

**Administrative/Budget Committee Report  
January 25, 2015**

**Leann Bosarge - Chair**

The Committee adopted the agenda and minutes of the October 2015 Joint Administrative & Budget/Personnel Committee meeting in Galveston, TX as written.

**Review of Ad Hoc Advisory Panels (Tab G, No. 4)**

The Council decided in January 2015 to review the Ad Hoc Advisory Panels each January to determine if they should be continued another year. In August 2015, the Council removed the Ad Hoc APs from the 3-year tiered membership appointment process. The rationale for not including the Ad Hoc APs in the appointment process for the regular APs is that Ad Hoc APs are created for a specific short-term purpose and membership changes may not always be warranted.

**The Committee recommends, and I so move, to disband the Ad Hoc Artificial Substrate AP.**

**Review of 2016 Advisory Panel Membership Expirations (Tab G, No. 5)**

Based on the new tiered membership appointment process the Coral, Spiny Lobster and Data Collection Advisory Panels were appointed in 2015 for a 1-year term. The Coral AP met one time during 2015 but the other two APs have not met.

Staff suggested the Committee consider letting the current membership of the Coral, Spiny Lobster, and Data Collection Advisory Panels continue for another 3-year term. No motion was made to re-advertise the membership for these three advisory panels.

**Update on AP Background Checks by the States (Tab G, No. 6)**

The Law Enforcement Technical Committee met by webinar and discussed the feasibility of conducting AP applicant background checks for violations related to federally managed species. Not all States may be able to separate violations by federally managed species. All states also require a signed request from the applicant authorizing a background check.

The Committee discussed the advisory panel appointment process and recommended to staff that the AP background checks be done by all the states for each potential AP member the Council intends to appoint. To minimize the potential burden on the states it was suggested that the AP appointment process be conducted over two consecutive meetings, as follows. At the initial AP appointment meeting, the Council will select individuals for the APs, where appointment will be contingent upon the results of the state background checks.

Staff will work with the State law enforcement agencies to develop the protocol for obtaining background checks from AP applicants and get final agreement among the States at the spring 2016 Law Enforcement Technical Committee meeting.