. Will be participating in Colorado database. North Fork might be open as well but Apgar IS will be open for sure.</li> <li>• <b>FLBS- Phil Matson:</b> Research and development, specifically in PCRs, digital droplets, and qualitative PCRs in regard to eDNA tech. Heavily involved in public education and outreach in K-12 and public arenas. Sampling Flathead Lake and Tiber reservoir, through DNRC AIS Grant, covering 40 different site 700 samples, interacted with 75 individuals on CDD/AIS. First of its kind, underwater rover that collected a plankton tow sample and videos of those samples from Tiber Reservoir. Allows us to sample smaller areas/habitats in areas of that lake. Last year marked 5-year anniversary working with CSKT. Mussel walk with CSKT happening next year. Would like to collaborate with Industry Outreach project and do some sampling demonstration with the marinas.</li> <li>• <b>MCWD/Missoula AIS District- Lindsey Bona-Eggeman:</b> Operating CIS gearing up for hiring. Created Missoula AIS District this year, first county AIS district in the state. Two alternate positions still open if you are a Missoula County Resident and interested. Fragrant Water Lily monitoring project and treatment trials in 2020 (is now a Missoula County listed noxious weed). Creating training videos for the watercraft inspection stations. Will have a two-part video training with a classroom/PowerPoint video (available by the end of march) not to replace in person trainings but to be used as</li> </ul>

supplemental/as needed (mid-season hiring and reference for inspectors). Then a separate video on the decontaminations and watercraft inspections. Monitoring Committee, prevention coordinator has been talking about doing an equipment or resource sharing/swap, creating a list or database on what equipment partners have. Instead of purchasing more gear you can share and use from partners. Commissioners and sheriffs dept are supportive with aiding with enforcement at the station, getting a dedicated law enforcement officer at the station. Putting feelers out if there is any funding out there to support that enforcement at the station.

- **ACTION: Add equipment sharing discussion to Monitoring Workshop agenda.**
- **NRCS- Monica Pokorny:** Education and outreach, through the service center and the water resource report, to private landowners focusing on how they can prevent the spread of AIS.
- **Swan Lakers- Michael Wallace:** AIS inspections at Swan Lake in July and August of 2020 (inspected 654 boats). No AIS- largely because most boats are inspected before getting to Swan Lake.
- **USFWS- Teresa Thom:** USFWS provides funding, coordination, and outreach to states for ANS plans and funding tied specifically to ZQM work. Will share the links: fantastic paper published Aug 2020 on the Lacey Act (summary of act and how it has changed). DOI released the IS Strategic Plan for the whole dept. in January of 2021. WGA launched IS data mobilization campaign to streamline data sharing across the west in December. USFWS updated data policy supporting the WGA efforts on data sharing. November of 2020 a large interagency MOU was signed with DOI, USFS, USACE on coordinating incident command and rapid response to invasive mussels, real push to implement the things outlined in this fiscal year. NISAW starting Feb 22-26 and USFWS has whole series of social media posts that we will be sharing. Prioritizing watercraft inspection database, USFWS pushing to use the Colorado database for the whole DOI. Horizon scanning project moving forward in 2021, looking ahead of what IS will be coming in the future and targeting different pathways, any regional watercraft and national organisms and trade. Working on hazard analysis and critical control point training (HACCPT), focusing on not moving around non target species in our everyday work. eDNA sampling at hatcheries expanding for NZM, ZQM, Northern Pike and Asian Carp. Rapid response exercise happening in Missouri River Basin at Fort Peck happening in the summer of this year (FWP, ISAN, PSFMC, USFWS, USACE, etc.)
- **Swan Valley Connections-Rob Rich:** Received DNRC AIS funding grant for a series of videos this summer, sharing widely throughout the region. Videos will help tell the story of different ways people are engaging in this work focusing on the Seely/Swan area. Let SVC know if anyone is out there and wants to get involved in that video effort. Will be sharing as that comes online.
- **Whitefish Lake Institute- Mike Koopal:** Whitefish program is a collaboration between WLI and the City of Whitefish with support from FWP. Efficiency and QA/QC at WIS, 2020 inspection just under 1700 watercraft with decontaminations on 120 watercraft. Also implement self-certifications for lower risk watercraft and exit seals are applied to boats that come off of whitefish lake and then come straight back to the lake. 3,500 seals came back unbroken. Donation from FWP for the decontamination station at the City Beach, reduce wait/travel time for users for that service. Partnering with FWP on EWM monitoring and control at beaver lake, few more plants were identified and removed this year as well as bottom barrier placement. WLI donated a suction dredger to FWP. Partnership with City of Whitefish to collect eDNA samples on local lakes, in addition to USFS partnership to collect samples on forest lakes. NWMLN partnerships with 41 lakes where Cynthia will visit once a year (mi-July-mid-August) to collect a

	<p>sample and send to FWP (as well as UCLN). FLBS and WLI raised some grant funds to complete economic benefit study of Whitefish/Flathead Lake (<a href="#">published on website</a>).</p> <p><b>May 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting Guest Presenter Poll</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Top voted results- 1) Panel of inspectors and decontaminators or 2) Presentation from mussel infested area.</li> <li>• We will keep other ideas for future topics, if you have any additional guest speaker/topic ideas please let the staff know.</li> </ul>
<b>Public Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No public comment.</li> </ul>
<b>Adjourn</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring Workshop is March 16<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• Next meeting date is May 12<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• <b>Motion:</b> To adjourn the UC<sup>3</sup> Winter Meeting (Stacey). Seconded (Paul). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i></li> <li>• Adjourned at 4:20pm.</li> </ul>

4. Action Items				
Action:		Assigned	Due Date	Status
1	Draft minutes and send to members	Kate Wilson/Cassidy Bender		
2	Add equipment sharing discussion to Monitoring Workshop agenda.	Kate Wilson	3/16/21	
3	Kate/Lori to draft letter of recommendation for Stacey as new chair of UC <sup>3</sup> and send on to the boards and commissions office for review.	Kate Wilson/Lori Curtis		
4	Stacey to contact Doug Grabb (NWPPC) about possible participation on commission.	Stacey Schnebel		
5	Russ with share USACE contacts from Libby Dam.	Russ Hartzell		Completed
6	Get an invitation for our next commission meeting to the Governor's office and legislative services.	Kate Wilson	5/12/21	
EXISTING ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS				
7	Contact Liz Lodman for Clean Drain Dry rack cards, kids' activity books, AIS materials, etc. or if you would like to assist with placement and distribution of the AIS species signs at infected waterbodies.	All	On-going	
8	Send anything you would like to share or add to the new UC <sup>3</sup> website (i.e. photos) to Kate Wilson or Cassidy Bender	All	On-going	
9	Discuss drafting a letter for South Dakota AIS program to the agenda with the legislative committee.	Kate Wilson		
10	Look into railway transport of watercraft as potential high-risk vector	Tom Woolf, Chris Parrot		



# UPPER COLUMBIA CONSERVATION COMMISSION (UC<sup>3</sup>) SPRING MEETING

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

12:30 PM to 4:00 PM

Via Zoom (*contact staff for meeting participation details*)

## AGENDA

TIME	TOPIC/QUESTION	PRESENTER(S)	OBJECTIVE & PREPARATION	LINK TO STRATEGIC WORK PLAN
12:30 PM	<p>Welcome &amp; Agenda Overview Meeting Rules</p> <p>Zoom/virtual meeting etiquette</p> <p>Participant Introductions (roll call)</p>	<p>Stacey Schnebel, Chair UC<sup>3</sup>, Hydroelectric Cooperatives Rep.</p> <p>Tom Woolf, UC<sup>3</sup> Vice Chair; AIS Bureau Chief, MT Fish, Wildlife &amp; Parks; MISC Representative</p> <p>Kate Wilson, UC<sup>3</sup> Administrator</p> <p>Cassidy Bender, UC<sup>3</sup> Coordinator</p>	<p>Welcome Online Meeting Rules</p> <p>Review agenda and meeting materials provided in advance</p>	<p><b>Coordination &amp; Collaboration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Reliable AIS information source</i></li> <li>• <i>Connect w/partners &amp; stakeholders</i></li> <li>• <i>Encourage close cooperation</i></li> </ul>
12:45 PM	Public Comment	Stacey Schnebel		
12:50 PM	Overview of SB 384/Impacts to AIS Program from 2021 Legislative Session	Dustin Temple, FWP ( <i>invited</i> )		<p><b>Coordination &amp; Collaboration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Reliable AIS information source</i></li> </ul>
1:00 PM	<p>Staff &amp; Committee Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FY21 Budget</li> <li>• Grants</li> <li>• Legislative Summary</li> <li>• Upper Columbia Lakes Network</li> <li>• Industry Outreach project</li> <li>• Education &amp; outreach for 2021</li> <li>• 2021 Upper Columbia Basin AIS Monitoring Plan</li> <li>• FY22 proposed budget</li> <li>• Upcoming events</li> </ul> <p>ACTIONS: Approve minutes, updated FY21 line item budget &amp; discuss/approve FY22 proposed budget</p>	<p>Kate Wilson</p> <p>Cassidy Bender</p> <p>Brant Dupree, Big Sky Watershed Corps member</p> <p>Chris Downs, UC<sup>3</sup> Early Detection &amp; Monitoring Committee Chair</p>	<p>Review &amp; approve 2/4/21 minutes</p> <p>Discuss &amp; approve FY21 budget (modified); review plans for FY22 budget</p>	<p><b>Education &amp; Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Utilize E&amp;O Strategy</i></li> <li>• <i>Dev. Annual media plan</i></li> <li>• <i>Conduct industry outreach</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Monitoring &amp; Citizen Science</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ensure continuity of UCLN</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Coordination &amp; Collaboration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Encourage close cooperation</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Programmatic Policy &amp; Legislation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Provide input &amp; feedback</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Business &amp; Admin</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Provide accounting &amp; budget services</i></li> <li>• <i>Develop annual monitoring plan</i></li> </ul>

