

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



August 3, 2016 10:00am Forest County Courthouse Room 107
Crandon, WI

Members Present in person: Bill Rice (DCD), Greg Cleereman (Marinette LWCD), Scott Goodwin (Florence County LCD), Aaron McCullough (WI DNR), Justin Bournoville (USFS), Tracy Beckman (Lumberjack RC&D)

Members Present on phone: Dick Peterson (Lake Twp), Jennifer Johnson (MI DNR)

Members Absent:

Staff: Emily Anderson, Lindsay Peterson

Guests: Charlene Peterson (Shakey Lakes), Steve Janke (USFS), Ann Hruska (DCD), Amanda Nelson (DCD), Bill Lester (Forest Co LCC), Ben Determen (DCD)

Meeting called to order at 10:01am by Bill Rice.

Introductions were made by those present and on the phone. A sign-in sheet was passed around.

Approval of Agenda - Emily asked to add two items to the agenda under New Business. MEF Strike Team Grant Extension & Longer Strategic Management Plan Suggestion. Those items were added. Aaron/Goodwin moved to approve agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of 6/1/2016 – Cleereman/Goodwin moved to accept the minutes. Motion Carried.

Grants & Treasurer's Report – A spreadsheet of grants was distributed and the report was given by Ann Hruska. She began by introducing her replacement as Conservation District Manager, Amanda Nelson. The undesignated fund balance is \$340.47. The report dated 5/31/2016 showed 2016 available funds of \$153,855 with a remaining balance of \$49,365. Beckman/Bournoville move to accept the report. Motion Carried.

Action Team – Teams did not meet due to the busy summer season.

Coordinator Report – Emily passed around her coordinator's report. The report was two-fold. The first part of the report included a list of all the activities and narrative updates for the various grants. Emily explained that a new program allows for more accurate reporting of treatment areas and will help with other reporting as well. Emily talked about the other grants, including pending new grant proposals. Of note is a new full proposal submitted to We Energies MEF that is written to specifically engage other professionals that are impacted by invasive species. Emily also passed around hard copies of the correspondence listed at the end of the coordinator report. The second part of the report was compiled by Emily due to her departure on 8/31/16. It is a WRISC Coordinator Fall/Winter 2016 Work Plan that will be beneficial to the board and interim Coordinator to know what has to be completed after Emily leaves.

Old Business –

- a. New Partner Signatory Pages received from Dickinson County & Fumee Lake, not received are MSU Extension, Felch Township. Emily and/or Lindsay are directed to contact those remaining and ask about their status.
- b. Boatwash Partner Use Agreement update – Emily explained the first agreement was signed with Florence County and it worked out well because their staff had already been trained to use the boatwash. It was noted that for the first time using the agreement, it worked out well. Dickinson County Parks has allowed WRISC to store one of the boatwash units at Lake Antoine Park, although it looks as if the group will not pursue a Boatwash Use Agreement. WRISC also received a request from Florence County parks department to use the

boatwash to clean the outside of outhouses at a park. They suggested the group pursue a different route which they did. If a group decides again to use it for purposes other than invasive species related issues, it would need board approval. Beckman moved that the board chairperson be given the authority to make that decision on their own whether or not the boatwash can be used for other non-WRISC or invasive-species related functions. Cleereman seconded. Motion Carried.

- c. MIPN Membership completed – Emily explained that WRISC is a current member of MIPN.
- d. WRISC Coordinator Position Status items: DCD Decision, Contract offer from Emily, Interim status, Future hiring..

Rice noted that Emily is leaving at the end of August and acknowledged there has been issues with the DCD making that decision outside of WRISC Board approval. He noted the desire to move to a clean break instead of dragging things out into the winter instead of being done in the fall. It was noted that the Master Agreement between DCD and the WRISC Organization shows that DCD is the employer and as such, they made the decision to ask Emily to depart on 8/31/2016 after she communicated her intention to move out of the area but did not give a firm date for departure. Copies of the DCD's termination letter and Emily's response letter (dated 7-13-2016 and 7-19-2016 respectively) were sent via email to board members in July with hard copies available at the meeting. It was noted that there must be clearer lines so that this murky problem does not happen again. The Org Dev AT is meeting on 9/1 and intends to review the documents and bring their recommendations to the board. Emily expressed her disappointment in how this situation was handled. It was agreed that both organizations did a disservice to the employee by not making it clear who is the authority in charge of employees and making employment decisions. Emily suggested and everyone agreed that staff-related issues need to be clear. Ann Hruska reminded the board that they agreed to form a personnel committee but haven't done so and they should do that. Emily asked for clarification on: 1) Is Lindsay officially designated as interim coordinator? Bill said yes she is. 2) Hiring timeline – Bill said January or February 3) Who will be responsible to answer the email? Bill said Lindsay will answer email. 4) Will staff be sufficient – Bill said we don't anticipate this but Ann suggested extending the grant anyway and she will do that. Finally Emily let the board know that the coordinator position has evolved to mostly organization and office work. She suggested looking for technical people for field work.

