

WRISC Update

Prepared by Emily Anderson
BOD Meeting 10-7-2015
Crandon, WI

Since the Last Meeting

- Crossroads Community Garden Workday (August 12)
- Foster City Invasive Species Training (August 20)
- FCLARA Annual Meeting Picnic (August 22)
- Marinette County Fair (August 27-30)
- Florence County Fair (August 28-30)
- Dickinson County Fair (Sep 2-7)
- Forest County Fair (Sep 10-13)
- Forest County High School Env. Science Field Trip (Sep 15)
- Presentation to the Chapee Rapids Audobon Society in Marinette (Sep 24)
- Kingsford HS Env Science Class SWF/zebra mussel presentation (Oct 5)

Upcoming Events

- WI AIS Partners Meeting – Steven's Point (Oct 14-15)
- Kingsford High School Env. Science Class Invasive Workday/Field Trip (Oct 16)
- Northern Great Lakes Invasive Species Conference - Marquette (Oct 21-22)
- December WRISC Meeting (Dec 2)

WE Energies Mitigation and Enhancement Fund (MEF) Strike Team

Control work continued on this grant and others (see section by rapid response). Mapping data is still being compiled for submission to MISIN. WRISC Coordinator Emily Anderson is scheduled to present on invasive surveys conducted under this and the MI Grant at the upcoming invasive species conference in Marquette.

WMA Control Grant – Wisconsin

Emily visited one new private property in Marinette County in October. GPS data from properties was entered into a excel spreadsheet and will soon be mapped. Field work has ended for this grant and all that remains is to work with the private landowners to prepare invasive management plans for their properties. This grant expires the end of December.

Citizen Based Monitoring Grant, Adopt a Spot - Wisconsin

The final deliverables for this grant, a scientific poster and the submission of citizen data to MISIN, was completed at the end of September. The Wisconsin DNR has still not issued a request for proposals for the 2015-2016 Citizen Monitoring Grant Program. According to the grant organizer the delay is due to a change in the program and understaffing. They expect to issue a RFP sometime in fall.

GLRI – Rapid Response/Control Work

Control work in August and September included work on Japanese Knotweed, Garlic mustard, Garden Valerian (1 location), and Cut-Leaf Teasel (1 location). Below is a summary of all of the control work done in 2015 (compiled while reporting progress to the USFS on our GLRI projects):

- **Acres Treated: 68.45 acres in total, 54.2 acres for GLRI** (when you exclude match work from USFS employees).
- Treated **69 separate invasive infestations** (more if you count locations with multiple species)
 - 21 infestations were new locations added in 2015
 - 9 locations required more than one visit to treat (due to failed first treatment, size of infestation, and/or treatment regime)
- Approximately **180.5 volunteer hours** in invasive species control labor, or **136 hours of non-federal labor match** (this only includes hours spent at sites WRISC staff were also treating). Additional volunteer hours are likely but hours were only counted if an accompanying treatment form was filled out.
- Treated on property owned or managed by **45 different landowners** or public lands managers.
- Contacted **22 landowners** and public land managers for the first time in 2015. Several had their properties treated, some chose to control the invasives themselves for the time being, and some are on the list for treatment in 2016.
- After implementing the new Landowner permission form, WRISC collected **26 permission forms** from private landowners, with several more expected to be submitted for 2016 treatments. Note: permission forms were not required from agencies/businesses/public land managers. In most of these instances verbal/written permission considered sufficient.

GLRI – Boat Wash

Summer staff in Marinette wrapped up Clean Boats Clean Waters/Boatwash activities by the end of August. WRISC staff continued use of the boatwash through September 19th. Both boatwash units have been returned to Florence where the WDNR will continue to use them until winterizing and storing both units under our agreement.

2015 CBCW/Boatwash	WRISC Staff	Marinette Staff	Total
Hours Spent	279.25	359	638.25 hours
People Contacted	1,250	2,403	3,653 people
Watercraft Inspected	539	768	1,307 watercraft

Part of the GLRI funds for our Boatwash will expire October 31st, however we have been tentatively approved for additional funds in 2016 to replace those and to purchase a 3rd boatwash with a containment pad for use in Michigan.

In August, we realized that we had underspent on the funds set to expire. Since the goals of this grant include invasive species education/outreach and early detection, we proceeded to use funds for staff time at area county fairs and follow-up on AIS early detections and eDNA hits. Scott Goodwin from Florence County was hired part-time with these funds as his own funding in Florence was running out.

Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program (MISGP)

Field season has wrapped up and data is being compiled and analyzed. Work for education/outreach is planned for the winter, including:

- Expanded website pages
- Resurfacing the WRISC portable billboard
- Producing Play Clean Go yard signs
- New brochures: The action teams have approved the development of a thistle guide and a wild parsnip brochure.