TIME	TOPIC/QUESTION	PRESENTER(S)	OBJECTIVE & PREPARATION	LINK TO STRATEGIC WORK PLAN
1:40 PM	Pre-Season Inspection Season Presentation: <i>Containing &amp; Preventing AIS in Utah</i>	Nate Owens, AIS Coordinator – Utah Division of Wildlife Resources		<b>Coordination &amp; Collaboration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect w/partners &amp; stakeholders</li> </ul>
2:10 PM	BREAK			
2:25 PM	FWP AIS Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watercraft inspection stations</li> <li>• Monitoring</li> <li>• 2021 season plans</li> </ul>	Tom Woolf	Learn about this season's AIS activity & efforts; Q&A for FWP  Review 2020 program summaries; provide feedback	<b>Coordination &amp; Collaboration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect w/partners &amp; stakeholders</li> <li>• Encourage close cooperation</li> <li>• Provide support &amp; assistance</li> </ul> <b>Programmatic Policy &amp; Legislation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide input &amp; feedback</li> </ul>
2:45 PM	Member/Partner Highlight: Missoula County AIS District	Bryce Christiaens, Missoula County Weed District Manager  Joann Wallenburn, AIS District Chair	Dive deeper into background, other projects, staff and AIS work of partner org.	<b>Coordination &amp; Collaboration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect w/partners &amp; stakeholders</li> <li>• Encourage close cooperation</li> </ul>
3:00 PM	Partner AIS Programs & Efforts	Avista; Blackfoot Nation; Clark Fork Coalition; Conservation Districts: CSKT; Clearwater Resource Council; Electric Coops; Glacier National Park; Flathead Lakers; Flathead Lake Biological Station; Missoula-County Weed & AIS Districts; Montana Invasive Species Council; Sanders Co. Aquatic Plant Task Force; Swan Lakers; Trout Unlimited; USFS; Whitefish Lake Institute, etc.	Learn about this season's AIS activity & efforts; Q&A for partners	<b>Coordination &amp; Collaboration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reliable AIS information source</li> <li>• Connect w/partners &amp; stakeholders</li> <li>• Encourage close cooperation</li> <li>• Provide cooperative, inclusive and open environment</li> </ul>
3:40 PM	Improvements & Incentives Brainstorming session: Inspectors	All	Explore options for improving and/or incentivizing	<b>Programmatic Policy &amp; Legislation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide input &amp; feedback</li> </ul>
3:55 PM	Public Comment			
4:00 PM	ADJOURN			

***The mission of the [Upper Columbia Conservation Commission \(UC<sup>3</sup>\)](#) 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 (UC<sup>3</sup>) meetings are open to the public. The UC<sup>3</sup> will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. Please contact Cassidy Bender ([cassidy.bender@mt.gov](mailto:cassidy.bender@mt.gov)) for meeting details (e.g. virtual meeting links/teleconference information) or to request accommodations prior to the meeting date.*

# MEETING MINUTES

<b>Meeting/ Project Name:</b>	<b>Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC<sup>3</sup>)</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	Wednesday May 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	<b>Time:</b>	12:30pm-4:00pm
<b>Minutes Prepared By:</b>	Cassidy Bender	<b>Location:</b>	Zoom/Call In

## List of Acronyms

AIS	Aquatic invasive species	FLBS	Flathead Lake Biological Station
BOR	US Bureau of Reclamation	FWP	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
BSWC	Big Sky Watershed Corps (AmeriCorps)	GNP	Glacier National Park
CEMIST	Central Eastern MT Invasive Species Team	MCWD	Missoula County Weed District
CFC	Clark Fork Coalition	NPS	National Park Service
CRB	Columbia River Basin	NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
CRC	Clearwater Resource Council	UCLN	Upper Columbia Lakes Network
CSKT	Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes	USACE	US Army Corps of Engineers
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality	USFS	US Forest Service
DNRC	Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation	USFWS	US Fish & Wildlife Service
eDNA	Environmental DNA	WLI	Whitefish Lake Institute
E & O	Education & Outreach	WRDA	Water Resources Development Act
EQC	Environmental Quality Council	WRP	Western Regional Panel

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p><b>Agenda Overview</b></p> <p><b>Meeting Rules</b></p> <p>Stacey Schnebel, UC<sup>3</sup>Chair-elect, Hydroelectric Cooperatives Rep.</p> <p>Tom Woolf, UC<sup>3</sup> Vice Chair; AIS Bureau Chief, MT Fish, Wildlife &amp; Parks; MISC Representative</p> <p>Kate Wilson, UC<sup>3</sup> Administrator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting rules were presented (Zoom/Virtual Etiquette) and it was specified that voting should be done in the chat, which will be saved for the record.</li> </ul> <p><i>The mission of the Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC<sup>3</sup>) 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.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All commission members and participants introduced themselves including name and organization/interest that they are representing.</li> <li>Montana Electric Cooperative Association Magazine: Rural Montana- published AIS article "Get boats inspected when returning to Montana"!</li> <li>Agenda overview: Overview of Legislative Session/SB 384, Staff &amp; Committee Reports (reports, budgets, projects, grants &amp; contracts), Pre-season Inspection Station Presentation- Nate Owens, UT, Member/Partner highlight- MCWD/AIS District, FWP AIS report, AIS reports from partners, Brainstorming Session: Improvements &amp; Incentives for Inspectors, public comment and adjourn.</li> </ul>
<b>Public Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None.</li> </ul>

## 2. Attendees

**UC<sup>3</sup> (voting members underlined):** Stacey Schnebel (/Flathead Electric Cooperative, Electric Cooperatives), Tom Woolf (FWP: Vice Chair/ MISC), Chris Parrott (Jesco Marine & Powersports/private industry), Paul Bradford (Libby Rod & Gun Club, Kootenai River Basin), Martin Charlo (CSKT Tribal Council), Phil Matson (Flathead Lake Biological Station: private landowner), Paul Kusnierz (Avista, Hydropower), Mike Koopal (member at large), Larry Lack (Sanders County AIS Task Force Lower Clark Fork), Andrew Gorder (Clark Fork Coalition, Upper/Middle Clark Fork), Jeremy Anderson (Bitterroot River Basin), Sen. Mike Cuffe (Eureka), Rep. David Fern (Whitefish), Sen. Janet Ellis (Helena), Rep. Neil Duram (Libby), Gina Hoff (BOR), Michelle Cox

(USFS Region 1 Invasive Species Coordinator), Theresa Thom (USFWS), Kate Wilson (Commission Administrator), Cassidy Bender (Commission Coordinator), Brant Dupree (UC3/MCWD BSWC),

**Absent:** Rob Rich (Swan Valley Connections), 'BJ' Brain Johnson (Sea Me Paddle Owner, Flathead River Basin), Monica Pokorny (NRCS), Heidi McMaster (BOR), Brian McKeon (Glacier NP), Jake Williams (USACE)

**Committee Members/Partners/Public/Other:** Lena Havron (FWP), Nate Owens (UT DWR), Bryce Christiaens (MCWD/AIS District), Joann Wallenburn (Missoula AIS District), Lindsey Bona-Eggeman (MCWD), Cynthia Ingelfinger (WLI, UCLN), Kate Finley-Squeque (CKST), Liz Lodman (FWP), Mike Hensler (FWP), Russ Hartzell (FWP), Kate Sheridan (Flathead Lakers), Gerald Wagner (Blackfoot Nation), Rich Janssen (CSKT), Monica Elser (FLBS), Stephanie Hummel (FLBS), Jillian Henrichon (MACD BSWC), Michael Wallace (Swan Lakers), Deb Tirmenstein (Montana Black Dog Services), Ron Catlett (Sen. Daines Office), Onno Wieringa (Flathead Lakers), Stephen Phillips (Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission), Radley Watkins (Missoula CD), Bernie Azure (Char-Koosta News)

### 3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues

Presenter	Topic/Discussion
<p><b>Overview of SB 384/Impacts to AIS Program from 2021 Legislative Session</b></p> <p>Lena Havron, FWP</p> <p>Senator Mike Cuffe</p>	<p><b>UC<sup>3</sup> Legislative Committee:</b> Andrew Gorder (Chair), Bryce Christiaens, Lori Curtis, Tom Woolf, Erik Hanson, Phil Matson, Sen. Cuffe, Rep. Duram, Sen. Ellis, Rep. Fern, FWP staff.</p> <p><b>Background Information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11/4/20 meeting: UC<sup>3</sup> voted to support two draft bills (AIS List/authority clarification &amp; Pull the Plug) based on recommendations generated in MISC law review, discussed at 2019 AIS Summit &amp; subsequent UC<sup>3</sup> meetings.</li> <li>• Discussions/correspondence with FWP &amp; DNRC agency directors &amp; staff; monthly committee meetings; recommendations based on discussions and changes over time</li> <li>• Sought answers to questions and potential unintended consequences &amp; 'pros/cons' for each</li> </ul> <p><b>Session Recap/Summary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation was challenging (remote/hybrid)</li> <li>• List bill (HB 52) tabled (uncertainty around concerns/issues)</li> <li>• Pull the Plug Bill (HB 52) amended heavily but passed               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Big thanks to Rep. Duram! Chris Parrott, Andrew Gorder, Phil Matson</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>AIS Bills that passed:</u> HB 40 (ballast bill); HB 152 (pull the plug); SB 384 (AIS funding)</li> </ul> <p><b>Senate Bill 384: Reduction of Hydropower Fee for AIS State Special Revenue</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AIS sources of funding 2019-2021: Hydropower fee; non-resident boats; anglers; general fund; bed tax</li> <li>• AIS funding 2021-2023 (altered due to passing of SB 384): Reduced by \$1.1M annually (reduction in hydro fee), flat fee from tiered structure</li> <li>• Source of funds to cover reduction (prevention pass/license fee)</li> <li>• Will likely see AIS funding coming up again in 2023 session</li> </ul> <p><b>Senator Mike Cuffe:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a difficult process to address funding in the legislature. AIS funding was very seriously challenged this session. We will see this again next session.</li> <li>• Hydropower representatives want to reduce the fees that they are paying (eliminate completely at first- SB 382[tableted]) as they felt it was unfair fee increase for the customers of the hydropower companies according to the Public Service Commission.</li> <li>• The original draft of SB 384 wanted to replace funding with marijuana revenue or ARPA funds, but neither funding sources were feasible.</li> <li>• USACE has signed a MOU with Canadian entities to allow use of match money that is spent in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. BC parliament has approved a \$12M expenditure for AIS in BC.</li> </ul>



**Early Detection & Monitoring Committee Update**

Kate Wilson

- Supplies & equipment
- Industry Outreach Pilot (\$20,000) – *Complete*
  - Engagement of water-based businesses in the Upper Columbia Basin; partial support for Big Sky Watershed Corps member; development & dissemination of outreach materials; pilot transferrable to other locations nation-wide
- Indirect (DNRC, 11.73%) - *Paid*
- Final grant report to be completed (by 12/2021)
- **ACTION:** 2021-2024 Grant application: NOW looking likely! ~\$58k
  - \$36,375/3 years: Industry Outreach Program/E&O
  - \$15,000/3 years: Upper Columbia Lakes Network (UCLN) continuation/expansion
  - + DNRC Indirect (12.73% = \$6,588)
- RFP for UCLN will be reviewed through either the ED & Monitoring committee or the review committee that was used for the previous RFP
- **Motion:** to approve proposed allocation of the 2021-2024 BOR grant (Phil). Seconded (Martin). All in favor. *Motion passes.*

