



April 1, 2015 WRISC Meeting Minutes

- 1. Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 10 AM in Marinette County at Governor Thompson State Park. Members of the Board in attendance included: Chairman, Dick Peterson of Lakes Township; Vice Chairman, Greg Cleereman, Marinette County Conservationist; Secretary, Margie Yadro, Florence County Conservationist and alternate Susan Theer, Florence County Board Supervisor; Treasurer, Ann Hruska, Dickinson Conservation District; and Steve Janke, US Forest Service, Lakewood. Board members: Aaron McCullough, Wisconsin

Department of Natural Resources (WDNR); Mick Mlinar, Florence County Lakes and Rivers Association; Brian Bousley, Menominee County, and, Corrin Seaman, University of Wisconsin Extension (UWEX), Florence County; were excused. Also attending the meeting were: WRISC Coordinator, Emily Anderson, and Bill Rice, Dickinson Conservation District; Charlene Peterson, Shakey Lakes Property Owners Association; Janet Brehm and Matt Leischer, WDNR; and John Preuss and Tracy Beckman, Lumberjack RC&D Council.

- 2. Approval of the Agenda:** On a motion by Cleereman, supported by Hruska, the agenda was approved as drafted.
- 3. Approval of the previous WRISC Meeting Minutes:** On a motion by Cleereman, supported by Hruska, all were in favor to approve the February 4, 2015 Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes as submitted.
- 4. Grants/Treasurer's Report:** Hruska offered a WRISC financial update that included \$190.50 in undesignated funds with an additional \$193,400 to-date earmarked for a variety of invasive species grant projects active in 2015. The Dickinson Conservation District members were recognized for their considerable efforts.
- 5. ACTION TEAM REPORTS:** summaries were distributed by Coordinator Anderson and posted to the website. All included review of the developing WRISC Strategic Management Plan and the Priority List of Invasives.

- A. AIS:** the WDNR expressed interest in renewing the boat wash equipment use/maintenance and storage agreement with WRISC; the Florence Natural Resource Center has been reserved for a May 20th watercraft inspection training that Coordinator Anderson will lead, designed for seasonal staff and interested volunteers; new boat wash signage, brochures, and yard signs are being developed. Upcoming events: Wisconsin AIS Partner/CISMA meeting; Wisconsin Lakes Convention; Bridge Snapshot Day, along with AIS demonstration sites suggested. Anderson asked for members to submit future events to her for scheduling to calendar.

Terrestrial: Anderson has begun scheduling workdays and asked for potential sites throughout the WRISC service area; a press release was issued to meet specific grant deliverables in forest invasive species management; a Japanese Knotweed brochure is currently being developed with funding from the UP RC&D; local contacts are being added to the road crew/highway commissioners listserv for invasive plant management; and, there are plans form continued ATV club outreach.

Education & Outreach – participants discussed design for a new WRISC brochure; agreed on newsletter topics and authors; several trainings were noted including WI First Detector Network with Educator Tony Summers expected at the WRISC Annual Meeting in June; further outreach with signage and road crew listserv; and, utilizing posters such as “Work, Clean, Go.”

Monitoring – team members discussed tentative mapping training dates and locations including a May 28 GPS/MISIN Mapping workshop in Marquette, MI with a later training to be hosted by WRISC specifically to meet seasonal staff needs, grant deliverables, and add mapping and monitoring techniques such as QGIS; 2015 survey priority locations were suggested; members were also in favor to re-apply for Adopt-A-Spot funding to provide balance to citizen monitoring training in Michigan; Anderson requested input in conducting a monitoring experiment for the treatment and management of European Swamp Thistle; and the development of a management plan for garlic mustard near the Crandon area.

Organization & Development – The MOU and Bylaws were reviewed for any inconsistencies, along with incentives considered for Formal Partners; Anderson listed speakers and topics secured for the June

Annual Meeting along with other meeting displays, logistics, refreshments and corresponding public announcements; several documents were reviewed related to Pesticide Use and limiting liabilities; and the hiring of summer staff and consideration of re-establishing a WRISC Personnel Committee.

6. **WRISC Coordinator Update:** Anderson distributed an update of recent events attended including a Musky Club presentation, and the Spring AIS Partner's Meeting for Wisconsin that added a Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMAs) component to the discussion. The list of WRISC active Grant projects were updated to include: WE Energies Mitigation Enhancement Fund (MEF) Strike Team, the WMA Coordinator Grant, the Citizen Based Monitoring Grant, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Rapid Response and GLRI Boat Wash; and the new Michigan Invasive Species Grant for an award of \$126,000 for a 2-year project. Other items included three summer staffing positions to fill, an April newsletter being developed, and the growing success of media outreach.

