

WRISC Update

Prepared by Emily Anderson

BOD Meeting 6-3-2015

Natural Resource Center (Florence, WI)

Since the Last Meeting

- Wisconsin Lakes Convention (April 23-25)
- Crandon CBCW Training – John Preuss (April 29)
- Bay College Career Day (April 29)
- Florence Garden Conference (May 2)
- Dickinson Outdoor Extravaganza (May 2)
- Stephenson Phragmites Workshop (May 12)
- Crandon HS Adopt a Spot Control Day (May 19)
- Florence CBCW Training (May 20)
- Crandon Garlic Mustard Workday (May 22)
- Goodman-Armstrong Creek School Adopt a Spot Mapping Day (May 28)
- Crandon CBCW Training – John Preuss (May 29)

Upcoming Events

- WRISC Annual Meeting (June 3)
- WI Free Fishing Weekend (June 6-7)
- MI Free Fishing Weekend (June 13-14)
- WI Drain Campaign (June 13-14)
- MI AIS Landing Blitz (June 26-July 5)
- WI Landing Blitz (July 2-5)
- NLMGA Adopt a Spot Mapping Day (July 11)
- Fumee Natural Area Workday (July 18)
- Crandon Kentuck Day (July 25)
- Menominee County Fair (July 24-26)

WE Energies Mitigation and Enhancement Fund (MEF) Strike Team

Work has begun under this grant scheduling summer events, hiring and training summer staff, and soliciting priority mapping locations from WRISC Partners. For invasive control efforts so far this season see the GLRI- Rapid Response grant section. Locations to survey so far are as follows:

- Hwy 141 in Marinette County between Middle Inlet and Wausaukee (for phragmites)
- Gravel sites used by road crews (list needs to be compiled)
- Pin-Popple wild river (water level permitting)
- Previously treated Phragmites sites in Menominee and Dickinson counties
- State Forest roads in Dickinson County
- Roadway surveys for leafy spurge and wild parsnip (The Coordinator is exploring a simple survey method to map tracks along roads just for presence/absence of these species, targeting Marinette county for leafy spurge and Florence county for wild parsnip.)

Work has also been moving along in preparation to release purple loosestrife beetles through this grant within the Menominee River Watershed. Summer staff have prepared purple loosestrife plants and other materials and are

waiting for a delivery of 300 beetles this week. Release sites have not been chosen and WRISC Partners are welcome to give suggestions.

WMA Coordinator Grant – Wisconsin

This grant was due to expire on May 15, 2015. With most of the funds already used, the WRISC Coordinator and Treasurer Hruska agreed that the grant could be closed out early. The remaining funds were used for Coordinator hours and a final report was submitted electronically on May 8th.

WMA Control Grant – Wisconsin

Invasive management plans for the properties of Cline and Mueller in Forest county were finalized. Control work began on Cline's property outside of Crandon, using hand pulling to remove garlic mustard from forest roadways as a follow up to last year's handpulling and fall herbicide treatment. WRISC was assisted during a public workday by 2 citizens and 3 USFS employees.

Four properties are on the list to be surveyed for invasives this summer and have management plans written.

Citizen Based Monitoring Grant, Adopt a Spot - Wisconsin

The Coordinator continued working with teachers from the Crandon High School Environmental Science Class and the Goodman-Armstrong Creek school district for their Adopt a Spot properties. In May WRISC conducted field days with both groups. The Crandon group removed European Marsh Thistle and Burdock rosettes that they had previously mapped from their school forest. The Goodman-Armstrong Creek classes were split into 4 groups to survey invasive species on nearby properties. Two groups surveyed sections of their school forest, one group surveyed Hilbert Lake town park, and the last group surveyed areas of the Lake Laura campground and trails with help from national forest staff. Metal Adopt a Spot signs were also presented and will be posted on adopted properties by the citizen groups, with an exception for the national forest property.

The Coordinator continued working with the Northern Lights Master Gardeners and scheduled a field training and mapping day for the Harmony Arboretum to take place Saturday July 11th. An adopt a spot sign was created for this group as well, and several extra signs were also ordered.

This grant is scheduled to end at the end of June. In reviewing grant spending it was discovered that WRISC was under-budget in the equipment/supplies category (originally, metal posts for Adopt a Spot signs were budgeted, but most groups have instead chosen to post signs on existing posts on adopted properties). Remaining funds were instead used to purchase additional hand-held boot brushes for volunteers, and a refurbished Garmin Oregon series GPS. This is the 3rd such GPS which WRISC owns and will be reserved for citizen volunteer use.

The Wisconsin DNR is expected to issue a request for proposals for the 2015-2016 Citizen Monitoring Grant Program, but because of expected changes to the grant program it has not been issued yet. The Coordinator will be looking for the RFP and will submit a proposal for continued funding for the Adopt a Spot program when it is issued.