**Proposed Line-Item FY22 Budget: ACTION**

- **\$20,000** AIS Education & Outreach
  - Augment FWP/partner AIS advertising in basin
  - Coordinate/fill gaps in annual E&O media plan
  - Targeted outreach & events
- **\$5,000** Member travel/meetings & sponsorships
- **\$5,000** Monitoring\*
  - Video production (for use statewide)
  - UCLN maintenance (annual)
- **\$5,000** BSWC Project\*
  - Travel/supplies for Industry Outreach
- **\$3,000** Annual Report, Additional Projects, Contingency, etc.
- **\$2,000** Staff supplies/travel/office
- **TOTAL FUNDS: \$40,000 (proposed to start FY22)**
  - \*State operating funds requested in addition to BOR grant funds.
- **Motion:** to approve FY22 line item budget (Martin). Seconded (Chris). All in favor. *Motion passes.*

**AIS Monitoring in the Upper Columbia Basin**

- **2021 Upper Columbia AIS Monitoring Plan**
  - Annual, coordinated plan (required in statutory)
  - Successful and highly attended March workshop/discussion
  - Chair/Staff drafted 2021 Monitoring Plan – going out for review to Early Detection & Monitoring Committee
- **Upper Columbia Lakes Network (<https://ucln.net/>)**
  - Previous contract with WLI completed (BOR funds)
  - Continuity/expansion identified as priority
  - BOR funds (if successful) at \$5k/annually (3 years)
  - Suggest additional operating funds be committed (\$2-\$5k/year)
  - Assist with training video production (this summer)
  - Continue outreach to bring in additional citizen scientists

## Other Committee Updates

Kate Wilson

### Committee Work

- Executive Committee: Chair, Vice Chair, FWP, staff
  - Business/oversight/planning/projects between meetings
  - Meets bi-weekly (Thursdays @ 9:15), open to public
- Early Detection & Monitoring Committee:
  - Objectives:
    - Develop annual monitoring plan
    - Develop recommendations for gaps/areas of improvement for AIS monitoring in the UC
    - Provide feedback and oversight on the continuance of the Upper Columbia Lakes Network
  - Members: Chris Downs (GNP), Craig McLane (FWP), Phil Matson (FLBS), Joann Wallenburn (CRC), Mike Koopal & Cynthia Ingelfinger (WLI), Lindsey Bona-Eggeman (MCWD), Kate Finley-Squeque (CSKT)
  - Any new volunteers? Let staff know if you would like to participate (do not have to be commission members to join).
- Education & Outreach Committee:
  - Objectives:
    - Provide feedback on UC<sup>3</sup> E&O efforts and associated E&O strategy
    - Support the Industry Outreach Project
    - Provide ideas and a sounding board for future E&O efforts & events
  - Members: Liz Lodman (FWP), Lindsey Bona-Eggeman (MCWD), Chris Parrott (private industry), Rob Rich (SVC), Phil Matson (FLBS), Big Sky Watershed Corps members, staff
  - We would like to expand and engage the committee more, let staff know if you would like to participate (do not have to be commission members to join).

## E&O Updates

Cassidy Bender,  
UC<sup>3</sup> Coordinator

### UC<sup>3</sup> Education & Outreach

- Goal: Increase public awareness in the Upper Columbia Basin related to AIS impacts, State AIS program rules and personal responsibilities.
- We are scheduling advertising for the 2021 season to augment the FWP advertising and outreach efforts (in the Upper Columbia Basin) with a coordinated media plan.
- Currently have secured a billboard from March-Sept '21 in Evaro (24 miles prior to Ravalli WIS) and Anaconda (12 miles prior to the Anaconda inspection station), MTPR radio PSAs, and ABC & Fox TV Network AIS PSAs (developed by the Clearwater Resource Council).



## Industry Outreach Project Updates

Brant Dupree, BSWC member UC<sup>3</sup>/MCWD

### BSWC Industry Outreach Project

- We have partnered with CEMIST and FWP to implement an Industry Outreach project throughout the whole state this year with Jennifer Riddle and Colin Threlkeld.
  - Estimated over 250 industries to visit in 2021! (110 in western Montana)
- We are hoping to get commission members involved in some of these visits. Brant will be reaching out to members when he is in the area. If you are in these locations, he

<p><b>Staff Report Wrap Up</b></p> <p>Kate Wilson</p>	<p>would love to meet with you, or is soliciting any recommendations of local places/people to visit or input on site-visit discussion points, etc.</p> <p><b>Tasks Moving Forward &amp; Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2021 Upper Columbia AIS Monitoring Plan</li> <li>• Move forward with education &amp; outreach plans</li> <li>• Implement Industry Outreach Program and events</li> <li>• Conduct partner AIS E&amp;O survey</li> <li>• BOR grant finalization</li> <li>• AIS video projects</li> </ul> <p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Invasive Species Awareness Week (<i>May 17-21</i>)</li> <li>• North American Invasive Species Forum (<i>May 18-20, virtual</i>)</li> <li>• Columbia River Basin annual meeting (<i>June 8-9, virtual</i>)</li> <li>• Pacific Northwest Economic Region annual summit (<i>Aug 16-19, Big Sky</i>)</li> <li>• North American Invasive Species Management Association (<i>Sept 27-30, Missoula/Hybrid</i>)</li> <li>• Western Regional Panel (<i>Sept 20-24, virtual</i>)</li> <li>• North American Lake Management Society (<i>Nov 15-18, OK</i>)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pre-Season Inspection Season Presentation: Containing &amp; Preventing AIS in Utah</b></p> <p>Nate Owens, AIS Coordinator- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources</p>	<p><b>Containing &amp; Preventing AIS in Utah- Nate Owens</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the full detailed presentation please see the meeting recording: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="https://mt.gov.zoom.us/rec/share/rcxxfcZHSI-UuuyQh_g6IAD_mLxXzn5E3bie1eok47GDYBk08nAsne7Akz9qx--yYUfEAizN7dQPcK [mt.gov.zoom.us]">https://mt.gov.zoom.us/rec/share/rcxxfcZHSI-UuuyQh_g6IAD_mLxXzn5E3bie1eok47GDYBk08nAsne7Akz9qx--yYUfEAizN7dQPcK [mt.gov.zoom.us]</a></li> <li>○ Access Password: yi*GCh.5</li> <li>○ Presentation by Nate Owens starts at 1:15:45</li> </ul> </li> <li>• UT AIS program consists of two branches: the Early Detection Monitoring program (with 3 AIS biologists) and a watercraft inspection program (with a statewide AIS Lt., two AIS sergeants, two Lake Powell interdiction specialists (in charge of all Lake Powell operations), four regional interdiction specialists (in charge of AIS operations around the rest of the state).</li> <li>• Utah program funding ~\$3.1M Annually: \$1,350,000 general funds, \$1M restricted funds from different fee programs, \$4-500,000 from federal funds, \$250,000 from local water districts and local partners. Dip tank funding: \$500k of general funds and BOR is in the process of providing an additional \$350k.</li> <li>• Utah Rules and Regulations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Before launching in Utah, all boaters must complete an online AIS education program and present completion certificate OR they can complete a self-decontamination or professional decontamination worksheet and sign.</li> <li>○ Dry Time or Professional Decontamination required after visiting a mussel-affected waterbody.</li> <li>○ Drain Plug removal required of all boats (if it floats it's a boat) in transport.</li> <li>○ Nonresident boater fee \$20.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Interdiction (inspections) Strategy: Layers of protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Containment at Lake Powell-&gt; Mandatory highway inspection stations (include map?)-&gt; Administrative checkpoints (of all vehicles)-&gt; ramp inspection stations (~30 locations)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Lake Powell is the largest invasive mussel containment program in the nation, cooperatively run by the NPS, Arizona Game and Fish, USFWS, UT, BOR.</li> <li>• Mission is to inspect all exiting boats during daylight hours, decontaminate select boats, and input all the information into the regional database (accessed by any other user).</li> </ul>



- Local boater program and local renter program allow those boats to bypass the inspection station line. As their risk is low and it allows staff to focus their efforts and time on other higher risk boats.
- Looking at new inspection stations at Kanab, Hanks-vile (decided against purchasing land here but have contracted with a private business to implement decontaminations), and Blanding. Boater traffic has increased, and it is a safety issue. Inspection lines are extended up to 3-4 hours with decontamination lines around 6 hours. Started looking at purchasing lands establishing new inspection stations to help mitigate the long line safety issues.

#### **Exciting Years in the Utah AIS program**

- 2018- Hydrostatic mussel issue (changing water levels) detached mussels and caused them to float and congregate in marinas/bays and started sticking to boats and trailers.
- 2019- Year of the sea strainer... completely rehailed inspection station protocol asking folks to take sea strainers out before they got there but most folks didn't know they had one or where it was, so it was an educational moment.
- 2020- We are now finding mussels on kayaks and non-motorized watercraft!
- 2021- Shells, shells, and more shells: lake levels at Lake Powell are drastically low this year with big layers and mats of mussels on shorelines with anyone getting in and out of their boats on the beach tracking those mussels into their carpeted boats. Have provided shop vacuums for boaters at ramps to vacuum the mussels from their boats.

#### **Forced Innovation:**

- Now using a hot water decontamination dip tank- the first in the country.
  - See video here: <https://youtu.be/m2-zB2c-DHA>
- Installed at the state line launch ramp at Lake Powell and are looking at future locations in the coming years.
- Automated collection of BOW# by cameras at Powell ramps. User interface allowing for mobile device scanning of bow #... end result would be records of all boats visiting the two busiest ramps and improves quality control.
- Realizations:
  - Elimination/minimization of BIOLOGICAL RISK should and always will be the priority!
  - Long-term support of the boating public is paramount!
  - Regional strategies will become more important, redundancy is good in certain situations but not in others. Re-decontaminating boats going from one uninfected area to another uninfected area is not a good use of resources.
  - eDNA is a powerful tool that should be explored with partners and stakeholders before implementing widespread use. UT partnering w/USGS on eDNA research.

