

WRISC Update

Submitted by Interim Coordinator, Lindsay Peterson
BOD Meeting 10-5-2016
Stephenson, MI

Since the Last Meeting

- West Shore Fishing Museum Volunteer Workday – Menominee Co. (August 10)
- Roberts Lake Fisheree (August 13)
- Marinette County Fair (August 25-28)
- Florence County Fair (August 26 – 28)
- Dickinson County Fair (Sept 1-5)
- Forest County Fair (Sept 9-11)
- *Rescheduled: WI AIS Bridge Snapshot Day (Sept 10)*
- Menominee River AOC Open House - Marinette (Sept 15)
- Florence County School's Log-a-Load For Kids Forestry Day (Sept 28)

Upcoming Events

- Kingsford High School Invasives Workday – Cowboy Lake (Oct 12)
- Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference – La Crosse (Oct 17-19)
- UP CISMA Summit – Marquette (Nov 10)

WE Energies Mitigation and Enhancement Fund (MEF) Strike Team (2015-2016)

Extension request for March 31st, 2017 for this grant was approved August 16th. With this extension, this grant will continue to fund the Coordinator position part time and allow for a more effective transition to a new coordinator in the spring.

Work has continued on late season herbicide treatments, including Japanese Knotweed retreatments at several sites, priority Garlic Mustard treatments, etc. WRISC also cooperated with Florence Co LCD to obtain a WDNR Permit to conduct hand-swiping of several Phragmites infestations on Cosgrove Lake in Florence County. We are still hoping to coordinate an herbicide treatment at our top priority Garlic Mustard site on the Kline property near Crandon to follow up on hand-pulling down earlier this year (weather has not cooperated!). Cerceris wasp monitoring wrapped up for the season and datasheets and collected beetles will be sent out this week.

Treatment reports have yet to be sent out to landowners. The data still needs a final check over to make sure areas and treatment information are correct both on the report and in the database. This is a large undertaking and time has not allowed for this yet. However, it is a top priority and is set to be tackled as soon as field activities are completed and more time can be committed to being in the office and working on this data management. Counties and other municipalities will be top priority in receiving treatment reports first.

End of year data management plans: After the field season comes to a close, the hope is to use remaining funds from this grant to continue improving invasive population records for WRISC using QGIS. At the beginning of the summer we created an internal GIS shapefile populated with all of the reported MISIN records. We have been adding to this shapefile additional data on treatment history, up-to-date population data, landowner contacts, etc. We have also been making notes for data corrections such as record duplicates or incorrect locations. Once this information is updated we hope it will be easier to incorporate data from partners (such as the USFS), check it against current data, report new

records to MISIN, and supply partners not only with our data but custom maps if needed. For example, if time allows we could download GIS road files, buffers could be put around roads to select only invasives within road right-of-ways, and these records could then be sent to right-of-way managers. This is an ongoing process and will be addressed more once field activities wrap up for the season.

GLRI – Rapid Response/Coordinator (2015-2016)

This grant it will wrap up in October with a final report due October 10th. Through this grant, we were able to hire Carolyn Weber-Starling (Florence Co. AIS Coordinator) to assist with some end of season work, both field and office related, for various grants. With some money left in the equipment budget, more WRISC pens were ordered, herbicides were replenished. Per the request of 2016 Summer Staff, safety green long-sleeved shirts were ordered for when staff conducts work along roadways. Work continues to complete end of grant reporting.

GLRI – Boat Wash

Boatwash activity has wrapped up for the season. Portable units still need a once over before being transported to Florence for winterization and storage by the WDNR. This should be completed by the end of October.

FY14

The deliverable of 1950 boater contacts for the FY14 grant was actually completely met in 2015, but this grant continued to fund boat inspections and washer activity in all 5 counties – including WRISC Summer Staff and Marinette Co. Summer Staff! FY14 Grant money was fully expended as of September 30th, 2016. With some of the remaining equipment/materials funds, 2500 additional Japanese Knotweed brochures were printed as those were running low. An aquatic version of Play. Clean. Go. posters (same image and message as portable billboard) were ordered. At the suggestion of the Summer Staff, 3 vertical flag banners to be used with the boat wash stations were designed and ordered. One will be used by WRISC Staff while the other two will go to Marinette and Florence Counties.

FY15

The deliverable of 1950 boater contacts for this grant was well exceeded in 2016. WRISC staff contacted 1134 boaters, while Marinette County staff contacted 2349 boaters. Florence County's crew of 7 should be congratulated on contacting 5353 boaters through their DNR Grant! The FY15 Boatwash grant will continue to partially fund AIS boater inspection/washers in 2017.

Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program (MISGP) (2015-2016)

Worked with grantor to receive payment on October 15 – April 16 request for reimbursement. Finally received payment in mid-September! This grant has been extended through December to allow for better compilation of data, quality mapping, and development of lake management plans, all ongoing at this time.

Play Clean Go Signs: The portable billboard has spent the last month at the Stephenson USDA Service Center. It will be hauled back to office and winterized for the year.

Aquatic: The final water quality data has been collected and volunteer coordination has been wrapped up, just waiting on volunteer data and timesheets. This data will be compiled in the next month and sent to the Contractors completing the lake management plans.

Treatment sheets from summer work have been compiled. Data still be checked and proofed before submission to MISIN. Semi-annual deliverables report will be developed in October. Treatment and mapping data will be finalized during this process and will be presented at the December meeting.

This grant will be spent out in December and much of the work from here on out will be wrapping up this grant and its various aspects.

UP RC&D Pulling Together Grant

Plans are also underway to replace the annual Marquette invasives conference with a UP CISMA Summit in November where each UP CISMA will present on their new/unique projects.

We will look into the funds of this project to potentially fund some of the printing cost associated with the Wild Parsnip brochure currently in the works. Would need to finalize brochure soon in order to capitalize on available funds.

UP RC&D Phragmites Project

Both WRISC and DCD have been cooperating with a suite of Phragmites grants held by UP RC&D. Approximately 12 days in September were dedicated to herbicide treatment of inland phragmites populations. WRISC/DCD staff worked in Menominee (Lindsay – approx. 10 days), Iron, and Dickinson (Ann – 2 days) Counties. While this particular grant is not WRISC specific, it relates to the Outreach and Mapping grants held by WRISC from UP RC&D. These are very busy grants and UP RC&D will be compiling and submitting treatment records to the state over the next month.

WI DNR AIS Early Detection/Rapid Response Knotweed Grant (Lumberjack RC&D) (2016-2017)

Rosie Page recently submitted a report on the various knotweed sites. No landowners have stepped forward to request treatment of sites. This could be pursued more strongly by Page, however, given the time of year and the tight schedule of the Coordinator, it is unclear if any treatment would be feasible at this point. Regardless, the landowners are identified and locations are clarified in regards to species, area, etc. so future work could be accomplished.

WI DNR WMA Grant (2016-June 2018)

August 17th we received the award letter for our requested level of funding of \$14,200!

Carolyn Weber-Starling is currently assisting with getting this grant started by talking to landowners, spreading the word, developing flyers and press releases, etc. A total of #### private forest landowner partners are being sought for creation of a property map for invasive species, management recommendations, and limited rapid response control for top priority species. Since this grant has a strange cycle, ending July 2017, we need to work on accruing partners now to be prepared to jump on the mapping next field season.

NOTE: May need to contact grantors again regarding proposal questions that were asked and answered in late July/early August. Grantor should be made aware of recent changes in staffing.

WE Energies MEF Strike Team II (2017-2018)

WRISC received the full proposal award letter to this grant on September 20th. We received funding of \$76,532 over a two year period (\$38,266 each for 2017 and 2018), the full amount requested, to continue funding several of the activities already supported by our current MEF grant, including education/outreach, mapping, and control. This grant also includes specific items to engage industry professionals that are impacted by invasives (road crews, foresters, utility workers, etc), and continue to study European Marsh Thistle. Through this grant WRISC should be able to fund a coordinator at 20 hrs per week for 2017-2018, and a 2 person crew for 2 days per week each summer.

MISGP FY2016: WRISC Strategic Management Plan Project – Full Proposal Submitted (2017-2019)

Full proposal for this grant was submitted September 15th, requesting funding of \$162,000 (plus \$80,000 match) for a 3-year period. We're hoping the different grant cycle will help prevent a funding gap seeing as most WRISC grants are 2 year grants on matching cycles which can leave several winter/spring months quite low on funding. This grant, if awarded, would help carry a coordinator through the winter, at least part time, in this event.

This grant would essentially allow WRISC to better implement the Strategic Management Plan. It would fund a

coordinator position ½ time for three years, assist in the next revision of our plan, and highlights monitoring in riverine settings as well as expanded cooperation with industrial and civic partners.

A big thanks to all the partners who submitted Letters of Support and/or offered Match towards this grant! We feel it really strengthened our proposal and we're confident about our odds of receiving funding.

Misc.