GLRI – Rapid Response

WRISC received the final paperwork for the fiscal year 2014 GLRI rapid response funding from the USFS. Three summer staff were hired to conduct invasive control work sharing time from the 2 rapid response grants, the MEF strike team grant, and the MISCP grant. Staff received invasive plant identification, mapping, and control training. Two of the summer staff have received their pesticide applicator certification in Wisconsin (one in ROW/Natural areas, and the other in ROW/Natural areas and Aquatic). They will be applying for reciprocity in Michigan shortly.

Invasive control efforts so far have been entirely hand pulling of garlic mustard and have included the following areas: Iron Mountain, Wausaukee, Crivitz, Coleman, and Crandon. (Because of the early spring, no garlic mustard was caught before flowering for any chemical treatments.) In June staff will move on to chemical treatments of wild parsnip, leafy spurge, and other species before flowering.

The Coordinator has worked with the WRISC action teams to confirm the Priority Species List and draft a top target invasive list as well. A great deal of time has also been spent securing and reaffirming permission to access public and private properties for invasive control.

GLRI – Boat Wash

The 2015 boatwash agreement with the WDNR was signed in April, and WDNR staff successfully got both units out of storage and up and running for the year. WRISC hired 3 summer staff that will, as part of their duties, share apx 22hrs/week this summer operating one of the boatwashes, primarily in Dickinson, Forest, and northern Marinette/Menominee counties. The 2nd boatwash will operate out of Marinette to cover the southern portion of the WRISC area and will be passed to Marinette county staff at the annual meeting. Marinette has hired two summer staff for this purpose.

A joint Clean Boats Clean Waters training was held with Florence County to train WRISC and county staff on CBCW protocols and boatwash operation (Florence county will have 2 boatwash units in operation at Keyes and Spread Eagle). WRISC staff began operating one boatwash memorial day weekend, with returning employee Joe DeClark leading other staff to begin with.

Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program (MISGP)

WRISC has received the final signed paperwork for this grant allowing us to move forward with this year's projects. Some control work will be done under this project along with the MEF and GLRI grants. The Coordinator will head up any invasive mapping under this and MEF grant, utilizing summer staff as needed. Two summer staff were hired specifically to conduct the aquatic mapping/monitoring on Michigan lakes as detailed under this grant. Ten lake partners have been secured for the project (8 lakes in Dickinson County and 2 in Menominee). The lakes have been registered for several Cooperative Lake Monitoring Program (CLMP) protocols, and staff have conducted the first round of chlorophyll sampling. A meeting of lake partners is scheduled for Monday June 8th.

This grant also provides us with a healthy budget for needed supplies. We have just received the largest single item, a new laptop.

Play, Clean, Go: This past winter WRISC began working more with the Play Clean Go campaign, signed up as a partner, and specified in the MISGP grant the need to participate more with larger regional campaigns. Although the campaign (based out of MN) did not receive a large grant that would have expanded its reach, partners are still moving forward with the formation of a formal steering committee. An email was sent out to all Play Clean Go partners. After consultation with WRISC fiscal agent Dickinson Conservation District over grant funds, Emily Anderson put herself forward as a viable steering committee member for the next 2 years (the length of the MISGP grant). Anderson was accepted as a committee representative from an eastern state and a non-governmental agency, and participated in the committee's first conference call meeting on May 29th. To learn more about Play Clean Go visit

<http://www.playcleango.org/>.

Misc.

Newsletters: The education/outreach action team completed WRISC’s April newsletter, distributed via email, the website, and limited paper copies at events. This issue contained a species profile on Crazy Worms by Nicole Shutt, a partner highlight on UP RC&D Phragmites work, WI NR 40 updates, WRISC 2015 activities, and upcoming events.

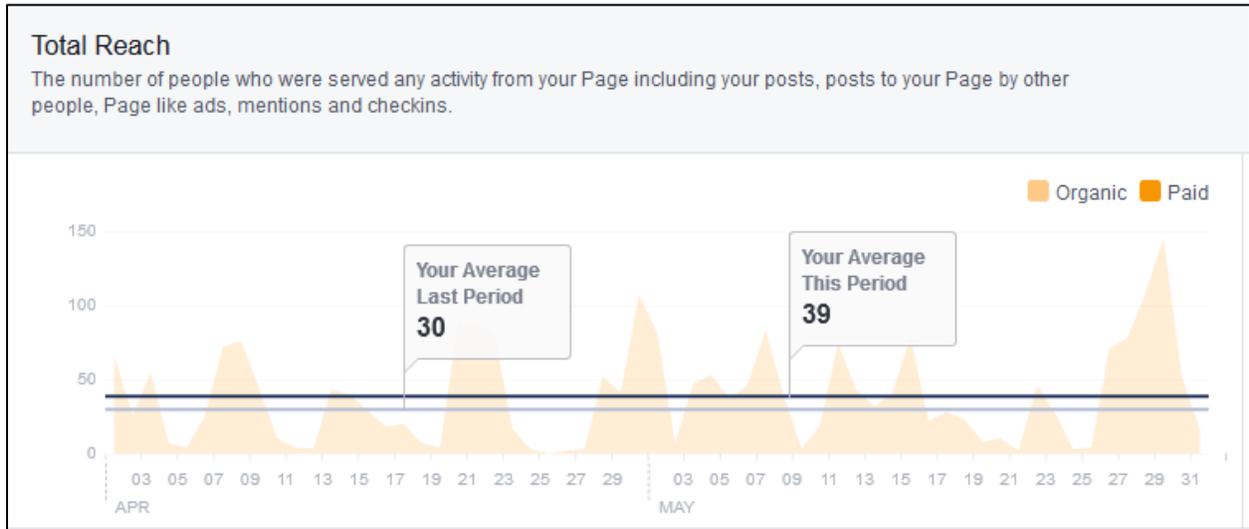
Summer Staff Hires: Since the last board meeting there have been some changes to WRISC’s summer staff hires. One former employee, Brian Hewlett, will no longer be returning, which resulted in changes to the expected distribution of hours. In total, 5 employees were hired, with a 6th that will start after July 4th as a part-time fill-in as needed (returning employee Kyle McGillviray). Three of the staff will be used for invasive control, mapping, education, and boatwash operation. The other two staff will focus primarily on aquatic work under the MI Grant. Of the entire summer crew, two will be certified in aquatic pesticide application to stay on into September/October conducting fall invasive control, including phragmites treatments.

