

WRISC Update

Prepared by Emily Anderson
BOD Meeting 2-3-2016
Florence, WI

Since the Last Meeting

- Wisconsin CISMA Conference Call (Dec 7)
- Dickinson Conservation District Annual Meeting (Jan 23)

Upcoming Events

- *Presenting:* Boundary Waters Muske Club (Feb 20)
- Timberland Invasive Partnership Annual Meeting – Keshena, WI (Feb 23)
- Invasive Species Awareness Week (Feb 21-27)
- *Presenting:* Northern Lights Garden Conference – Marinette, WI (March 26)
- *Attending:* Wisconsin Lakes Convention (March 30-April 1)
- *Attending:* Wisconsin AIS Partnership Meeting (April 20)
- *Attending/Presenting?:* Wisconsin CISMA Meeting (April 21)
- *Attending:* Michigan Lakes Convention (April 28-30)

WE Energies Mitigation and Enhancement Fund (MEF) Strike Team

In January Emily and Ann submitted an interim report and request for reimbursement for the second half of 2015. The report demonstrated that WRISC is meeting or exceeding all deliverables for this grant including conducting control work on 42.5 acres in 2015 (exceeding the 40 acres listed as a 2015 deliverable) and exceeding the number of events/training we planned to conduct. We did not expend all funds budgeted to this grant in 2015, which will help provide additional funding for 2016 field staff. Emily continues to work under this grant at apx 20 hrs per week.

With help from the Terrestrial Action Team, Emily also began planning for workdays in 2016. The hope is that the sooner we can schedule these events the sooner we can advertise them.

WMA Control Grant – Wisconsin: *New deadline: February 29, 2016*

Emily secured an extension on this grant until the end of February to continue writing invasive species mgmt. plans. This helped a lot in December by allowing Emily to spend her time on other projects including pursuing WDNR rapid response funding for knotweed in Forest county. Emily has 2 smaller plans left to complete and updates to one additional plan. Discussions are also underway regarding ideas for the next WMA grant proposal due April 1st.

GLRI – Rapid Response/Coordinator

Ann submitted a financial reimbursement request for the end of December. During 2015 WRISC expended more money from this grant than anticipated, decreasing the amount available for work in 2016. Remaining funds will continue to support the WRISC Coordinator at apx 8 hrs per week for the rest of 2016, but with little if any funds for summers staff. Fortunately, our field season during 2015 likely has completed or near completed our requirement of acreage treated for this grant.

GLRI – Boat Wash

A reimbursement request was sent for Boatwash (fiscal year 14) funds at the end of December. When looking at the grant funds remaining, we were very under budget for expenses in 2015, leaving a higher budget than expected for

2016. While working on the budget for this, and creating a new budget and workplan for the tentative award of GLRI Boatwash FY15 funding, Emily and Ann agreed that the FY14 funds could support field work for WRISC and Marinette County in 2016 if the FY15 funds could be used in 2017. Budgets were created for a 2 person Marinette County crew in 2016, a 2 person WRISC crew in 2016, and a 2 person WRISC crew in 2017. In addition, the new funding will also be used toward the purchase of a new portable boatwash and containment pad.

The AIS action team discussed several items related to the WRISC Boatwashes. They agreed that WRISC should continue our arrangement with the WI DNR for storage and maintenance. They also liked the idea of placing boatwash units at high priority boatlandings in the area including Lake Metonga in Forest County and Twin Falls in Florence County. The team is looking into options/concerns on having a boatwash available for part of the year at these landings to be operated by the Lake Metonga Association and Florence county CBCW staff. The team also reviewed a new boatwash operation guide and discussed safety training.

Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program (MISGP)

WRISC has not heard anything yet from our MISGP October interim report. Emily and Lindsay have continued to work under this grant and we are on track in regards to spending and grant deliverables. Funds are sufficient to continue to support Lindsay at 20 hrs per week through 2016, Emily at 8 hr per week, and additional funding for extra hours in summer for Lindsay and summer staff.

Lindsay has continued to work on lake management planning, including several meetings with contractors and lake associations. Both Emily and Lindsay have continued to update the WRISC website and facebook page, and produced WRISC's winter newsletter with help from the Education/Outreach team. Work is also ongoing to create custom PlayCleanGo signage and posters, with several designs almost completed. The thistle ID brochure is also in its final review stage and will likely be sent to the printers sometime in February. Funding from the GLRI Boatwash grant and/or WMA Control grant will supplement MISGP funding to print additional brochure for WRISC Partners in Wisconsin, and several other area groups have expressed interest in paying for some brochures as well.

WI DNR AIS Early Detection/Rapid Response Proposal

Emily has been working on this proposal to fund control work of a known Bohemian Knotweed site in Crandon and conduct monitoring on all knotweed locations in Forest County. Unfortunately, the Dickinson Conservation District is not eligible to apply for this funding, but the Lumberjack RC&D has stepped forward and agreed to sponsor the grant for WRISC. Emily still has to go over grant details with Tracy Beckman before submitting the application.

UP RC&D Pulling Together Grant

Funding from this source will continue into 2016.

UP RC&D Phragmites Project

Funding from this source will continue into 2016 for Phragmites education/outreach in Michigan.

Misc.

Newsletters: WRISC's winter newsletter was published which included a 2015 annual report compiled by Emily and Lindsay.

Website/Facebook: The WRISC website has continued to receive regular updates for events and meetings. The MISGP project page was added, and several other project pages updated. The citizens resources pages also received some

Content						
	Pages	Entrance	Exit	Downloads	Events	Media
/	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition	76				+850%
/wrisc-partners	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	23				0%
/job-postings-2	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	16				0%
/Documents	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	12				0%
/apps/calendar/	Calendar	6				0%
/contact-us	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	6				0%
/board-of-directors	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	4				0%
/invasive-mapping	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	3				0%
/action-teams	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	3				0%
/apps/links/	Links & Resources	3				0%
/species-profiles	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	3				0%
/invasiveLocations.htm	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	2				0%

updates and the WRISC Partner logos and websites were added to the Partners page. Emily has also been working on adding large amounts of photos from 2015 to the website. She has experienced several problems with the photo albums available through the website itself and looked into various other photo sharing options including Flickr and Google Photos. Google may provide the easiest option but nothing has been decided yet. Still planned for the website is a new invasive laws page and perhaps more updates on volunteer opportunities.

The WRISC website had **91 visitors in December and 98 visitors in January**. The image to the left shows the pages most frequently visited in January.

Facebook has continued to receive regular updates of invasive articles, links, pictures, etc. The WRISC Facebook page has gone from 159 likes (at the last BOD meeting) to **170 likes** at the end of January. The graph below shows the total reach for our Facebook page for the months of December and January where our **average reach was 137**.