#### **Questions/Discussion:**

- As of right now, the dip tanks are just ballast boats. As it is saving the most time, saving confusion, and ensuring there is no damage to ballast systems in the decontamination process. First boat decontaminated was a 25-foot wakeboard boat brand new, completed in ~5 minutes.
- Dip tank costs were about \$800k to try out and fabricate all the different systems and choose one. Moving forward \$600- 650k for quicker and easier (1-2 weeks timeline).
- Conservation of water use: Dip tank is about 9000 gallons of water, can filter the entire 9000 gallons every 2 hours. Will never have to replace water fully, only have to replace the (minimal) water due to evaporation, developing shade balls to cut down on that.
  - Tank uses a commercial grade filtration system that filters out mussel veligers.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utah is looking at doing additional research on the impacts of the decontamination process, whether using a typical decontamination unit, or the dip tank, on residual eDNA on watercraft.</li> <li>• New slogan: 'I got tanked at Lake Powell'</li> <li>• <b>Action: Kate to follow up with Nate Owens on the local renter program.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>FWP AIS Report</b></p> <p>Tom Woolf, FWP AIS Bureau Chief</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Busy year so far, most inspection stations are open now. Record number of boats, over 1000 more boats at this time last year. Record number of mussel boats so far (21).</li> <li>• AIS Boat Inspection Dashboard: <a href="#">ArcGIS Dashboards Classic</a></li> <li>• AIS Monitoring Dashboard: <a href="#">ArcGIS Dashboards</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dashboards updated weekly on Tuesdays.</li> <li>○ Monitoring dashboard also includes data from partners using the data app.</li> <li>○ 2021 Monitoring plans are similar to 2020. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Training staff now (3 groups of 2)</li> <li>▪ Continue partner sampling coordination</li> <li>▪ Expand partner survey</li> <li>▪ Focus areas for 2021: Tiber, NZ Mudsnaills follow-up, Beaver Lake (milfoil), Elmo Lake (Asian clams), Holland Lake (water lily), Crayfish project, Turtle and bullfrog project.</li> <li>▪ Seeking opportunities for workshops and training.</li> <li>▪ Expand awareness and reporting of suspected AIS.</li> <li>▪ Trainings can be early detection sampling or general ID, survey methods and reporting.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• No evidence of mussels still at Tiber Reservoir (last year of containment operations at Tiber, year 5). Will pursue delisting if no mussels detected this year.</li> <li>• Native crayfish were reported with native clams stuck to their feet, as the public thought they were zebra mussels. Hearing lots of reports from the public on things they are seeing out there.</li> <li>• Inspection Station Challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Staff hiring, management &amp; retention.</li> <li>○ Equipment maintenance.</li> <li>○ Decontamination of mussel boats.</li> <li>○ Following up on locked boats.</li> <li>○ FWP/partner station oversight. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pull the plug/ballast</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ QA/QC</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Coordination Opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ideas for recognizing good inspectors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sponsor stations, awards, trips, videos, etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Strategies for reporting QA/QC issues.</li> <li>○ Other ways to support station staff?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Moss Balls: USFWS "Destroy Don't Dump!" site that includes an overview of the moss ball issue and quick links and information on appropriate decontamination for aquariums, and even water gardens (<a href="https://www.fws.gov/fisheries/ANS/zebra-mussel-disposal.html">https://www.fws.gov/fisheries/ANS/zebra-mussel-disposal.html</a>).</li> <li>• Don't Let it Loose: Established program in local pet stores, plan to expand to local events and local waters in 2021, expand to ornamental pond retailers, good message for partners to deliver as well.</li> <li>• FWP Outreach: state-wide campaign promoting different (all-taxa) invasive species campaigns, industry engagement with expanded industry outreach with UC<sup>3</sup>, BSWC and</li> </ul>

	<p>CEMIST, BSWC member training, MISC NISAW invasive species campaigns, CDD stencils at boat ramps, advertising, outreach events, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ AIS federal funding: WRDA, USFWS, BOR (all require 50/50 match) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Received funding from BOR for a decontamination training trailer, fitted with different ballast systems to familiarize inspectors with them.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Western States</li> <li>○ Central states: ND and SD have gotten their inspection station program running partnering with CDs (also discussed with MT CDs)</li> <li>○ Canada: USACE approval for the Canadian match program is still at least a year out</li> <li>○ Midwest mussel fouled vessels.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Questions/Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to people report things to FWP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report AIS here: <a href="https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/aquatic-invasive-species/report-an-ais">https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/aquatic-invasive-species/report-an-ais</a></li> <li>• 1800-TIPMont or 406-444-2440.</li> <li>• Online at <a href="https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/aquatic-invasive-species/report-an-ais">https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/aquatic-invasive-species/report-an-ais</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Box that links to the report AIS link on <a href="http://CleanDrainDryMT.gov">CleanDrainDryMT.gov</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Watershed Protection Advocates released their report related to FWP inspection station data and another report evaluating quality control at inspection stations. It does point of things that FWP is already working on, especially quality control at inspection stations.</li> <li>• With Canadian border being closed, speculating September opening but what are we prepared if it opens in July? FWP has staff identified for the Eureka station. However, we cannot hold those staff members for long. Fortunately, the data shows there are not a lot of high-risk boats coming from places up north.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Member/Partner Highlight:</b></p> <p><b>Missoula County AIS District: First in MT!</b></p> <p>Bryce Christiaens, MCWD Manager</p> <p>Joann Wallenburn, AIS District Chair</p>	<p><i>"Our mission is to promote and maintain healthy plant communities by minimizing the ecological and economic impact of invasive species through public education, technology transfer, and monitoring, and by facilitating the involvement of landowners and land/resource management agencies to control the highest-priority species in our most sensitive areas. To carry out our mission, the Missoula County Weed Board emphasizes the areas of coordination, prevention, detection, rapid response and control." -Bryce Christiaens, District Manager:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Missoula County Weed/AIS Districts</b></p> <p><b>Introduction/Background</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Missoula County Weed District has been an active partner in AIS work in Montana, running the Clearwater inspection station since 2015 (over 40,000 inspections last year, busiest in the state) and partnering with lots of local watershed groups on AIS surveying and monitoring (Clearwater Resource Council, Swan Valley Connections, Blackfoot Challenge, Clark Fork Coalition, etc.). Wanted to step out and provide a model for other counties that were interested in how local government fits into the AIS arena. The definition for the AIS program is really at the state level, so Missoula wanted to create a template for how local governments can help advance the mission.</li> </ul> <p><b>Why an AIS District?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have amazing resources to protect (Clearwater chain of lakes)</li> <li>• Have developed partnerships with watershed groups throughout the county</li> <li>• Need to formalize the work we have already been doing.</li> <li>• We have an opportunity to increase resources for partners working on AIS prevention in Missoula County.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides a vehicle for Missoula County Commission to allocate funding towards AIS in Missoula County (local dollars). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increase length of day and season at Clearwater Inspection Station.</li> <li>○ Increase enforcement support for drive-by's and other AIS offenses.</li> <li>○ Support increased survey and monitoring efforts by watershed groups.</li> <li>○ Increase education/community prevention efforts.</li> <li>○ Provide funding for control efforts.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Created by AIS Act: 7-22-2601. Invasive species ordinances. (1) Subject to subsection (2), counties located within the Columbia River basin may adopt ordinances and resolutions regarding the prevention or control of invasive species, as defined in 80-7-1003, within the county.</li> <li>• Board members: Joann Wallenburn (Chair), Andrew Skibo (Vice-Chair), Mike Day, Russ Hartzell, Eamon Peterson, John O'Bannon, Kate Wilson, David Brooks, Dennis Vander Meer + Ex-Officio Agencies: MT FWP, CSKT, USFS Region 1.</li> </ul> <p><b>Primary Outcomes for Missoula County:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination among AIS agencies working in Missoula County.</li> <li>• Public knowledge &amp; engagement in AIS issues.</li> <li>• Prevention of new AIS populations.</li> <li>• Containment &amp; reduction of existing populations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Questions/Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fragrant waterlily has been listed as a county noxious weed.</li> <li>• Board will be working through a strategic plan this winter to develop the primary outcomes above.</li> <li>• Joann Wallenburn (AIS District Chair): We are here to enhance and augment efforts that are already being made and not to duplicate anything that is already being done. We are looking to provide a custom fit for our unique counties needs and do our very best to protect our waterbodies.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Updates from Member and Partner AIS Programs</b></p> <p>Partner Programs in the Upper Columbia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>MCWD - Lindsey Bona-Eggeman:</b> MCWD is exploring the idea of creating a professional development course for local AIS managers, if you are interested in participating or have ideas/thoughts on topics/professionals you think would be fitting to present/teach reach out to Bryce or Chris M. Looking at early spring/summer 2022, multiple day training, potentially finish with pesticide certifications or other credentials.</li> <li>• <b>Sanders County Task Force- Larry lack-</b> The task force is implementing a new program to enhance watermilfoil controls, looking at pulling or some form of harvesting to make it more effective for eradicating milfoil to create more accessibility for recreation.</li> <li>• <b>USFWS- Teresa Thom:</b> Moss (algae) ball issue- notified in Washington, elevated to state issue, regional issue, national issue, federal issue, shipments can now only be received through JFK or LAX. There will be a process in place for USFWS to eDNA test. National Invasive Species Awareness Week is May 15-22, 2021 <a href="https://www.nisaw.org/nisaw-2021/">https://www.nisaw.org/nisaw-2021/</a>. QZAP RPF is out right now on grants.gov (opportunity number is F21AS00441) with a closing date of June 15, 2021. The seaplane risk analysis is also out (F21AS00406) with a due date of June 4, 2021.</li> <li>• <b>Clearwater Resource Council- Joann Wallenburn:</b> CRC had to drop some lakes from the monitoring plan because of insufficient funding. There is a collaboration opportunity for UCLN to work with/pick up those groups, can provide the kits they were using but just need bottles and other supplies. <b>Action: Cynthia and Joann to collaborate on CRC-UCLN monitored lakes.</b></li> <li>• <b>Glacier National Park-</b> One station up and running, rest of the operations up at the end of the month, intercepted a camp host going to glacier with mussels on his pontoon boat. It would have been caught by the glacier quarantine rule but it was one of the</li> </ul>

