

Board of Directors - Minutes



August 5, 2015

Location: Forest County Courthouse
County Boardroom
200 E. Madison Street, Crandon, WI

Present: Board members: Bill Rice-Dickinson Conservation District (Chairperson), Greg Cleereman-Marinette County, Ron Yadro-Florence School District, Steve Janke-US Forest Service; also joining WRISC Coordinator Emily Anderson, Ann Hruska-Dickinson Conservation District, Margie Yadro-Florence LCD, Scott Goodwin-Florence LCD, Justin Bournoville-US Forest Service, John Preuss-Lumberjack RC&D, R.T. Krueger-Northern Lake Service, Steve Nelson-UW Extension, Bill Lester-Forest County Land Conservation, Dave Ziolkowski-Forest County Forestry Dept.

Joining via conference call: Board members Tracy Beckman-Lumberjack RC&D, Jen Johnson-MI DNR, and Dick Peterson-Lake Township; also joining Charlene Peterson-Shakey Lakes Assoc.

Call To Order by Chairperson Bill Rice at 10:05am

1. **INTRODUCTIONS** – A sign-up sheet was circulated.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - Motion by Ron Yadro/Dick Peterson to approve. Motion Carried
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Motion by Dick Peterson/Tracy Beckman to approve 6/4/15 minutes. Motion Carried.
4. **GRANTS/TREASURER’S REPORT** - Hruska passed around a spreadsheet that is also available online. She noted there is \$170.69 in the Petty Cash Account. WRISC grants and funding are in good shape and support staffing needs.
5. **ACTION TEAMS** – Minutes were submitted of each Action Team which conducted work during July (AIS, Terrestrial, Organizational Development, Education and Outreach) and can also be found on the website. Discussion moved to concern over a lack of priorities by funding sources, especially regarding terrestrials in WI. Ron Yadro moved that the Education/Outreach Action team work to communicate with and educate legislators, telling them about all the great work WRISC & other CISMAs do so that they are aware of our work and of our desire to have advocates and resources to help accomplish our goals. 2nd by Greg Cleereman. Discussion: In their work to accomplish this, the group should use caution in how they word any communication to legislators so that it not be considered lobbying or conflict with grant deliverables. In general the idea is to make our legislators aware of our work and our desire to have them help us meet our mission through advocacy and funding. Motion Approved.
 - a. Organizational Development Action Team recommendation - Bill Rice mentioned the work of the Org Dev Action Team is different but helps the other teams with direction.
6. **PROJECT UPDATES/REPORTS**
 - a. WRISC Coordinator Update was given by Emily Anderson. The update is also on the website. Highlights include a great deal of field work underway, new invasive species finds of Musk Thistle and Garden Valerian, and handouts of a leafy spurge road survey map and thistle ID sheet. Emily also shared a pressed sample of one of the Musk thistle plants found in Florence County.
 - b. Marinette Boatwash Update was given by Greg Cleerman who talked about some of the issues using and staffing a boat wash unit. Greg also thanked Emily & WRISC for helping with a Garlic Mustard Pull in the city of Marinette.
7. **OLD BUSINESS** –
 - a. Annual Meeting Feedback – It was suggested to keep the same format but maybe move it back to April. Emily will check out what the governing documents say. It was suggested to invite legislators, county board supervisors to next year’s meeting.

b. MOU Signatures Status report was given by Emily Anderson. She reported we are waiting for seven members but have received 20 signed MOU Agreements. Emily will send a reminder and members offered to contact those they know in order to get the last seven agreements signed.

c. The “Dirty Dozen” Invasive list was finalized by the AIS and Terrestrial Action Teams. Emily distributed a draft brochure form of the list developed by one of WRISC’s seasonal technicians. Emily will work on some updates and the brochure can be found on the website.

8. **NEW BUSINESS –**

a. Personnel Items: Ann Hruska explained the increase in the number of staff and hours and the issues this has created. She noted that this change necessitated updates to the DCD personnel policy. These updates were given to staff.

b. Development of Policies, Procedures, and Roles/Responsibilities – Emily explained the evolution of a policy manual of sorts for area CISMAs and other policy documents that the Org Dev. Team is working on. The Team will keep working on this. It was noted that as the group grows policies/procedures become more important.

c. Dickinson Conservation District Master Agreement - Ann Hruska discussed that the DCD now requires a Master Agreement because of the growth of WRISC. It was noted that DCD has been extremely helpful to WRISC and the group is thankful.

d. NRCS & Other Partner Logo information. Emily explained correspondence from Craig Aho (NRCS-Stephenson) and a letter submitted authorizing use of their logo on a display board but restricting other use without authorization. Emily will keep this on file and will eventually request logos and any logo restrictions from all partners in accordance with the WRISC MOU.

e. Emily developed a New Contact List that includes names/contact/participation so that as the group grows people can keep track of who is doing what and be able to contact them. Emily passed out the spreadsheet and noted that it is an internal document. An electronic version is available upon request.

f. Letters of Support –Emily presented an inquiry from the Lake Superior Watershed Partnership. The Partnership is in the pre-proposal stage of the 2015 fiscal year funding cycle of the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program looking to fund an invasive species crew to operate across the UP. Although no letters of support are required yet, they are contacting all the CISMAs to see if the groups would be willing to support the project when the time comes. The Board’s consensus was that we cannot commit to a letter of support until there is more information on the grant proposal.

Members also discussed other needs for letters of support from partners when applying for grants, including Florence County which will be seeking rapid response funding down the road. These will be handled as they arise.

9. **ROUND ROBIN** - WRISC partners shared updates. Emily read an article from Darcy Rutkowski (UP RC&D) giving the status of phragmites treatments through an EPA GLRI grant. Greg Cleereman talked about Phragmites treatment plans in Marinette County and an upcoming DASH demonstration on Little Neuton Lake. Steve Nelson introduced himself and spoke about the management of roadside invasives in Forest County and possible volunteer crew resources. Steve Janke introduced the new Florence USFS Ecologist Justin Bournoville. John Preuss updated the group on the yellow-floating heart location at Lake Gordon where no new growth has been observed this year. Marinette County is still battling yellow floating heart in a private pond.

10. **OTHER BUSINESS** – The next meeting will be on October 7th in Stephenson MI, Menominee County Annex Building.

11. **ADJOURN** – Moved by Ron/Greg to adjourn at 12:10pm Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by Tracy Beckman, Secretary on 8/5/2015