

## **WRISC Update**

Prepared by Emily Anderson

BOD Meeting 8-3-2016

Crandon, WI

### **Since the Last Meeting**

- *Canceled:* Dickinson Outdoor Extravaganza (June 4)
- *Participated:* Wisconsin Drain Campaign (June 10-12)
- *Participated:* Lake Lucerne Association Meeting – Boatwash demo (June 18)
- *Conducted:* Harmony Arboretum Invasive Program (June 23)
- *Participated:* WI AIS Landing Blitz (July 1-4)
- *Participated:* Iron Mountain Parade (July 4)
- *Participated/Hosted at Lake Antoine:* MI AIS Landing Blitz – Lake Antoine Park (July 4)
- *Conducted joint workday:* NMU Crew Fumee Natural Area Workday (July 20)
- *Participated:* Menominee County Fair (July 23)
- Crandon Kentuck Day (June 30)
- Menominee Knotweed Workshop (August 2)

### **Upcoming Events**

- 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)
- WI AIS Bridge Snapshot Day (Sept 10)
- Menominee River AOC Open House - Marinette (Sept 15)
- 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)**

With excess funds from last year, this grant has been able to continue to fund the Coordinator position at approximately 20 hrs per week to coordinate the summer field staff, education/outreach, invasive treatments, and mapping/monitoring as well all as funding the actual summer technicians for all of this summer's control work to date. In July a progress report and request for reimbursement were submitted.

Staff have worked with a new control data management set-up this summer, entering all treatments as polygons in a GIS shapefile. This is allowing for more accurate treatment reporting, and also allows staff to document actual population areas on key infestations (such as garlic mustard) for long term monitoring. As of July 28, 2016 staff have conducted control of 72 separate invasive populations on approximately 100 acres! This includes several garlic mustard and wild parsnip locations, some leafy spurge populations, milfoil handing pulling, and partner workdays (among others). Control is now switching to knotweed in August. Surveys have included some parsnip and spurge road surveys, as well as some individual property surveys and investigations of new invasive reports (including cut-leaf teasel in Marinette county). A large garden valerian road survey did not reveal any new populations, but two new spots were reported by Partners in Forest County and Iron Mountain. Staff have also worked under this grant on the Cerceris wasp EAB early detection

monitoring, and were excited to find a baseball field in Niagara with around 40 *Cerceris* nests to monitor. No EAB beetles have been detected from this so far, but staff have collected some bronze birch borers. (Contact Emily for more details on this program.)

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.

### **GLRI – Rapid Response/Coordinator (2015-2016)**

This grant has continued to fund about 8hrs/week of coordinator time for various activities including education/outreach and planning control activities. It will fund some summer staff time in August for knotweed control activities in southern Forest County which is outside of the Menominee River Watershed covered by the MEF Strike Team grant. A reimbursement request was submitted on this grant in July and it will wrap up in October with a final report due October 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **GLRI – Boat Wash**

Both the WRISC and Marinette County crews have been out regularly this summer at various landings. A MDNR use permit was completed for boatwash use at MDNR landings. A new containment pad was also purchased and must be used at boat landings in Michigan if the boatwash is closer than 200' to the water. It works and is not hard to set up, but difficulties in gathering and pumping water from the pad make so that summer staff do not use it unless they have to. We have been able to bring the boatwash to several fishing tournaments this year, in large part because of a new Michigan online system for registering bass tournaments. Locations WRISC has taken the boatwash for tournaments this year include: Hamilton Lakes, Hardwood Impoundment, Gene's Pond, and Twin Falls. The boatwash was also taken to a Lake Lucerne Association meeting and will be at the Roberts Lake Fisheree later this month.

As of July 28<sup>th</sup>, the WRISC crew has inspected 415 boats and contacted 840 people, the Marinette crew has inspected 275 boats and contacted 909 people.

WRISC has also completed our first Partner Boatwash Agreement with Florence County. Since the county staff had already completed our boatwash training, and the extra boatwash was being housed in Florence, the agreement went smoothly. The County was particularly excited to use the boatwash at the Spread Eagle Chain North Lake landing along with the lake association's boat wash around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July to wash all of the boats going and coming off the water for the fireworks.

A reimbursement request was submitted for this grant in July.