	<p>first boats heading straight to glacier with mussels on it. Decontamination of that boat is in the works.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>FLBS- Phil Matson-</b> 2021 Monitoring plan is underway, presenting at the NAISMA conference, mussel walk scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup> with 8<sup>th</sup> graders from Bigfork, also reaching out to the Boys and Girls club in Polson for an educational event, and will be working with Brant to collaborate Flathead Lake monitoring with the IO project.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Brainstorming Session:</b></p> <p><b>Improvements &amp; Incentives for Inspectors</b></p>	<p><b>Improving &amp; Incentivizing the Crucial Role of the Watercraft Inspector</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledgement and thank you</li> <li>• Promote awareness of the importance of the role</li> <li>• Increase respect &amp; gratitude (internal/external)</li> <li>• Incentives, performance rewards</li> <li>• Community engagement/local business outreach</li> <li>• Other internal/external opportunities</li> </ul> <p><b>Poll results: ‘What format do you think would be best to recognize and appreciate our watercraft inspectors?’ – 22 voted</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A local news story featuring inspectors in the paper and/or TV- 11 votes (50%)</li> <li>• Inspector-focused PSAs to run on TV/social media- 6 votes (27%)</li> <li>• Short video featuring thank you to inspectors from professionals, government staff and recreators- 5 votes (23%)</li> <li>• Celebratory watercraft inspector weekend (contests, prizes, BBQs, press, etc.)- 7 votes (32%)</li> <li>• Billboard thanking inspectors (‘hug your local boat inspector’)- 2 votes (9%)</li> <li>• Performance awards, prizes, trips, etc.- 12 votes (55%) <b>WINNER</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion &amp; Ideas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free food is always a great idea to appreciate staff.</li> <li>• Bar in glacier- reach boaters where they are at (breweries, concerts, tap room speakers, raft companies, gear stores, etc.) What about the idea of a reciprocal program for local businesses (CDD coasters or other physical things they could have in their location)? Provide incentives to those inspectors that are out in the field to visit those businesses. Pilot reciprocal package that we could duplicate at other locations. Even if you don’t own a business you could still sponsor a raft trip of a prize.</li> <li>• \$14.79 is the starting wage for FWP inspector staff and this is always a great way to show recognition is to raise the wage, but it is a tough thing to do. It has been raised as an issue in terms of soliciting and retaining staff many times in the past/present.</li> <li>• Legislators- there is strong legislative support, confident that the legislative community will support, and we will get to the governor’s desk. The legislative council meets May 24<sup>th</sup> and they will be solidifying all the interim committees and we will hear about appointments shortly after that.</li> <li>• Phil- Tom Bansak gave a nice AIS presentation at the Stonefly 2-3 years ago, it was a wonderful outreach event and possibility. Science on tap sort of thing.</li> <li>• Joann- Thursday May 20<sup>th</sup> the Blackfoot challenge is hosting what might be the last trumpeter swan reintroduction station, with education stations afterwards including an AIS station. Joann will be spreading the Don’t Let it Loose campaign as well.</li> </ul>
<b>Public Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No public comment.</li> </ul>
<b>Adjourn</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Motion:</b> To adjourn the UC<sup>3</sup> Spring Meeting (Phil). Seconded (Mike). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i></li> <li>• Adjourned at 4:02pm.</li> </ul>

**4. Action Items**

<b>Action:</b>		<b>Assigned</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Status</b>
1	Draft minutes and send to members	Kate Wilson/Cassidy Bender	5/26/21	Complete
2	Kate to follow up with Nate Owens on the local renter program.	Kate Wilson		
3	Cynthia and Joann to collaborate on CRC-UCLN monitored lakes.	Cynthia Ingelfinger & Joann Wallenburn		
<b>EXISTING ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS</b>				
4	Stacey to contact Doug Grabb (NWPCC) about possible participation on commission.	Stacey Schnebel		
5	Contact Liz Lodman for Clean Drain Dry rack cards, kids' activity books, AIS materials, etc. or if you would like to assist with placement and distribution of the AIS species signs at infected waterbodies.	All	On-going	
6	Send anything you would like to share or add to the new UC <sup>3</sup> website (i.e. photos) to Kate Wilson or Cassidy Bender	All	On-going	
7	Discuss drafting a letter for South Dakota AIS program to the agenda with the legislative committee.	Kate Wilson		
8	Look into railway transport of watercraft as potential high-risk vector	Tom Woolf, Chris Parrot		

# UPPER COLUMBIA CONSERVATION COMMISSION (UC<sup>3</sup>) MEETING

Wednesday, October 13, 2021

10:30 AM to 4:30 PM (HYBRID)

Montana DNRC Forestry Division

Missoula, Montana (2705 Spurgin Rd.) AND/OR virtual

## AGENDA

TIME	TOPIC/QUESTION	PRESENTER(S)	OBJECTIVE & PREPARATION	LINK TO STRATEGIC WORK PLAN
9:00 AM	<b>OPTIONAL: New Member Orientation</b> – AIS 101 & UC <sup>3</sup> Overview	Tom Woolf, UC <sup>3</sup> Vice Chair; AIS Bureau Chief, MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks; MISC Representative  Stacey Schnebel, Chair UC <sup>3</sup> , Hydroelectric Cooperatives Rep.  Kate Wilson, UC <sup>3</sup> Administrator	Provide new members with a basic understanding of AIS Program in MT; get them up to speed on history and work of UC <sup>3</sup>	<b>Coordination &amp; Collaboration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reliable AIS information source</li> <li>Connect w/partners &amp; stakeholders</li> <li>Encourage close cooperation</li> </ul> <b>Business &amp; Admin</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow all applicable agency and board rules and requirements</li> </ul>
10:30 AM	<b>Welcome</b> & Agenda Overview  Meeting Rules  Participant Introductions (roll call)	Stacey Schnebel  Tom Woolf  Kate Wilson  Cassidy Bender, UC <sup>3</sup> Coordinator	Welcome, introductions & meeting etiquette  Review agenda and meeting materials in advance	<b>Coordination &amp; Collaboration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reliable AIS information source</li> <li>Connect w/partners &amp; stakeholders</li> <li>Encourage close cooperation</li> </ul>
10:45 AM	<b>Public Comment</b>	Stacey Schnebel		
10:50 AM	Welcome new members & honoring of past members	Stacey Schnebel		<b>Coordination &amp; Collaboration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connect w/partners &amp; stakeholders</li> </ul>
11:00 AM	<b>Staff &amp; Committee Reports</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FY22 Budget</li> <li>Grants &amp; contracts</li> <li>Budget process discussion</li> <li>Upper Columbia Lakes Network</li> <li>Education &amp; outreach strategy</li> <li>Commission vacancies</li> <li>New Early Detection &amp; Monitoring Committee Chair</li> <li>Upcoming events &amp; announcements</li> </ul> <p>ACTIONS: Approve minutes, discuss/approve updated FY22 line-item budget, process &amp; requests; new chair for EDM Committee</p>	Kate Wilson  Cassidy Bender  Mike Koopal & Cynthia Ingelfinger, Whitefish Lake Institute	Review & approve 5/12/21 minutes  Discuss & approve FY22 budget (updated)	<b>Education &amp; Outreach</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilize E&amp;O Strategy</li> <li>Dev. Annual media plan</li> </ul> <b>Monitoring &amp; Citizen Science</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure continuity of UCLN</li> </ul> <b>Coordination &amp; Collaboration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage close cooperation</li> </ul> <b>Business &amp; Admin</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide accounting &amp; budget services</li> </ul>

TIME	TOPIC/QUESTION	PRESENTER(S)	OBJECTIVE & PREPARATION	LINK TO STRATEGIC WORK PLAN
12:00 PM	<b>LUNCH</b> (provided for in-person attendees)			
1:00 PM	<b>Industry Outreach Presentation,</b> summary & Recommendations	Brant Dupree, Big Sky Watershed Corps member  Jennifer Riddle & Colin Threlkeld, Big Sky Watershed Corps members		<b>Education &amp; Outreach</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct industry outreach</li> </ul>
1:40 PM	<b>FWP AIS Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2021 season overview (watercraft inspection stations, monitoring, edu/outreach, etc.)</li> <li>• Budget updates: federal/state funding for 2022</li> </ul>	Tom Woolf	Learn about this season's AIS activity & efforts; Q&A for FWP  Review 2021 program summaries; provide feedback	<b>Coordination &amp; Collaboration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect w/partners &amp; stakeholders</li> <li>• Encourage close cooperation</li> <li>• Provide support &amp; assistance</li> </ul> <b>Programmatic Policy &amp; Legislation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide input &amp; feedback</li> </ul>
2:15 PM	<b>Inspection &amp; Decontamination Panel:</b> Overview, success, challenges,	Zach Crete, FWP; Russ Hartzell, FWP; John O'Bannon, FWP; Bryce Christiaens, MCWD; Katie Finley-Squeque, CSKT ( <i>invited</i> ); Carla Belski, Whitefish; Brian McKeon, GNP ( <i>invited</i> )	Receive in-depth information about inspection and decontamination standards, protocols, successes & challenges. Discussion and questions encouraged.	<b>Coordination &amp; Collaboration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect w/partners &amp; stakeholders</li> </ul>
3:30 PM	<b>BREAK</b>			
3:45 PM	<b>AIS Education &amp; Outreach</b>  2021 season review; Invasive Bullfrogs & Turtles project in Western Montana	Liz Lodman, FWP AIS Public Information Officer	Learn about AIS education and outreach efforts	<b>Education &amp; Outreach</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilize E&amp;O Strategy</li> <li>• Dev. Annual media plan</li> </ul>
4:15 PM	<b>Public Comment</b>	Stacey Schnebel		
4:30 PM	ADJOURN	All		

**The mission of the [Upper Columbia Conservation Commission](#) 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 UC<sup>3</sup> meetings are open to the public. Contact Cassidy Bender ([cassidy.bender@mt.gov](mailto:cassidy.bender@mt.gov)) for meeting details (e.g. virtual meeting links/teleconference information) or to request accommodations prior to the meeting date.



# MEETING MINUTES

<b>Meeting/ Project Name:</b>	<b>Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC<sup>3</sup>)</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	Wednesday Oct 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	<b>Time:</b>	10:30pm-4:30pm
<b>Minutes Prepared By:</b>	Cassidy Bender	<b>Location:</b>	Hybrid: Missoula DNRC or Zoom/Call In

## List of Acronyms

AIS	Aquatic invasive species	FLBS	Flathead Lake Biological Station
BOR	US Bureau of Reclamation	FWP	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
BSWC	Big Sky Watershed Corps (AmeriCorps)	GNP	Glacier National Park
CEMIST	Central Eastern MT Invasive Species Team	MCWD	Missoula County Weed District
CFC	Clark Fork Coalition	NPS	National Park Service
CRB	Columbia River Basin	NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
CRC	Clearwater Resource Council	UCLN	Upper Columbia Lakes Network
CSKT	Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes	USACE	US Army Corps of Engineers
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality	USFS	US Forest Service
DNRC	Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation	USFWS	US Fish & Wildlife Service
eDNA	Environmental DNA	WLI	Whitefish Lake Institute
E & O	Education & Outreach	WRDA	Water Resources Development Act
EQC	Environmental Quality Council	WRP	Western Regional Panel

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

### Welcome Agenda Overview Meeting Rules

Stacey Schnebel, UC<sup>3</sup>Chair-elect, Hydroelectric Cooperatives Rep.

