

Board of Directors - Minutes



October 7, 2015

Location: County Annex Building
S904 Highway 41
Stephenson, MI

Present: Board members: Bill Rice-Dickinson Conservation District (Chairperson), Ron Yadro-Florence School District, Dick Peterson-Lake Township (Vice Chair), Aaron McCullough-WDNR; also joining WRISC Coordinator Emily Anderson, WRISC/DCD Project Mgr Lindsay Peterson, Margie Yadro-Florence LCD, Scott Goodwin-Florence LCD, Justin Bournoville-US Forest Service, Donna Buechler-Menominee Conservation District, and Charlene Peterson-Shakey Lakes Assoc.
Joining via conference call: Board members Tracy Beckman-Lumberjack RC&D and Jen Johnson-MI DNR; also joining Ann Hruska-Dickinson Conservation District, Darcy Rutkowski-UP RC&D, and Ryan Wheeler-MDNR MISGP.

Call To Order by Chairperson Bill Rice at 10:00am

1. **INTRODUCTIONS** – A sign-up sheet was circulated.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - Motion by Dick Peterson/Ron Yadro to approve. Motion Carried
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Motion by Tracy/Jen to approve 8/5/15 minutes. Motion Carried.
4. **GRANTS/TREASURER’S REPORT** – Ann Hruska gave the report. A spreadsheet dated 9/30/2015 was circulated ahead of time and is also available online and at the meeting. She noted there is \$396.69 in the WRISC Petty Cash Account. Will be seeking reimbursement of \$30K from major summer grants. The summer staff is wrapping up their work. The only outstanding grant in the application/approval process is the Lumberjack Tri-CISMA Grant. Hruska was complimented by Margie & group for outstanding work on the organization of the grants and spreadsheet. Ron Yadro/Dick Peterson moved to approve. Motion Approved. Following the meeting Hruska emailed Beckman to note that there are corrections to the 9/30 spreadsheet 1) Petty Cash is \$256.69 and 2) there was a \$2400 overage in the FY13 GLRI Rapid Response Grant which has been moved to the FY14 GLRI Rapid Response/Coordinator Grant. These corrections will require a motion at the next meeting.
5. **ACTION TEAMS** – Emily distributed minutes of each Action Team which conducted work during September (AIS, Terrestrial, Monitoring & Organizational Development) and can also be found on the website. The Education/Outreach Action Team did not meet in September due to low participation, but the team is expected to help review the Fall Newsletter which is currently being drafted.
6. **PROJECT UPDATES/REPORTS**
 - a. WRISC Coordinator Update was given by Emily Anderson. The update is also on the website.
7. **OLD BUSINESS** –
 - a. MOU Signature Status was given by Emily Anderson. At the last meeting there were seven unsigned Partners and now there is only one, the Wisconsin DNR. Aaron McCullough reported that the MOU has passed through the DNR legal department but has been delayed in the Secretary’s office. He is waiting to hear back soon with more details. Emily suggested that if the DNR does not name a signatory soon then the Board should consider setting a deadline since 2016 is not far off.
 - b. Developing Roles & Responsibilities document for Coordinator and BOD-Emily explained the ORG Dev AT reviewed WHIPs documents that provide roles & responsibilities and agreed that similar documents would work well for WRISC. Margie suggested that we develop one for Partners as well, which the group agreed would be useful. Emily will begin a document for the Coordinator position and the Org Dev AT will begin working on documents for the Board of Directors and Partners.

c. Tri-CISMA GLRI Grant Proposal – Emily reported this was a tri-CISMA effort and are awaiting word. Tracy Beckman mentioned GLRI did not give a timeframe for awards but has been in contact. CISMAs cooperating with one-another was thought to be an all around good idea and has support at all levels. Ryan Wheeler and Emily both discussed the desire of the Michigan Invasive Species Council and the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin to collaborate more with CISMAs when able.

d. CISMA Advocacy – The group continued the discussion of advocating for funding/support for CISMAs and agreed that this should be an ongoing topic for WRISC. Margie expressed a desire to see CISMAs in Wisconsin eligible for more funding similar to recent efforts in Michigan.