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

The grant extension to December 31, 2016 was approved.

Play Clean Go Signs: Boot brush stations were installed at Piers Gorge and JW Wells State Park. Trail signs were also given to MDNR property managers to put at ORV trailheads in Dickinson and Menominee counties. The portable billboard had the new panels mounted and we have successfully partnered with area parks to display the billboard. So far the billboard has been to JW Wells State Park, Sawyer Lake Park, Bedolin Menominee River Landing, and Menominee's River Park. It was also used in the Iron Mountain 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade.

Clean Drain Dry Stencils: We have had difficulties finding landings that are paved and that we can get permission to use the stencils at (MDNR did not approve the stencils at their landings). However, we have put the stencils at Lake Antoine's two boat landings, Sawyer Lake, and Lake Mary. We are still looking for Michigan locations for the stencils this year.

Aquatic: Lake work has been going steady with chlorophyll-a sampling, dissolved oxygen/temperature profiling, and the "Score the Shore" shoreline habitat assessment surveys. Several lake association meetings have been attended throughout the summer and communications with contractors have continued regarding lake management plans. A double round of chlorophyll-a sampling and a round of phosphorus testing is upcoming in August to wrap up most of the heavy lake field work. Secchi disk monitoring will continue into September. Also, a milfoil hand-pulling event took place at Bass Lake (Iron Mountain), where staff worked to pull 11 bags of milfoil from the boat landing area!

### **UP RC&D Pulling Together Grant**

Emily recently conducted a Knotweed Workshop in Menominee to fulfill part of this grant's requirement. 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.

### **UP RC&D Phragmites Project**

Through this grant, Lindsay recently attended a Native Plant workshop in Menominee County that focused on identifying the multitude of species, native and non-native, that typically grow along the Lake Michigan shorelines and may be seen colonizing phragmites areas post-treatment. This information will be used to conduct landowner site visits in the near future to help inform landowners on how to restore their shores.

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

Rosie Page has begun field work on this project visiting all knotweed sites in Forest County. A new knotweed site was also discovered in the northern part of the county after following up on a citizen report. It was believed to be introduced after bridge construction on Fishel Rd over Elvoy Creek and will soon be treated.

### ***WI DNR WMA grant proposal – pending (2016-June 2018)***

In June we received some questions/comments on the proposal, which included concern over who would conduct field work when Emily leaves. Questions were answered and submitted. No formal word on if our proposal was accepted, but we did hear unofficially that we can expect to have our proposal at least partially funded.

NOTE: May need to contact grantors again regarding proposal questions. The first proposal question/comment involved the status of Emily as the WRISC coordinator, and grantors should be informed of recent developments.

### ***WE Energies MEF Strike Team II Proposal – pending (2017-2018)***

WRISC submitted the full proposal to this grant in mid-July. Our proposal requests \$38,266 each for 2017 and 2018 to continue funding several of the activities already supported by our current MEF grant, including education/outreach, mapping, and control. It 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. If approved, this grant would fund a coordinator at 20 hrs per week for 2017-2018, and a 2 person crew for 2 days per week each summer.

To view the complete proposal please email Emily.

## MISGP FY2016 Proposal – in the works (2017-2019)

WRISC’s preproposal was submitted in early June and we were notified in mid-July that we were selected to submit a full proposal. The request was also accompanied by several comments on our preproposal, many of them very positive, and with notes to add more details in some sections. It looks like they are very interested in our plans for riverine invasive monitoring and the creation of a CISMA manual, but would like our next Strategic Management Plan to be longer than 3 years.

The full proposal is due September 15. Partners can expect to be contacted soon regarding match and letters of support.