Tom Woolf, UC<sup>3</sup> Vice Chair; AIS Bureau Chief, MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks; MISC Representative

Kate Wilson, UC<sup>3</sup> Administrator

- Meeting rules were presented (Zoom/Virtual Etiquette) and it was specified that voting should be done in the chat, which will be saved for the record.
- The Upper Columbia Conservation Commission acknowledges that we are in the aboriginal territories of the Salish and Kalispel people. Today, we honor the path they have always shown us in caring for this place for the generations to come.

*The mission of the Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC<sup>3</sup>) 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 commission members and participants introduced themselves including name and organization/interest that they are representing.
- The commission would like to recognize the great work and dedication of our past commission members: Mike Koopal (Whitefish Lake Institute), Chris Parrott (Jesco Marine), Paul Kusnierz (Avista Utilities), Jeremy Anderson (Trout Unlimited Bitterroot), and Rob Rich (Swan Valley Connections). Your participation was greatly valued, and you will be widely missed by the commission and staff members.
- We would like to welcome aboard the following new commission members: Bruce Vincent (Private Industry), Arthur Potts (Avista Utilities), Rae Lynn Hays (Lincoln Conservation District), Tom Ray (Private Landowner), and Onno Wieringa (Flathead River Basin). We are looking forward to working alongside all of you to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species and Protect Montana's Waters!
- We have two commission vacancies: We are seeking two commission members to represent a natural resource, conservation, hunting or angling association either the Bitterroot Valley or the Big Blackfoot Watershed (Swan/Blackfoot River Basins). View

	more about our history, mission, and current projects on our <a href="#">website</a> and/or <a href="#">contact our staff</a> for more information.
<b>Public Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Attendees</b>	
<p><b>UC<sup>3</sup> (voting members underlined):</b> <u>Stacey Schnebel</u> (UC<sup>3</sup> Chair/Flathead Electric Cooperative), <u>Tom Woolf</u> (FWP: Vice Chair/MISC), <u>Rae Lynn Hays</u> (Lincoln CD), Bruce Vincent (Private Industry), <u>Martin Charlo</u> (CSKT Tribal Council), <u>Tom Ray</u> (Private Landowner), <u>Arthur Potts</u> (Avista), <u>Phil Matson</u> (Flathead Lake Biological Station: Member at Large), <u>Larry Lack</u> (Sanders County AIS Task Force Lower Clark Fork), <u>Andrew Gorder</u> (Clark Fork Coalition, Upper/Middle Clark Fork), <u>Onno Wieringa</u> (Flathead River Basin), <u>Paul Bradford</u> (Libby Rod &amp; Gun Club, Kootenai River Basin), Sen. Mike Cuffe (Eureka), Rep. David Fern (Whitefish), Sen. Janet Ellis (Helena), Rep. Neil Duram (Libby), Heidi McMaster (BOR), Michelle Cox (USFS Region 1 Invasive Species Coordinator), Theresa Thom (USFWS), Jake Williams (USACE), Chris Downs (Glacier NP), Kate Wilson (Commission Administrator), Cassidy Bender (Commission Coordinator), Brant Dupree (UC<sup>3</sup>/MCWD BSWC)</p> <p><b>Absent:</b> Monica Pokorny (NRCS)</p> <p><b>Committee Members/Partners/Public/Other:</b> Mike Koopal (WLI), Cynthia Ingelfinger (WLI, UCLN), Kate Finley-Squeque (CKST), Liz Lodman (FWP), Jennifer Riddle (FWP BSWC), Russ Hartzell (FWP), Zach Crete (FWP), John O'Bannon (FWP), Craig McLane (FWP), Emilie Henry (FBC/City of Kalispell BSWC), Jillian Henrichon (MACD BSWC), Brian McKeon (GNP), Colin Threlkeld (CEMIST BSWC), Stephanie Hummel (FLBS), Deb Tirmenstein (Montana Black Dog Services), Ron Catlett (Sen. Daines Office), Stephen Phillips (Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission), Gardner Dee (UM Graduate Student), Elaina Graham (Citizen/retired USFS), Mark Bostrom (DNRC)</p>	
<b>3. Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues</b>	
<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Topic/Discussion</b>
<b>Approval of Minutes</b> Kate Wilson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Motion:</b> to approve minutes from May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting (Onno). Seconded (Martin). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Staff Report</b>  Kate Wilson, UC <sup>3</sup> Administrator          Cassidy Bender, UC <sup>3</sup> Coordinator	<p><b>Staff activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting follow up &amp; planning; Exec Committee planning &amp; participation; Grant &amp; Budget management (writing/reporting/tracking) – BOR approved; Tracking AIS in CRB/West; BSWC member supervision- Industry Outreach Project (FWP, CEMIST); UC<sup>3</sup> Annual Monitoring Plan; AIS Monitoring/UCLN Support; EQC/Agency/Gov Office Reporting; Education &amp; Outreach Strategy- advertising, tabling, IO project, coordination, etc.; Legislative Committees/Interim meetings and follow up; Crown Managers Partnership (Steering Committee); North American Invasive Species Management Association conference (president); Western Regional Panel (chair of Fire AIS protocol committee); BC Columbia River Basin Steering Committee (member); Pend Oreille Basin Commission (Ex-officio, MT upstream rep); Flathead Basin Commission (50% of staff time); County Assist Team (CAT) Public Information Officer &amp; Liaison (Kate); Graduate school- MPA (Kate); Graphic design coursework (Cassidy)</li> <li>Kate is currently acting DNRC Communications Director ~November 2021</li> </ul> <p><b>UC<sup>3</sup> Operating Budget</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>FY2021 Budget:</b> \$40,000 Operating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Gov Fiscal Year= July 1-June 30</li> <li>Expended on member travel, meetings, UC<sup>3</sup> materials, staff/office supplies, projects (outreach, events, advertising, CDD materials), BSWC member</li> <li><b>\$40,000 Expended</b></li> </ul> </li> <li><b>FY2022 Budget:</b> \$40,000 Operating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Gov Fiscal Year= July 1-June 30</li> <li>Expended \$18,577</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- **Current balance \$21,423**

**Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Grant**

- BOR Federal Grant: \$120,000 COMPLETE
  - Funding timeline: 2017-2021 (4 years)
  - Education & outreach; monitoring; website and materials
  - Balance remaining: \$0
- **BOR Federal Grant: \$58,255 – Application Approved!**
  - Funding timeline: 2021-2024 (3 years)
  - \$36,750/3 years: Industry Outreach Program/E&O
  - \$15,000/3 years: Upper Columbia Lakes Network (UCLN) continuation/expansion
  - + DNRC Indirect (12.73% = \$6,505)
  - \$19,418 per year
  - Expended \$0
- BOR Projects:
  - Education & Outreach + Industry Outreach Project
    - Dev. of materials; engagement of public, stakeholders & partners; webpage dev. & maintenance (Windfall contract)
    - E&O work/advertising in Upper Columbia Basin
    - Engagement of water-based businesses in the Upper Columbia Basin; partial support for Big Sky Watershed Corps member; development & dissemination of outreach materials; pilot transferrable to other locations nation-wide
  - Expansion of Monitoring Network
    - Citizen science AIS monitoring expansion through Upper Columbia basin; protocol development; support for monitoring committee
    - Supplies & equipment

**FY22 Line-Item Budget (approved 5.12.21):**

- **\$20,000** AIS Education & Outreach
  - Augment FWP/partner AIS advertising in basin
  - Coordinate/fill gaps in annual E&O media plan
  - Targeted outreach & events
- **\$5,000** Member travel/meetings & sponsorships
- **\$5,000** Monitoring
  - Video production (for use statewide)
  - UCLN maintenance (annual)
- **\$5,000** BSWC Project
  - Travel/supplies for Industry Outreach
- **\$3,000** Annual Report, Additional Projects, Contingency, etc.
- **\$2,000** Staff supplies/travel/office
- **TOTAL FUNDS: \$18,577/\$40,000 expended to date**

**Budget Process Discussion**

UC<sup>3</sup> Bylaws- **Article VI: Section 4 Executive Committee:** *“The Officers (Chair, Vice Chair) of the UC<sup>3</sup>, an FWP representative and commission staff Administrator shall constitute the Executive Committee. When the Commission is not in session and cannot be assembled in a timely fashion, the Executive Committee shall have, and may exercise, all of the powers of the UC<sup>3</sup> in the management and affairs of the UC<sup>3</sup>. Decisions made by the Executive Committee shall be*

reported to the UC<sup>3</sup> and shall be subject to review and subsequent ratification if requested by a Commission member.”

- **Current example:** Whitefish Lake Institute seeking cost share partnership
  - (20% - **\$1,000**) for Resource Advisory Committee **2022 application**
  - eDNA/microscopy collection: Tally Lake (2), Hungry Horse (8), Upper Stillwater (2), and Ashley Creek (2)
  - Application for RAC approval, to be implemented summer 2022 (invoiced then), expecting to hear RAC decision early winter or early 2022
- **Process moving forward – for discussion**
  - Executive Committee discusses/decides (meetings open to all)
  - Hold for next full Commission mtg
  - Include line item in budget for discretionary/ad hoc requests or projects that meet UC<sup>3</sup> mission
  - Other ideas?