8. NEW BUSINESS –

a. NEW WRISC employee/work structure - Ann Hruska explained that based on the workload, Lindsay Peterson has been hired 20 hrs/wk (winter) & 40 hrs/wk (summer) to work for WRISC & Dickinson Conservation District as their Conservation Projects Manager. A large part of her work for WRISC will focus on the Michigan Grant which she worked on through the summer, focusing on the AIS goals and coordinating with Emily for Education & Outreach.

b. Winter storage – Bill explained new storage/office space challenges being faced by the Dickinson Conservation District who provides office space for WRISC. NRCS, who rents the building, needs have the storage room emptied to move the server, eliminating much of the indoor storage. Emily asked if anyone had room to help store WRISC supplies, namely herbicide, in a heated area over winter. Aaron McCullough and Justin Bournoville both volunteered space.

c. New AIS Finds/eDNA results – A report was handed out with eDNA results from several WRISC lakes and confirmed new AIS finds from WDNR early detection surveys. Lindsay talked about follow-up monitoring for the eDNA results which are not confirmation of species presence. Based on feedback from the AIS action team the eDNA results will not be presented to lake associations until other confirmation is obtained.

d. WDNR Letter of support – In September a letter was requested by Brock Woods for a new WDNR proposal from the EPA/GLRI grant to combat phragmites and expand the use of decontamination equipment statewide. A copy of the submitted letter, approved by Bill Rice in September, was distributed. Emily also presented a new request from the UP RC&D for a letter of support in their MISGP grant application, due Oct 30, to continue their Phragmites grant. There was a short discussion on approval of these letters of support and the group agreed that a letter should be prepared for the UP RC&D proposal. Emily will coordinate with Darcy on the details and have the letter approved/signed by Bill.

e. WRISC Mapping Presentation/Training (December meeting?)- Emily told the group about the invasive mapping/qGIS presentation being prepared for the Marquette conference. The Monitoring AT suggested that to present to WRISC Partners she also present at the December Board meeting as an optional afternoon session, likely with Florence as the location. Margie stated her support on anything to help share information and create consistency in mapping work. The group agreed that this was a good idea and Florence was a good location, Justin will look into booking the natural resource center conference room.

f. Draft 2016 Meeting Schedule - Emily suggested that a schedule of 2016 meeting be prepared and handed out at the December BOD meeting. Group discussed changing the month of the Annual Meeting to a time other than June but then several people reminded the group of many reasons June was decided the best month for the meeting. The 2016 Mtg Schedule was tasked to the Org Dev AT and Justin will look into booking the Florence natural resource center for the annual meeting.

9. ROUND ROBIN –

- Charlene Peterson, representing Shakey Lakes Association, donated \$100 to the WRSIC Discretionary fund. Thanks to Charlene & Shakey Lakes.

- Ron Yadro encouraged WRISC participation at the upcoming ANSWERS meeting on October 28th at 9:00am in the Florence natural resource center. He also suggested WRISC try to get TV stations to visit field sites for small news sections showing people invasive plants.
- Emily shared a display on PlayCleanGo outreach materials and made a personal announcement that she is now engaged.
- Margie shared information on Florence County's Invasive Species Council.
- Everyone agreed that due to the problems with the conference call Emily will look for an external speaker phone that can be attached to existing office phones for use at future meetings.
- Darcy gave a report on the UP RC&D's Phragmites work this season.
- Aaron shared his experience with good Phragmites control on the Michigan shoreline this year due to high water levels.

10. OTHER BUSINESS – The next meeting will be on December 2nd at 10:00am in Florence County.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Margie suggested starting to form a planning committee for the 2016 annual meeting and consideration of WRISC award recipient(s).

12. ADJOURN – Moved by Aaron/Dick to adjourn at 11:39am Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by Tracy Beckman, Secretary on 10/7/2015