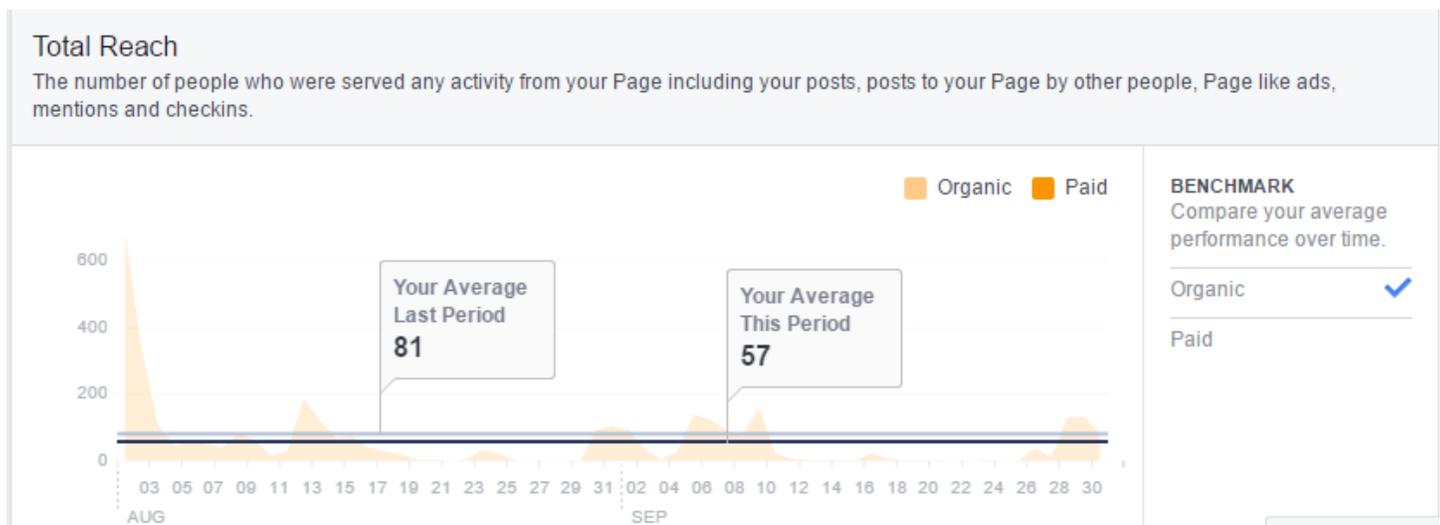
Summer Staff: All summer staff departed by the middle of August. This early departure of ALL staff has made the summer wrap-up quite demanding for Interim Coordinator.

Newsletters: Work has just started on WRISC's Fall Newsletter, but time sensitive field work has consumed much of the schedule and is delaying production of newsletter.

Website/Facebook: The WRISC website has continued to receive regular updates for events and meetings, and some summer 2016 photos have also been uploaded to google photos. The WRISC website had **53 visitors in the last 31 days** (month-specific statistics are unavailable for August due to issues with Clicky). Image to the right shows pages most frequently visited.

Facebook has continued to receive regular updates of invasive articles, links, pictures, etc. The WRISC Facebook page has gone from 198 likes (at the last BOD meeting) to **206 likes** at the end of September (we've passed the 200 mark!). The graph below shows the total reach for our Facebook page for the months of August and September, where our **average reach was 57**. Reach dropped a bit in the last month or so because the Coordinator has been out in the field most days and has not been able to post to Facebook as consistently.

Content				Pages	Entrance	Exit	Downloads	Events	Media
/	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition	50	+733%						
/job-postings-2	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	9	+800%						
/species-profiles	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	6	0%						
/invasive-control	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	3	0%						
/invasive-mapping	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	3	0%						
/clean-boats-clean-waters	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	2	0%						
/apps/calendar/showMonth?calID=21...	Calendar - October 2016	2	0%						
/apps/calendar/	Calendar	2	0%						
/adopt-a-spot	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	2	0%						
/apps/links/	Links & Resources	1	0%						



Correspondence of note:

- New Partner Signatory Page – MSU Ext.
- Letter of Support Requests from Florence Co., Iron-Baraga Conservation District, and ML&SA
- Email: Fall 2016 AIS Coordinators Meeting – Registration Open

Grant-Related Correspondence:

- Submitted reimbursement requests for WE Energies MEF Strike Team. Reimbursement requests for the various GLRI Grants as well as MISGP are in the works and nearing completion.
- WE Energies MEF Strike Team II Award Letter
- WI DNR WMA Grant Award Letter
- Several Letters of Support received for various grant proposals (primarily MISGP)