**Discussion:**

- Funds would either come from the monitoring or the contingency line item.
- Mark: UC<sup>3</sup> is not a grantor, however we do have an operating budget and the commission can make the decision to use resources for partner projects. The commission is limited in state procurement law from making partner contracts greater than \$5,000 to private entities.
- Best to go through application process, share applicants with commission for feedback, discuss during executive committee meetings (advertise/open to all).
- Note for FY23: we may want to identify funds for future fiscal years and/or have a specific line item for project/partner collaboration.
- **Action:** Draft fillable project request form and have WLI fill it out.
- Commission members would like a report back on the status/results of projects (possibly present at future meetings).
- **Motion:** to add to bylaws, financial/project support requests to be vetted by the commission through a public application process (approved projects must align with our mission) (Bruce). Second (Onno). All in favor. *Motion passes.*

**UC<sup>3</sup> Education & Outreach**

- **Goal:** Increase public awareness in the Upper Columbia Basin related to AIS impacts, State AIS program rules and personal responsibilities.
- View our 2020-2023 Education, Outreach, & Communication Strategy [on our website.](#)
- Four main E&O Strategy Objectives:
  - Implement a 3-year strategy (2020-2023)
  - Annual outreach/media plan to augment FWP’s AIS advertising and outreach
  - Document existing education, outreach, and advertising efforts (‘20/’22 survey)
  - Industry Outreach Project in the Upper Columbia Basin
- 2021 Season:
  - Evaro & Anaconda Billboards- before inspection stations with enforcement/fine message (see below)
  - MTPR & ABC/FOX TV: Protect Our Waters- Missoula Paddle-heads co-sponsor
  - Augmented Inspector Appreciation Week- August 2nd-8th (visited some stations and ran advertisements in local newspapers and social media)
  - Industry Outreach Project (year 3 and video production)- UM Baucus Innovation Challenge 2021 Winners! [View the video here.](#)

**E&O Updates**

Cassidy Bender,  
UC<sup>3</sup> Coordinator



**Early Detection & Monitoring Committee Update**

Kate Wilson/Cynthia Ingelfinger, UCLN

**Other Committee Updates**

Kate Wilson

**Discussion:**

- Fish, Wildlife, & Parks implements geo-targeting and geo-fencing social media campaigns for citizens traveling to the state to recreate, boat owners, etc.
- We need to emphasize the success stories in our messaging: celebrate each inspection station, delisting canyon ferry, 61 mussel boats intercepted this year!
- Mike/Neil text message idea, phone numbers that enter the basin or the state receive a message on mandatory inspections. Convenient and effective manner at spreading the word and urgency to keep our waterways free of AIS.
- Keep the public and legislators up to speed, the program is working but we need constant vigilance.

**AIS Monitoring in the Upper Columbia Basin**

- 2021 Upper Columbia AIS Monitoring Plan
  - Annual, coordinated plan (required in statutory)
  - Successful and highly attended March workshop/discussion
  - Chair/Staff completed 2021 Monitoring Plan – [view it on our website.](#)
- Upper Columbia Lakes Network (<https://ucln.net/>)
  - Previous contract with WLI completed (BOR funds)
  - Continuity/expansion identified as priority
  - BOR funds at \$5k/annually (3 years)
  - Additional operating funds be committed (\$5k/year)
  - Assist with training video production (winter/spring)
  - Continue outreach to bring in additional citizen scientists
  - 2021 Update: 7 new volunteers from 3 partner groups, individual trainings last 2 years because of covid, secchi dips (submitted to the secchi dip database), all data goes in to the FWP Survey123 app, and samples to Helena for analysis.

**Committee Work**

- Executive Committee: Chair, Vice Chair, FWP, staff
  - Business/oversight/planning/projects between meetings
  - Meets bi-weekly (Thursdays @ 9:15), open to public
- Early Detection & Monitoring Committee:
  - Objectives:
    - Develop/review/implement annual monitoring plan
    - Develop recommendations for gaps/areas of improvement for AIS monitoring in the UC basin
    - Provide feedback and oversight on the continuance of the Upper Columbia Lakes Network
  - Members: Chris Downs (GNP), Craig McLane (FWP), Phil Matson (FLBS), Joann Wallenburn (CRC), Mike Koopal & Cynthia Ingelfinger (WLI), Lindsey Bona-Eggeman (MCWD), Kate Finley-Squeque (CSKT)
  - Let staff know if you would like to participate (do not have to be commission members to join).
- Education & Outreach Committee:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide feedback on UC<sup>3</sup> E&amp;O efforts and associated E&amp;O strategy</li> <li>▪ Support the Industry Outreach Project</li> <li>▪ Provide ideas and a sounding board for future E&amp;O efforts &amp; events</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Members: Liz Lodman (FWP), Phil Matson (FLBS), Kate Finley-Squeque (CSKT), Big Sky Watershed Corps members, staff</li> <li>○ We would like to expand and engage the committee more, let staff know if you would like to participate (do not have to be commission members to join).</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Action:</b> Add Bruce Vincent to the Education &amp; Outreach committee.</li> <li>● <b>Motion:</b> to elect Phil Matson as the new Early Detection &amp; Monitoring Committee Chair (Onno). Second (Rae Lynn). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Tasks Moving Forward &amp; Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2021 Annual Report</li> <li>● 2022 Industry Outreach Program (BSWC interviews &amp; planning)</li> <li>● 2022 Education &amp; Outreach Planning</li> <li>● Conduct partner AIS E&amp;O survey (alternate years)</li> <li>● BOR grant finalization</li> <li>● AIS video projects (funding dependent)</li> </ul> <p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● FWP AIS Winter Meeting (Nov 9-10, Helena)</li> <li>● North American Lake Management Society (Nov 15-18, Virtual)</li> <li>● Flathead Basin Commission Winter Meeting (Jan 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022)</li> <li>● UC<sup>3</sup> Winter Meeting (Feb 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022) ~ virtual or hybrid?</li> <li>● National Invasive Species Awareness Week (Feb 28-Mar 4, 2022)</li> </ul>
<p><b>AIS Industry Outreach Project</b></p> <p>Brant Dupree, BSWC member UC<sup>3</sup>/MCWD</p> <p>Jennifer Riddle, BSWC member FWP</p> <p>Colin Threlkeld, BSWC member CEMIST</p>	<p><b>BSWC Industry Outreach Project</b></p> <p><b>UC<sup>3</sup> Project Updates- Brant Dupree</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We have partnered with CEMIST and FWP to implement an Industry Outreach project throughout the whole state this year with Jennifer Riddle and Colin Threlkeld. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Estimated over 250 industries to visit in 2021! (110 in western Montana)</li> <li>○ Meet weekly to coordinate efforts.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● AIS Industry Outreach Project UM Baucus Innovation Challenge 2021 Winners! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">View the video here.</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>● Brant along for his second term with UC<sup>3</sup>, visited 83 industry partners out of 98 total businesses (including 10 new partners). These are split up into 5 categories: marinas, outdoor retailers, fishing shops, boat sale/rentals, and miscellaneous (visitor centers, chambers of commerce, tourism offices, rest stops, campgrounds, etc.)</li> <li>● During visits: AIS discussions/questions with managers and staff, materials distributed, pledge to participate, etc.</li> <li>● Lessons learned: Best to provide a presentation to all/more staff than a one-on-one conversation with the manager to ensure widespread knowledge, AIS knowledge generally lower than businesses initially indicate, knowledge of zebra mussels high but local AIS knowledge is low, visiting businesses during peak season is not feasible.</li> <li>● Outreach/tabling opportunities: Brant was able to table at 7 events during the 2021 season including county fairs, fly fishing camps/film festivals, health fairs, local community events, etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>FWP Project Updates- Jennifer Riddle</b></p>

<p><b>AIS Industry Outreach Project Cont.</b></p> <p>Brant Dupree, BSWC member UC<sup>3</sup>/MCWD</p> <p>Jennifer Riddle, BSWC member FWP</p> <p>Colin Threlkeld, BSWC member CEMIST</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First year identifying water-based businesses on the east side of the divide: 205 businesses identified in initial inventory. Jennifer was able to visit 56!</li> <li>• FWP extended educational reach to various community and school events across the state, including a BSWC AmeriCorps member training on AIS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 11 field trips &amp; camps, 4 festivals &amp; fairs, 4 public programs, 6 meetings &amp; conferences, 8 classroom presentations.</li> <li>○ Tabling activities included a ‘spin the wheel’ species identification activity, inspector invader/amazing adapter activities, and other AIS educational curriculum.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Don’t Let it Loose (DLL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ FWP partnered with Invasive Species Action Network (ISAN) to expand and conduct outreach for the DLL campaign with stickers, signs, aquarium pet ownership pledges, and other materials.</li> <li>○ Campaign works to identify high risk areas for aquarium dumping, develop classroom kits for elementary schools in western MT, create social media posts and videos targeting pet owners, offer resources for rehoming instead of dumping, and incorporate DLL into all aspects of FWP AIS outreach.</li> <li>○ Received a grant for 100 signs, 56 have already gotten out to high risk dumping ponds.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Central &amp; Eastern Montana Invasive Species Team (CEMIST) Project Updates- Colin Threlkeld</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CEMIST conducted all taxa outreach (including AIS, noxious weeds, invasive plants, forest pests, and feral swine) with businesses using a graphic from DNRC detailing the various prevention campaigns used across the state.</li> <li>• Updated all of the AIS signage at marinas and fishing access sites (FAS) between great falls and Helena along the Missouri river.</li> <li>• Targeted FAS sites with angler outreach and attended public events. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lake Elmo motorized watercraft day, 1 volunteer event, 2 ramps stenciled, 15 signs replaced, 27 boaters/anglers engaged.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• CEMIST outreach featured in various media publications: The Montana Conservationist, That’s What Tree Said podcast, No Dam Experts podcast, 2 FWP newsletter write ups, an article for the Glacier Reporter.</li> <li>• <b>Pull Your Share-</b> New statewide program, started in GF public schools as educational field trip and professional development for high school aged kids, adopted by DNRC-MISC, have incorporated all taxa E&amp;O info into an awareness campaign for recreators. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Signs will be put at trailheads, community parks, etc. Will start with conservation districts roll out, Hill County &amp; Gallatin County, Ranchers Stewardship Alliance.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>FWP AIS Report</b></p> <p>Tom Woolf, FWP AIS Bureau Chief</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 109k inspections, similar to 2 years ago (down from the COVID bump in 2020). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 61 mussel fouled vessels intercepted!</li> <li>○ Record number of mussel fouled vessels this year. Every boat fouled with mussels takes extra time and effort from staff (decontaminating/tracking/inspecting, etc.).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Tiber samples are almost complete for the 2021 season, no mussels detected in the state or in Tiber. Requesting to delist Tiber Reservoir if there are no detections this year. If delisted, will still be heavily sampled in future years.</li> <li>• Both of the Dakotas have mussels, their programs are small. Hosted a rapid response exercise with those representatives. Summary of the exercise should be available soon.</li> <li>• Early Detection &amp; Monitoring:</li> <li>• AIS Boat Inspection Dashboard: <a href="#">ArcGIS Dashboards Classic</a></li> <li>• AIS Monitoring Dashboard: <a href="#">ArcGIS Dashboards</a></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dashboards updated weekly on Tuesdays.</li> <li>○ Monitoring dashboard also includes data from partners using the data app.</li> <li>○ Developing a 2022 sampling plan with UC<sup>3</sup> for western MT alongside the statewide plan that Craig develops.</li> <li>○ 2,700 samples were processed, a new waterbody in Nebraska tested positive for mussels this year. Mussels, clams, snails, crayfish, and weeds.</li> <li>○ Mussel detection canines, divers, sampling team, eDNA with FLBS implemented intensive survey on Tiber Reservoir.</li> <li>○ New Detections 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New Zealand Mudsnails: Mitchell Slough, Bitterroot River, Beavertail Pond, near Rock Creek, Big Sheep Creek, near Dell.</li> <li>▪ Red Rim Melania snails: Beaverhead rock, near Twin Bridges, Gardiner river.</li> <li>▪ Mystery Snail: Flathead Lake, Finley Point (snail dead and no other detections)</li> <li>▪ Curlyleaf pondweed: Big Elk Creek, Two Dot, Shields River, Big Timber</li> <li>▪ Southern plains crayfish: Miles City</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Stacey: News from the electric cooperative world is that mussels have made it up to the third dam on the Missouri river, in South Dakota. Hoped to use UV to treat infested waters at dam sites but the process is being hindered by cloudy water.</li> <li>● Eradicating these populations? Depends on the species, some are not possible or very difficult to remove, others suppressions/prevention is feasible and underway.</li> <li>● Treatment Projects: EWM, Fragrant Water Lily, Invasive clam eradication in Lake Elmo, Tiber survey (USWQS, BOR FLBS).</li> <li>● Partnerships &amp; Coordination: working closely with local communities, tribes, conservation districts, etc.</li> <li>● Working with conservation districts across the state to increase their participation and oversight of inspection stations, discussed challenges running stations, concerns with taking on additional work, and their local dedication to conservation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Inspection &amp; Decontamination Panel</b></p> <p><b>MT Fish, Wildlife &amp; Parks</b> Zach Crete, AIS Prevention Coordinator Russ Hartzell, WIS Area Supervisor (NW) John O'Bannon, WIS Area Supervisor (SW)</p> <p><b>Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes</b> Katie Finley-Squeque, AIS Program Coordinator</p> <p><b>Glacier National Park</b> Brian McKeon, Supervisor, Wilderness Permit/AIS Prevention Programs</p>	<p><b>Introduction/Background: Zach Crete</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Review of statewide protocols, station operations, rules, regulations, and partnerships.</li> <li>● Local partnerships change the dynamic of operations on the ground (supervisors have huge areas to cover, especially on the east side), it means a great deal to have partnerships across the state.</li> <li>● Change in technology, development of the inspection application is changing the data regularly (inspection numbers vs. interview numbers).</li> <li>● UMPs III-IV is in draft form (uniform minimum protocols).</li> <li>● Communication between states example: Boat heading to BC, we lock the boat, emails to the stations down the road, calls/emails to the boats destination to let them know it is coming, etc.</li> <li>● Reciprocity: share information via movement notices, everyone in that application gets an email with the boats travel times, destination, inspection notes, travel route, etc.</li> <li>● Sharing ideas: on demand water systems to replace the decontamination units (scope of work from Utah), decontamination equipment, etc.</li> <li>● In MT, if you knowingly transport invasive species in MT it is illegal. The warnings/citations are for people who are transporting them unknowingly. The citations would be for more of the second/third/fourth offenses.</li> <li>● ~150 warnings were given, all mussel fouled boats received a warning and/or citation.</li> <li>● Every year the FWP law enforcement staff meets with local law enforcement on AIS regulations and enforcement updates.</li> </ul>