MI Grant Aquatic:

Field work finished up in August/midSeptember for the 10 lakes in the study including: final vegetation surveys, secchi disk, summer phosphorus, and Chlorophyll-a. Results of earlier eDNA and calcium testing were received. Data compilation was done and preliminary analysis and vegetation mapping was started. Datasheets and maps are due for CLMP by October 30th.

Staff followed up on several eDNA positive hits for previously undocumented AIS. As the earliest results came in August there were zebra mussel surveys done on Shakey and Norway lakes. Plankton tow samples were taken and analyzed under the microscope in search of veligers, the planktonic larval stage of the zebra mussel. This is still in progress with preserved samples. Also, visual surveys were done, one being a snorkel survey of docks and shoreline and the other being done from the boat and by walking suitable shoreline. No confirmation of zebra mussels has been made yet. During September, eDNA follow-ups continued for previously undocumented hits for Spiny/Fishhook Waterflea with plankton tows. The samples were preserved for analysis. The lakes that tested positive for Zebra Mussels will have visual and/or snorkel surveys, as well as plankton tow sampling, conducted next year (2016).

Historical data was gathered for the 10 lakes from the DNR's lake files, which will aid in the development of lake management plans and simply give us a better understanding of the lake systems and histories. Currently underway is the compilation of data gathered throughout the summer and the start of analysis and mapping. This work will continue through the winter months.

UP RC&D Pulling Together Grant

The Coordinator has continued to work with the planning committee for the Northern Great Lakes Invasive Species Conference in Marquette on October 21-22nd. The Coordinator will be participating as a conference speaker on the Japanese Knotweed panel and presenting WRISC's work conducting invasive species road surveys and using qGIS software. WRISC has also completed press releases on Japanese knotweed and Phragmites.

UP RC&D Phragmites Project

As field work slowed down for WRISC's remaining technicians, Lindsay Peterson and Kayla Obremski worked through the Dickinson Conservation District to treat Phragmites patches in Michigan through this grant.

Misc.

Staff Updates: In August three of WRISC's summer staff left to return to college (two conducted control work and boatwash activities, and the third assisted with aquatic surveys and monitoring). Technician Kayla Obremski stayed to complete remaining control work of Japanese Knotweed and Garlic Mustard locations, as well as final boatwash activities and misc. data entry. Kayla also worked as an employee of the Dickinson Conservation District on Phragmites treatments in Michigan through a contract with the UP RC&D. We expect any final work for her to wrap up this week. As mentioned under the GLRI-Boatwash section, Scott Goodwin of Florence County was also hired temporarily (Sept-late Oct). This has helped Scott to continue several of his AIS Coordinator duties, and assist with WRISC's education/outreach and AIS monitoring. Scott is also expected to help compile WRISC's mapping data this fall.

The last 2015 hire, Lindsay Peterson, who was the lead technician for WRISC's Michigan Invasive Species Grant conducting aquatic surveys and monitoring, will stay on at Dickinson CD as a Conservation Projects Manager. She will work part time on WRISC projects (primarily managing the MI Invasive Species Grant) and part time on other Dickinson CD projects. After the last board meeting coordinator Emily Anderson and Treasurer Ann Hruska discussed the current work load and grant funding and found not only the need for an additional person to manage the Michigan Grant

project, but also the funding available to staff another person part time through the winter. Both agreed that Lindsay's work to-date had exceeded expectations and she would fill the position perfectly.

Newsletters: Work is currently underway for WRISC's fall newsletter.

Website/Facebook: The WRISC website has continued to receive regular updates for events and meetings. Remaining summer technician Kayla has also been adding to the species profiles page with more additions coming soon. Several website updates are planned for winter, including the completion of the Michigan Grant project page and a page detailing invasive law differences between Michigan and Wisconsin.

Content			Pages	Entrance	Exit	Downloads	Events	Media
/	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition	113						+999%
/species-profiles	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalitio...	25						0%
/job-postings-2	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalitio...	14						0%
/Documents	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalitio...	14						0%
/apps/calendar/	Calendar	12						0%
/about-wrisc	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalitio...	11						0%
/contact-us	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalitio...	10						+900%
/wrisc-partners	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalitio...	10						0%
/apps/photos/album?albumid=14103...	Strawberry Island Workday, Marinete...	9						0%
/action-teams	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalitio...	8						0%
/apps/links/	Links & Resources	8						0%

The WRISC website had **114 visitors in August and 151 visitors in September**. The image to the left shows the pages most frequently visited September. Below is a summary of the pageviews overall and a graph of pageviews during the months of June and July.



Facebook has continued to receive regular updates of invasive articles, links, pictures, etc. The WRISC facebook page has gone from 153 likes (at the last BOD meeting) to **156 likes** at the end of September. The graph below shows the total reach for our facebook page for the months of August and September where our **average reach was 81**.

