

WRISC Update

Prepared by Emily Anderson
BOD Meeting 4-6-2016
Marinette, WI

Since the Last Meeting

- *Lindsay hosted Field Day:* IM Environmental Club – Winter Lake Sampling (Feb 6)
- *Lindsay Attended with UP RC&D:* Cedarville Township Meeting – Phragmites (Feb 10)
- *Lindsay Attended with UP RC&D:* Menominee CD Meeting – Phragmites (Feb 11)
- *Emily Attended with UP RC&D:* Green Bay Phragmites Meeting (Feb 12)
- *Lindsay Presented:* Boundary Waters Musky Club (Feb 20)
- *Emily Attended:* Timberland Invasive Partnership Annual Meeting – Keshena, WI (Feb 23)
- *Emily Attended with UP RC&D:* WI Wetlands Conference Phragmites Working Group Meeting (Feb 25)
- *Lindsay Attended:* Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society (MAPMS) Conference (March 6-9)
- *Emily Attended with UP RC&D:* Menominee Parks & Rec Meeting – Phragmites presentation (March 7)
- *Emily Presented and had booth:* Northern Lights Garden Conference – Marinette, WI (March 26)
- *Emily Attended:* Wisconsin Lakes Convention (March 30-April 1)

Upcoming Events

- *Attending with UP RC&D:* Ingallston Twp Meeting (April 11)
- *Attending:* Florence Garden Conference (April 16)
- *Attending:* Wisconsin AIS Partnership Meeting (April 20)
- *Attending/Presenting?:* Wisconsin CISMA Meeting (April 21)
- *Attending with UP RC&D:* Menominee Twp Meeting (April 27)
- Crandon Clean Boats Clean Waters training (April 29)
- *Possibly Attending with UP RC&D:* Menominee Parks & Rec Meeting (May 2)
- *Participating:* Dickinson Outdoor Extravaganza (May 21)
- Florence Clean Boats Clean Waters training (May 25)
- Crandon Clean Boats Clean Water training (May 27)
- WRISC Annual Meeting (June 1)
- Wisconsin Free Fishing Weekend (June 4-5)
- Michigan Free Fishing Weekend (June 11-12)
- Harmony Arboretum Invasive Program (June 23)

WE Energies Mitigation and Enhancement Fund (MEF) Strike Team

Work continued planning for the 2016 season. This included: scheduling (and attending) educational events, hiring summer staff, reviewing field data entry sheets, and starting a WRISC internal GIS database for location and control data. After discussions with the Terrestrial action team, it was decided that instead of just setting dates for workdays in 2016 we will schedule them with groups and then advertise them to the public. Also with the help of the action teams work was done creating a WRISC Partner survey to garner feedback on WRISC activities and strategic management plan goals/objectives.

WMA Control Grant – Wisconsin: *Completed and Closed*

The final work for this grant was completed in February and a final report submitted before the deadline of February 29, 2016. Due to lower than anticipated landowner participation in this grant, we fell slightly short of the goal of 9

participating landowners, as such we did not expend all of the grant funds. To utilize as much of the funds as possible we did decide to purchase additional herbicide and backpack sprayers for use by private landowners. We were also given permission to use funds to pay for 5,000 thistle ID brochures to distribute to other weed management groups in Wisconsin.

GLRI – Rapid Response/Coordinator

An interim report was submitted for this grant at the end of March. Similar to MEF Strike Team, work continued planning for 2016 activities including events and field work.

GLRI – Boat Wash

An interim report was submitted for GLRI Boatwash FY2014 funds at the end of March. Work continued seeking summer staff and clean boats clean waters trainings were scheduled. Other summer events are also being planned. Emily participated in a conference call for the Wisconsin AIS Partnership, attended the Wisconsin Lakes Convention, and will be attending an in person meeting of the WI AIS Partnership later in April. The AIS action team drafted a Partner boatwash use agreement which is pending review from the Board and a lawyer.

A workplan and budget for GLRI boatwash FY2015 funds was submitted. We are awaiting final paperwork before moving forward to use these funds for purchase of a new boatwash.

A proposal was submitted for GLRI boatwash FY2016 funds (for 2017-2018 boatwash activities) and was approved for \$37,000.

Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program (MISGP)

The next interim report will be due April 30th and work on that will begin shortly. A lot of work has been done this winter on developing signage and promotional materials. The thistle identification brochure was developed and printed. Play Clean Go trail signs and signs for 2 boot brush stations were printed, a yard sign design was also produced but has not been printed yet. The portable billboard is in the process of being redesigned as well. Quotes have been received and most of the designs are finalized. The billboard should be completed for use this summer. We will also be working on a wild parsnip brochure to go along with our series of other invasive brochures. The spring WRISC newsletter is also being worked on at this time. Lindsay has been busy scheduling and hosting Lake Stakeholder meetings with the various lake groups to discuss management plans with the groups and the contractors. Lake work will resume at ice out. Events and field work are being planned for the 2016 season as well.

UP RC&D Pulling Together Grant

Emily participated in a conference call with the UP RC&D and other UP CISMAs receiving money from this grant. Darcy outlined what deliverables are still required including a workshop on knotweed and/or eDNA results, match, and reporting for garlic mustard work. Emily submitted 2015 garlic mustard location and control records to Darcy.

UP RC&D Phragmites Project

Between Emily and Lindsay WRISC staff attended several meetings related to this project to begin the work of supporting continued phragmites treatments, primarily in Menominee County. Lindsay also assisted the phragmites project leader with winter phragmites surveys.

WI DNR AIS Early Detection/Rapid Response Proposal

Application was submitted and our proposal was approved. We are still awaiting grant paperwork before beginning work. This small grant will cover monitoring of knotweed populations in Forest County to determine how many are the

prohibited hybrid Bohemian Knotweed, education/outreach of landowners, and select control work. Lumberjack RC&D will be processing this grant as the Dickinson CD is not eligible to apply for WNDR surface water grants.

WI DNR WMA grant proposal

An application was submitted at the end of March for a WI DNR Weed Management Area Private Forest grant for \$14,200. If selected for funding, this grant would run from July 2016 through June 2018 and target private forest landowners in WRISC's Wisconsin counties. It would include site visits to properties to map invasive species and educate landowners, general education and outreach, and limited control of any early detection species found during site visits. Contact Emily if you would like to view a copy of the grant proposal. For more information on this grant source visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/aid/wma.html>.

WE Energies MEF Strike Team II Preproposal

In early March a preproposal was submitted for a WE Energies Mitigation and Enhancement Fund grant for \$76,532. If the preproposal is approved, the full proposal will be due by June 15. Although only 2 pages are requested for the preproposal, a full budget has already been completed in the case that we are selected for a full proposal. The selection process for full proposals is longer since they require FERC approval, and the grant would likely start in early 2017 and run through December 2018. This project would continue much of our general invasive species mapping, control, and education/outreach. It would also include targeted outreach to "professional groups" such as road crews, utilities, foresters, etc. as well as more time to study control and restoration sites with European marsh thistle. Contact Emily if you would like to view a copy of this preproposal.

Misc.

Partner Survey: Emily completed a draft online Partner Survey which has also been reviewed by the action teams. The survey includes items related to WRISC's goals in the strategic action plan, and also questions on WRISC's interaction with partners. Pending board approval it will be sent out to partners and their employees/agents later this month.