	<p><b>MT Fish, Wildlife &amp; Parks:</b> Russ Hartzell, NW Supervisor &amp; John O'Bannon, SW Supervisor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greatest successes: retention of employees is always a success, intercepted LIVE mussels heading to MT to launch (caught the 1 boat that we needed to catch), huge success with the moss ball incident and visiting local pet stores (visited almost all pet stores in MT and confiscated moss balls).</li> <li>• Challenges: hiring and retention (18 staff in the SW, lost 50% during the season and had to rehire) and the complexity/different ballast boats requiring decontamination.</li> <li>• Improvements identified: Dillion- moving station to gain cell service, water, and power, improving training materials and teaching inspectors to identify byssal threads on boats, on demand wash unites, ways to boost morale (appreciation week), and improvements to the data application.</li> </ul> <p><b>Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes:</b> Katie Finley-Squeque, AIS Program Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Katie's first year on the job, came from fighting wildfires to AIS.</li> <li>• Day shift wage at stations: \$15.55 and Night shift wage at stations: \$16.05 (contracted stations have discretion with wages for inspectors).</li> <li>• Challenges: Drive-by's, especially non-motorized. Having game wardens around keeps people in compliance but is not feasible all the time.</li> <li>• Improvements identified: Finding funding next season for more employee uniforms (1 t-shirt for entire season) and improved training on ballast boat inspections and decontaminations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Glacier National Park:</b> Brian McKeon, Supervisor, Wilderness Permit/AIS Prevention Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moving to the ticketed entry system in 2021 lessened boat traffic, when ticketed entry ends at 5pm there was a surge of traffic.</li> <li>• Two Medicine was closed, St. Mary's and Apgar were the only stations open with a trial opening at Polebridge near the managed access.</li> <li>• COVID protocols relaxed in 2021, outdoor mask restrictions lifted.</li> <li>• Greatest successes: getting on the Colorado database train!</li> <li>• Staffers are a mix of right out of college-retirees in their 70s and the job is slightly different since it is a mix of inspection station and staffing the wilderness permits office.</li> <li>• Challenges: Getting people to stop at the inspection stations in the park, not obvious to visitors that inspections are mandatory.</li> <li>• Improvements identified: hardening inspection sites with infrastructure (tents, employee areas, etc.) making the space workable and comfortable for staff.</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion/further questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting drive-by's: TIP MONT calls manned 24/7, forwarded to county dispatch, local officers, etc. Stations are set up for inspectors to view and watch road for drive-by's.</li> <li>• Appreciation week is a great idea, and we need to figure out how to get the local communities involved, especially in the smaller towns.</li> <li>• FWP constructing a ballast boat training trailer to hit the road in 2022 for inspector trainings.</li> </ul>
<p><b>AIS Education &amp; Outreach</b></p> <p>Liz Lodman, FWP AIS Information Officer</p>	<p><b>2021 Season Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All 2020 events cancelled, and we hit the ground running in 2021. BSWC training in April 2021- first event since COVID. Trained 30 BSWC members and equipped them with AIS knowledge on threats, prevention, and best practices that they could share with their co-workers and the public.</li> <li>• Assisted with FLBS/CSKT Mussel Walk- stations, invasive/native creatures along the shoreline (3D printed mussels), activities, etc.</li> <li>• Media plan: News, radio, billboards, television.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social media campaign heavy May-September. Geo-targeting and geo-fencing for certain demographics and areas, with different advertisements targeted at different kinds of boaters and recreators.</li> <li>• Contacted the tourisms regions, got CDD publications in the Glacier Guide, SW Tourism Guide.</li> <li>• Q-Zap Grant: Partnership with the USFS- applied for 3 options. 1) outreach to boaters coming west with their boats, multi state effort (MT, ID, ND, SD), billboards facing east, 2) kiosks at visitor centers (info for each state to find out what you need to do when bringing a boat to the state), and 3) social media campaign. Social media campaign was the winner, Wildlife Forever was the host for the campaign, made a landing page with all the western states from Texas all the way north for a 'Protect the West' campaign.</li> <li>• CDD Magnets: partnered with NW MT Assoc of Realtors, they paid and implemented part of their outreach. Magnet to put on all the fridges of the rentals.</li> <li>• CDD stenciling on boat ramps, Trout Unlimited, CEMIST and various other partners.</li> <li>• Keychain buoys: partnered with Suicide Prevention campaign for a dual message.</li> <li>• Watercraft inspector appreciation week: county commissioners came out at clearwater, big event in Broadus and Wibaux, UC<sup>3</sup> visited partner stations in UC Basin, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Idea came out of the partners meeting last year, first full week in August, after the July 4<sup>th</sup> rush.</li> <li>○ Banners, events, local media, snacks, etc.</li> <li>○ Western states inspector appreciation week- share the idea with WRP.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Don't Let it Loose campaign roll out this season with signs, stickers, flyers, etc. Timely with the moss ball incident in March of 2021.</li> <li>• Bullfrog/turtle team run by Torrey Ritter (FWP non-game biologist), grant from MISC AIS grant program. Hired 6 BSWC members to survey, eliminate, and conduct outreach and education on the turtles/bullfrogs in the west. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Snapping turtles: native in far eastern MT, not native west of the continental divide. Reproducing in western MT.</li> <li>○ Snapping turtles: points on shell, tail as long as their shell, displace native turtles. Also looking for red eared slider/pond sliders... used to be sold at pet stores, illegal now, live 30 years or more. Painted turtles are native.</li> <li>○ Crews set up hoop traps, weighted down and baited with chicken livers in waterbodies. Only caught one with the trap. Putting out info about the project, word from landowner in the Kalispell area, caught ten snapping turtles while they were laying eggs in construction zone area.</li> <li>○ Next year want to move efforts to the Kalispell region, since minimal traces were found around the Missoula area.</li> <li>○ Bullfrogs: identified by disc behind the ear. Gigging: bullfrog eliminating.</li> <li>○ 110 bullfrog call surveys at 106 different points in region 1 and 2.</li> <li>○ Removed 118 bull frogs. Final report coming out fall 2021.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Public Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No public comment.</li> </ul>
<b>Adjourn</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next meeting February 9<sup>th</sup> location likely in Pablo, MT.</li> <li>• <b>Motion:</b> To adjourn the UC<sup>3</sup> Spring Meeting (Onno). Seconded (Bruce). All in favor. <i>Motion passes.</i></li> <li>• Adjourned at 4:20pm.</li> </ul>

4. Action Items			
Action:	Assigned	Due Date	Status
1	Draft minutes and send to members	Kate Wilson/Cassidy Bender	11/13/21 Complete

2	Draft fillable project request form and have WLI fill it out.	Cassidy Bender	11/13/21	Complete
3	Add Bruce Vincent to the Education & Outreach committee.	Cassidy Bender	11/13/21	Complete
4	Add to bylaws, financial/project support requests to be vetted by the commission through a public application process (approved projects must align with our mission).	Kate Wilson	11/13/21	Complete
<b>EXISTING ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS</b>				
5	Kate to follow up with Nate Owens on the Utah's boater program.	Kate Wilson		
6	Cynthia and Joann to collaborate on CRC-UCLN monitored lakes.	Cynthia Ingelfinger & Joann Wallenburn	On-going	
7	Contact FWP for Clean Drain Dry rack cards, kids' activity books, AIS materials, etc. or if you would like to assist with placement and distribution of the AIS species signs at infected waterbodies.	All	On-going	
8	Send anything you would like to share or add to the new UC <sup>3</sup> website (i.e., photos) to Kate Wilson or Cassidy Bender	All	On-going	
10	Look into railway transport of watercraft as potential high-risk vector	Tom Woolf		