### Misc.

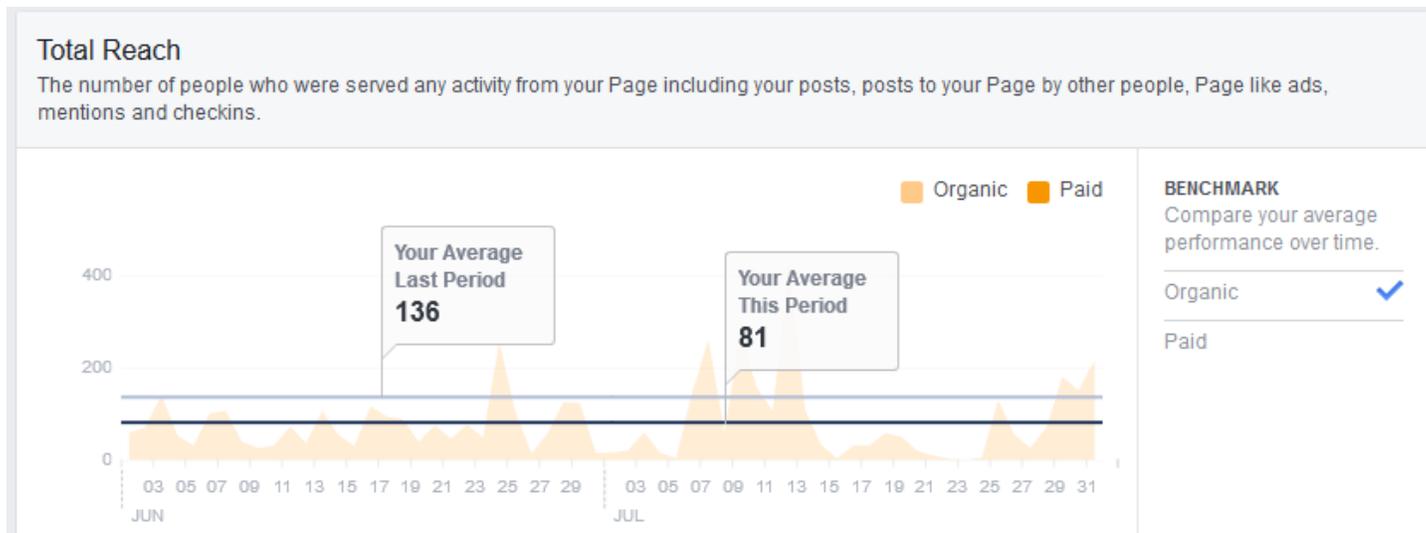
**Summer Staff:** Staff have been working hard and getting a lot done, but unfortunately they will all be heading back to college soon. Two staff leave middle of August, with one technician staying until August 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Newsletters:** Work has been taking place on WRISC’s summer newsletter, but heavy work load has delayed its finish.

**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 **102 visitors in June and 80 visitors in July**. 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 190 likes (at the last BOD meeting) to **198 likes** at the end of July (we’re almost at the 200 mark!). The graph below shows the total reach for our Facebook page for the months of June and July where our **average reach was 81**.

Content		Pages	Entrance	Exit	Downloads	Events	Media
/	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition	68					+999%
/photos	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	12					+999%
/documents	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	10					0%
/board-of-directors	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	8					+700%
/contact-us	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	7					0%
/species-profiles	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	7					0%
/apps/calendar/	Calendar	7					0%
/apps/links/	Links & Resources	6					0%
/wrisc-partners	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	5					0%
/apps/photos/photo?photoId=88016037	Wild Parsnip	5					0%
/about-wrisc	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	5					0%
/apps/calendar/showEvent?callID=21440...	Northern Great Lakes Invasive Species ...	5					0%
/apps/calendar/showMonth?callID=2144...	Calendar - August 2016	3					0%



**Correspondence of note:**

- New Partner Signatory Pages (Fume Lake Natural Area, Dickinson County)
- Requests for Designated Board Alternates from Jennifer Johnson and Justin Bournoville
- Signed Boatwash Partner Agreement with Florence County
- Florence County Forestry & Parks boatwash non-decontamination use request
- Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN) membership confirmation and request for newsletter highlight

**Grant-Related Correspondence:**

- Submitted reimbursement requests for WE Energies MEF Strike Team, GLRI Boatwash FYs 2014 and 2015, and GLRI Rapid Response/Coordinator FY2014.
- Confirmed grant extension for MISGP grant to December 31<sup>st</sup>
- New WE Energies MEF Strike Team II preproposal accepted, full proposal submitted
- New MISGP FY2016 preproposal accepted, full proposal in the works
- Responded to comments/questions on new WDNR WMA proposal
- Email from Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin (IPAW) regarding a Pulling Together Initiative proposal they are planning for Wisconsin CISMAs