

**Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC)
Action Team 2015**

Aquatic Invasive Species Action Team:

Margie Yadro (chair)	myadro@co.florence.wi.us
John Preuss	johnpreuss@frontier.com
Ann Hruska	ann.hruska@mi.nacdnet.net
Ryan Parchim	rparchim@marinettecounty.com
Jen Johnson	JohnsonJ17@michigan.gov
Scott Goodwin	invasives@co.florence.wi.us
Lindsay Peterson	wriscproject@gmail.com
Greg Matzke	Gregory.Matzke@wisconsin.gov

2015 Purpose:

The intent of the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Action Team is to develop and offer resources that will help slow the spread of aquatic invasive species and lessen their environmental and economical impacts. Support will be offered to organizations, agencies, businesses, landowners and managers, volunteers, and staff, which will promote prevention, identification, monitoring, and management of AIS populations in accordance with the goals and objectives of the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition.

2015 Regular Meetings:

Meets on odd numbered months via conference call. Meeting times are scheduled by the WRISC Coordinator using doodle poll results. To join call dial **401-283-4156** and enter code **34985**.

2015 Goals:

1. Promote a coordinated public media campaign to prevent and slow the spread of AIS by using existing campaigns, including the Michigan and Wisconsin Clean Boats Clean Water programs.
2. Facilitate species identification, monitoring, and management of AIS populations in the WRISC area.
3. Update WRISC partners with any new or spreading AIS populations and management resources
4. Assist WRISC partners to successfully request, secure and complete approved aquatic invasive species projects
5. Each spring conduct a Clean Boats Clean Waters training for staff, volunteers, and citizens. In addition, educate citizens through AIS events/workshops, with a goal of one per county in 2015.

November 10, 2015 Meeting Minutes (9:00-9:53am)

Minutes prepared by Emily Anderson.

In attendance: Emily Anderson, Lindsay Peterson, Margie Yadro, Greg Matzke, Scott Goodwin, Ryan Parchim, Jen Johnson

1. **WI AIS Partnership Meeting Updates and Discussion:** *Emily and Lindsay reported on updates from the WI AIS Partnership meeting October 14th in Stevens Point.*
 - a. **Grants overhaul:** *The WDNR is working on a 3 yr process to overhaul and streamline surface water grant system. Although they've already done some updates, in Steven's*

Point they held sessions looking for any and all comments on the system and what people want to see. They have also seen the need for consistency in AIS coordinator staffing. At the meeting they asked whether the money should be distributed via counties, RC&Ds, or CISMAs, to which Emily and others responded that it varied by region. They discussed sending a survey out via the AIS listserv, and if that happens Emily will pass it on to WRISC's AIS partners. Margie reiterated the need for these grants to recognize CISMAs as eligible groups. Emily will be looking more into this for potential WDNR rapid response funding of bohemian knotweed.

- b. Spiny Waterflea Lake Mendota research – Sleeper Cells:** *Lindsay updated the group on new research from Lake Mendota in Madison, which has been shown to have the highest SWF concentrations in the world. Researchers found that SWF persisted at low levels before ideal temperatures in 2009 allowed the population to spike. The production of high numbers of resting eggs allowed the high population to continue, which is now affecting water clarity as SWF eat daphnia the natural algae-eaters. Lindsay also talked with the researcher about our current eDNA monitoring which may not be very accurate and the possibility of using sediment sampling to look for spines from the SWF. With Mendota being vastly different most northern lakes, the team discussed SWF in and around the WRISC area. The population at Butternut Lake is still very new, but Greg said research in Vilas county lakes has not revealed any severe impacts to fish yet. Jen pointed team members to published research on SWF in Michigame, where resting eggs were found in the billions.*

Group agreed that ongoing education on SWF prevention should focus on preventing the spread on resting eggs by not releasing fish and cleaning equipment like anchors.

- c. Eurasian Water Milfoil research – Mixed results:** *Michelle Nault gave updates in Steven's Point on the WDNR's milfoil research. Results vary greatly, with some lakes receiving good control with herbicides, some non-managed lakes spiking and crashing, and some non-managed lakes maintaining low levels of milfoil. In herbicide studies they found treatments are not as effective on hybrid milfoil and that herbicide degradation in the environment varied greatly by lake.*

Greg updated the group on Lake Ellwood where, since the chemical treatments have stopped, the fish population for most species as rebounded. DASH treatments also appear to be working well. He will email the group additional info. They are also looking at future studies on the frequency of regular herbicide treatments to maintain AIS control without negative effects.

2. Northern Great Lakes Invasive Species Conference: Boat Wash Panel Session -

Update/Comments (Lindsay/Ann): *Lindsay reported that the boatwash panel session at the NGLISC went well. Ann participated on the panel from her work in Dickinson county and working with WRISC boatwash crews. The session included overviews, discussions of what works/doesn't, containment pads, and experiences from different groups.*

Margie stated we should continue to look at new uses of washing equipment, and suggested an idea to create a central washing station at the Florence Natural Resource Center for boats, ATVs, and large equipment. Emily has researched permanent ATV washing stations in the past and will

dig up what she has. She agreed that the FNRC would be a good location being central with access to electricity and water.

- 3. MI Grant Aquatic Update (Lindsay):** *WRISC completed the first interim report for the MI grant at the end of October. Lindsay reported on the aquatic portion of the grant, in 2015 we: Completed vegetation surveys for all 10 lakes (ahead of schedule); Continued CLMP parameters with only one lake omitted due to missing minimum secchi readings; Conducted some eDNA follow-up plankton tows for SWF and FWF (analysis of samples included help from the Kingsford HS Env Science Class and has not revealed any positive results). Right now we are in the planning stage for next year which will include a new CLMP parameter for shoreline assessments. We are also in the bid stage for mgmt. plan quotes on 8 lakes, due Nov 17th. Emily and Lindsay explained the circumstances behind why WRISC collected data which separate contractors will use to prepare plans.*

Margie inquired about the inclusion of native plant restoration through this grant. Lindsay and Emily discussed possibly incorporating that in the mgmt. planning process with the lake groups. Emily suggested an event similar to FCAL's fall forum might work well in Michigan, where a panel of experts answers any and all lake related questions from citizens.

- 4. CBCW 2015 Updates** *Emily gave WRISC's CBCW numbers from the WRISC and Marinette GLRI-funded crews: 638 hrs, 3,653 people contacted, 1,307 boats washed. Scott gave Florence county's numbers: 2,875 hrs, 11 landings, 4,615 people contacted, 2,133 boats inspected. Florence county is applying for continued funding next year to staff 7 landings, SECOLA has already committed money to continue staffing a person at North Lake 7 days a week. Margie suggested comparing WRISC area CBCW data over the years for comparison. Emily will try to incorporate this in the January annual report.*
- 5. Other** *Margie shared ongoing work by the Florence Invasive Species Council, which helped to identify the 7 CBCW landings for 2016 and is working to suggest species for a county noxious week list. She invited Greg to assist the group. Team members also discussed the Brule landing which was identified as a location with high transient boater use likely due to its walleye and muske fishery.*
- 6. BOD Agenda item(s)**