- e. UMISC attendance & Thistle brochure request – Emily explained that she will be attending and speaking on European March Thistle. She is authorized to take the WRISC thistle brochure for dissemination. It was not decided if Lindsay will attend, but Tracy stated that she will be attending and can help to represent WRISC and bring back information from the conference.

New Business

- a. Board Alternates – It was noted that two members wish to designate alternates. The bylaws were consulted and it was learned this is acceptable, no board action needed.
- b. An updated WRISC Contact List was distributed.
- c. Help with County Fairs – Emily will prepare display materials and asked for board volunteers to attend. With summer staff leaving, it was also discussed that remaining grant funds could help pay for Partner seasonal staff to watch fair booths. Emily will send an email to those who offered to help to finalize details with Lindsay.
- d. New Grant Request for Proposals: GLRI CWMA funds are now competitive and the RFP is supposed to come out this month. Emily recommends the board discuss whether or not they want to apply for this. Steve Janke said all funds would have to be spent by 12/19. It was noted it can be used in any part of any counties because it is federal. The last tri-CISMA proposal was denied. The Pulling Together Initiative grants are now ready to begin work. Emily explained she has had preliminary discussion with TIP and her recommendation is to wait a year on it and should WRISC receive new MISGP funding use that as match in the proposal.
- e. Menominee Township Bees debate. Emily and Lindsay explained that they have been working with the UP RC&D on outreach regarding Phragmites treatment and continued control in Menominee County. During this process Emily encountered a disgruntled person in Menominee Township who talked about his concern in using glyphosate and its effect on bees.

- f. MEF Strike team – This grant is set to close at the end of December 2016. Ann recommended seeking an extension into early 2017 to use the excess funds remaining and cover potential funding gaps between grants. Board agreed and Ann will apply for an extension asap.
- g. Michigan grant pre-proposal – Emily explained their feedback encouraged Strategic Management Planning but they wanted it for five years instead of three. It was noted that five years is fine and also normal.

Round Robin

Florence County by Scott Goodwin – They had a successful CBCW season. AIS monitoring project is moving forward. They are thinking of applying for a Lumberjack Grant in order to buy a Photo Spectrometer.

Lumberjack by Tracy Beckman – LJ project proposals are due 10/13/16 and nominations are being accepted for the Sustainable Forestry Awards.

Forest Service by Justin Bourneville – District-wide Wild Parsnip project is underway and they are hoping to expand and have a bigger impact. Steve Janke said his interns are working until the end of September.

Marinette County by Greg Cleereman – Boat Wash season is wrapping up. They are working under a Rapid Response grant for Milfoil and found that 2-4 D is still at very high levels in lakes that are very clear. They are doing follow-up work with a harvester and believe they may have eradicated milfoil this year. They will have to go back and look and maintain it in the future.

WI DNR by Aaron McCullough – They are doing working on knapweed control in the Barrens and starting control on Phragmites.

Dickinson County by Ann Hruska – They are working under Oak Wilt Grants on how to identify, treat and manage. Same with Phragmites.

MI DNR by Jennifer Johnson – New Zealand Mud Snail discovered in lower MI and they will be implementing a plan to look for them around the state. She was kayaking and saw Flowering Rush in the U.P. show now they are mapping it to see what to do, contain or treat.

Other Business: The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 5th in Stephenson at the County Annex Building in Menominee County.

Future Agenda Items:

Emily asked about a formal exit interview and the item wasn't addressed as it can be handled by DCD.

Since it was Emily's last board meeting prior to her move, the board officially recognized her as an outstanding coordinator for WRISC. They board presented her with a house plant in hopes that it helps her remember her time at WRISC and the great works with which she was involved. The board greatly appreciates the hard work and dedication Emily has given to the WRISC organization and she will be greatly missed.

Adjourn. Motion by Cleereman/Goodwin to adjourn at 12:10pm. Motion Carried.