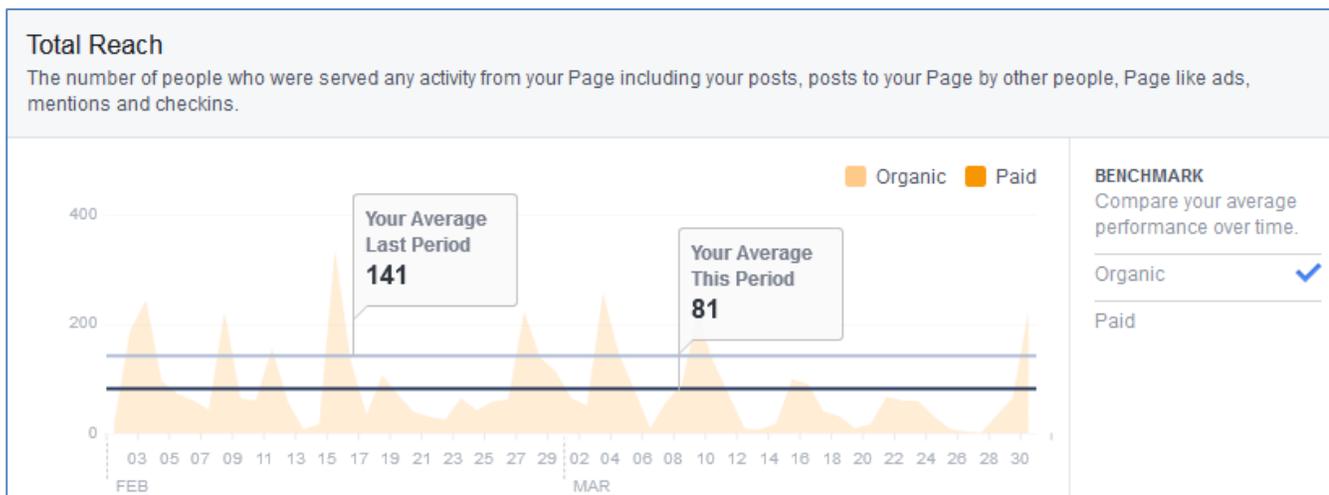
Newsletters: Work is currently underway for WRISC spring newsletter which should be completed sometime in April. The newsletter will include a highlight on Emerald Ash Borer, WRISC's new signage through the MI grant, events, and an article by John Preuss on AIS/CBCW work in Forest County.

Website/Facebook: The WRISC website has continued to receive regular updates for events and meetings, and received high traffic in February/March from the posting of our summer staff hiring. WRISC's archive of photos as well as several invasive plant photos was uploaded to google photos and links were added to the photos page. This new system will allow easier viewing of WRISC's photos and also offers Partners the option to upload their own photos to WRISC's albums or download photos. (Note, if anyone abuses the ability to upload photos this can be disabled.) Updates were also added related to volunteer opportunities, but an invasive laws page has not been added yet.

The WRISC website had **166 visitors in February and 238 visitors in March**. This large increase over January was likely due to WRISC's job posting. The image to the left shows the pages most frequently visited in March.

Facebook has continued to receive regular updates of invasive articles, links, pictures, etc. The WRISC Facebook page has gone from 170 likes (at the last BOD meeting) to **181 likes** at the end of March. The graph below shows the total reach for our Facebook page for the months of February and March where our **average reach was 81**.

Facebook total reach February and March



Left: Pages of website most visited during March. March: Links for incoming traffic to website. Indicates that several individuals likely followed our job posting link on facebook to the WRISC website.

Content			
Pages	Entrance	Exit	Downloads
/job-postings-2	147	-999%	
/	125	-999%	
/Documents	20	-999%	
/apps/calendar/	14	0%	
/contact-us	11	0%	
/board-of-directors	11	0%	
/species-profiles	10	0%	
/apps/calendar/showMonth?callID=214...	9	0%	
/clean-boats-clean-waters	8	0%	
/photos	8	0%	
/invasive-mapping	5	0%	
/about-wrisc	5	0%	

Links			
Incoming	Domain	Recent	Unique
34	facebook.com/	0%	
4	playcleango.org/partners.html	0%	
3	dickinsoncd.org/invasive-species.html	0%	
2	dickinsoncd.org/	0%	
2	10826480.responsive-test.net/	0%	
2	mipn.org/cwma-resources/	0%	
1	clmcd.org/weedmanagement_2.asp	0%	
1	jobs.mitalent.org/job-seeker/job-detail...	0%	
1	nelson.wisc.edu/careers/details.php?j=...	0%	
1	stats.webs.com/stats/?site_id=39238979...	0%	

Correspondence of note:

- Request to join the Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN) as a member
- North Stars Garden Conference booth registration form
- Marinette County Fair booth registration form
- Requests to speak at the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference: Ryan Wheeler (MISGP project talk), Brock Woods (Wetlands Invasive session – European Marsh Thistle), Kari Hagenow (CISMA/CWMA session)
- Scheduling for the 2016 Michigan AIS Landing Blitz
- New Partner Applications: Felch Township Parks & Rec Committee, MSU Extension