7. **OLD BUSINESS –**

- A. 2015 MOU/Partner list status: Thirteen Formal Partner applications have been received to-date, two of which are new. Anderson plans to send a reminder in a couple of weeks, especially for existing Partners.
- B. 2015 Annual Meeting Agenda: A draft agenda was designed for the June 3 program that includes an overview of WRISC projects; an Emerald Ash Borer presentation; awards recognition; speakers covering Spiny Water Flea and Crazy Worm invasives; and, a wrap up with "Species on the Lookout," NR 40 Invasive Species Law, WIFDN, and Target Invasives. After a networking lunch, it was agreed to host the Board of Directors' Meeting at 12:45 PM. Partners are to be offered a space for educational exhibits. Anderson will develop a press release for the Annual Meeting Program and hopes to provide a well-established calendar of events for attendees.
- C. Priority Species List Revision: An extensive list was considered for known species within or near the region along with another version developed for a "Top 10" concept for public ease. Species could be added or their status revised as warranted or to meet grant goals. Action Team will be sought for highest priorities.
- D. WRISC Strategic Management Plan: A more finalized draft document was presented, with changes incorporated from previous input from action teams and other partners/members. A few items were specifically discussed in Goal 5, organizational development, and will be further reviewed by the org/dev action team at their May meeting.
- E. Nonprofit Discussion: Discussion followed to consider 501C3 tax status benefits which is believed to have greater donation and grant eligibility flexibility. Hruska spoke of the cash flow challenges and administrative commitment even for pass through funded projects. More broad language was agreed upon to list a desire to seek financial independence as a group and continue with the Dickinson Conservation District to act as the financial agent for the organization to the capacity they are able.
- F. Road Crew Outreach update: Anderson asked for Partner participation to provide road crew contacts for entire service areas. Supporting documents and training modules for road right-of-way invasive species management will also be available on the WRISC website.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Bylaws: Anderson reported references to the bylaws stated in the MOU draft. Yadro moved to address document consistency for actions related to compensation, conflicts of interest, termination, and promotions and publications with the understanding that a future policy handbook will be developed by the Organization and Development Team and brought to the Board for adoption. Supported by Beckman. Motion passed. Yadro also encouraged the consideration of benefits for becoming formal Partners and motioned to name only formal Partners as eligible for Directors of the Board. Supported by Cleereman. Motion passed. Discussion followed on additional Partner benefits, such as use of equipment and priority training workshops.
- B. Landowner and Volunteer Forms: Anderson distributed drafts of the Landowner Permission Form and a Volunteer Hold-Harmless Agreement. Both were further edited and simplified, with a stated preference of the Board for alternate wording on the Landowner form in item #3, removing "with respect for each

other, both." Any references to "treatment" will also be broadened to include all aspects of "management." A checkbox was also suggested for acceptance of "photographic release." Anderson will update documents and return drafts to the Board for adoption. The documents will also be presented to the WRISC fiscal agent, Dickinson Conservation District, for approval.

- C. Personnel needs: Hruska reported that three seasonal staff are anticipated to fill grant positions and will be cross-trained to meet several projects' goals. Additional staff may be necessary once the Michigan Invasive Species grant project is finalized and may require more hours for lake management and monitoring. Work agreements are being revised and developed. Hruska asked for volunteers to re-instate a WRISC Personnel Committee. Cleereman and Yadro expressed interest. An email request will be sent by Anderson to solicit any further interest.
- D. 2015 Boat Wash Use/Maintenance and Storage Agreement: Hruska explained the draft agreement similar to last year's to maintain two WRISC boat wash units and provide winter storage in exchange for Partner use of the equipment. The AIS Team has worked on this agreement and supports its continued use for decontamination of equipment. Yadro moved to make the minor change suggested and enter this equipment use agreement with the WDNR for 2015. Supported by Beckman. Motion passed.
- E. New Vehicle Purchase Need/Status: Hruska explained the transportation challenges faced with towing equipment, along with monitoring and rapid response tools. Anderson developed a draft proposal seeking donations to help meet this need. Two vehicles would be ideal to meet this need, even in a rental capacity. Board members discussed vehicle sources, including a GSA auction site.
- F. MIPN Membership Invite: Anderson had just received an invitation for WRISC membership to the Midwest Invasive Plant Network for organizational membership for \$50 per year. Benefits were believed to include discounted registration to events and shared resources. Anderson was directed to secure more information.
- G. Adopt CISMA terminology: Anderson reported state level discussion to better define the original "Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA) title to a more specific Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs). This may be a better fit for future grant projects. Yadro moved to change all related organization WRISC documents and website to reflect the new terminology as a CISMA. Supported by Hruska. Motion passed.
- H. GLRI Fund: Item added by Anderson to the agenda. Anderson presented information received from Mark Renz of the Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN). Mark reported that GLRI fund administrators were looking at changing the distribution of funds, specifically, they were exploring the possibility of making funds previously awarded directly to CISMAs only available via a competitive process. Mark requested that any CISMAs concerned over this inform MIPN of their stance to pass on to GLRI officials. Anderson suggested that WRISC submit a formal letter, detailing the importance of GLRI funds to new or small CISMAs that may not be able to compete on a large competitive scale. Steve Janke of the Forest Service mentioned that those groups with funding for an active coordinator position are able to move forward with greater suggested. The Board agreed and suggested that representatives from each county be asked to sign the letter. Anderson will prepare the letter and secure the signatures before submission.

9. Round Robin Discussion:

- 10. **Any Other Business**: Brochure pictures of species will be reviewed.
- 11. **Future Agenda Items**: Annual Meeting schedule/calendar of events.
- 12. **Adjournment**: Chairman Peterson thanked everyone for attending at this beautiful park. With all business completed, on a motion by Hruska, supported by Cleereman, the next WRISC Board of Directors' meeting will be held at 12:45 PM (following the Annual Meeting Program) on Wednesday, June 3, 2015 at Florence Natural Resource Center.

Respectfully submitted, Margie Yadro, WRISC Secretary