Website/Facebook: The WRISC website has continued to be updated with information regarding board and action team meetings, new documents (newsletter, brochure), and upcoming events.. The WRISC website had **150 visitors in April** and **134 visitors in March**. In April and May we also had two people request to join our email mailing list via the website. The image to the upper right shows the pages most frequently visited in May. Lower left shows a summary of the pageviews overall and during the months of April and May. The Kingsford High School Env. Science Class has finished several invasive species profiles, which will be added to the website when time allows.

Content		Pages	Entrance	Exit	Downloads	Events	Media
/	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition	92					+999%
/Documents	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalitio...	28					+999%
/apps/calendar/	Calendar	22					0%
/job-postings-2	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalitio...	15					0%
/board-of-directors	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalitio...	14					+999%
/apps/calendar/showMonth?callID=2...	Calendar - June 2015	9					0%
/species-profiles	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalitio...	8					0%
/apps/calendar/showEvent?callID=21...	Garlic Mustard Workday	7					0%
/citizen-resources-3	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalitio...	7					+600%
/wrisc-partners	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalitio...	7					0%



Facebook has continued to receive regular updates of invasive articles, links, pictures, etc. The WRISC facebook page has gone from 134 likes (at the last BOD meeting) to **143 likes**. The graph below shows the total reach for our facebook page for the months of April and May, where our average reach was 39.



2015 Summer Staff Hours and Grant Sources

GLRI Boatwash:

650 hours total at \$11.50/hr (13.56 with taxes)

2 staff at 22 hrs/week (for 15 weeks)

Rapid Response (mostly from FY13, then dipping into FY14)

416 hours total at \$13.00/hr (15.32 with taxes)

2 staff at 16hrs/week (for 13 weeks or more if needed)

MEF Strike Team

453 hours total at \$14.00/hr (16.51 with taxes)

1 person at about 20 hrs/week (for 5 months)

MI Grant

97 hours total at \$14.00/hr (16.51 with taxes)

1 person about 8 hrs per week (if go over, can dip into coordinator hours for grant)

MI Grant Aquatic

254 hours total at \$13.50/hr (15.91 with taxes) – Lindsay at 20 hrs/week (for 13 weeks)

254 hours total at \$11.50/hr (13.56 with taxes) – Ashley at 20hrs/week (for 13 weeks)

Additional hours for September/October plan writing

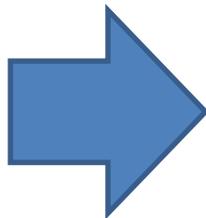
Additional hours for help with events

Summer Staff

Joe DeClark (Lead): \$14.00/hr reg, \$11.50/hr boat

Kayla Obremski: \$13.00/hr reg, \$11.50/hr boat

Jacob Coe: \$13.00/hr reg, \$11.50/hr boat



Hours per week to share:

10+ hrs RR FY14 (\$14 rate)

32 hrs RR FY13 (\$13 rate)

44 hrs Boatwash

20 hrs MEF Strike Team

8+ hrs MI Grant

Lindsay Peterson (Aquatic lead): \$13.50/hr

June-August hours per week: 20 hrs MI Grant, 8 hrs Phrag, 6 hrs data logger; 6 hrs misc (RR, MI grant events, MEF beetle raising, etc.)

Sep/Oct work with Kayla: MI grant plan writing, Phrag control, Rapid Response, MEF (10hr/week each)

Ashley Harris: \$11.50/hr

20hrs/week MI Grant aquatic work with Lindsay

Kyle McGillviray: \$13.00/hr reg, \$11.50/hr boat – Available after July 4th to work part time