

WRISC Update

Submitted by Interim Coordinator, Lindsay Peterson
BOD Meeting 2-1-2017
Kingsford, MI

Since the Last Meeting

- 1/21/2017: Dickinson Conservation District – Annual Meeting & Conservation Fair
- 1/25/2017: ANSWERS Meeting
- 1/28/2017: Cold Water Fisheries Project Meeting

Upcoming Events

- NMU Job Fair – February 8th, 2017
- MAPMS Conference – Feb 27th to March 1st (not attending)
- Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program – 1st UP Training – May 3rd, 2017

Grants:

Red = Ending / Recently Closed; **Yellow** = Pending Proposal; **Green** = New / Recently Awarded; **Black** = Existing Award

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. This grant continues to fund a majority of Coordinator's hours (approx. 20hrs/week). Finalizing checks of new data for MISIN submission, updating database, etc., is a majority of the activity right now. Will be moving into Summer 2017 planning and preparing for Summer Staff.

GLRI – Boat Wash

Boatwash activity has wrapped up for the season. Portable units have been transported to Florence for winterization and storage by the WDNR.

FY15

The FY15 Boatwash grant will continue to partially fund AIS boater inspection/washers in 2017.

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

This grant was closed out at the end of December.

The final report is not due until the end of February 2017 (60 days after close out date). This is allowing us to finish Lake Management Plans and final reporting, however all funds have been spent out. Deliverables were mostly met for this grant, we were short on Adopt-a-spot sign-ups and had to scrounge just a little bit for acres surveyed.

UP RC&D Pulling Together Grant

This sub-contract (Darcy's grant) was closed out in December. We secured the remaining funds available to us for printing Wild Parsnip brochures, once completed. Meanwhile we just have a standing order at the printer awaiting the design.

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

No new work has been conducted related to this grant, other than an interim report. Concerned about meeting deliverables for this grant. Treatments were to be conducted last fall, but no landowners came forward to request treatment.

WI DNR WMA Grant (2016-June 2018)

August 17th we received the award letter for our requested level of funding of \$14,200! A minimum of 9 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 June 2018, we need to work on accruing partners now to be prepared to jump on the mapping next field season. At this point, 5 landowners have come forward and expressed interest in the project. A press release will go out in the next few weeks as well to garner more interest to obtain the last few landowners needed to meet the minimum.

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 20hrs per week for 2017-2018, and a 2 person crew for 2 days per week each summer.

MISGP FY2016: WRISC Strategic Management Plan Project – AWARDED! (2017-2019)

Award letter was received January 17th, 2017 announcing we received the grant for the total amount of requested funding at \$162,000 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 will now help carry a coordinator through the winter, at least part time, in this event. This grant will involve the re-write of the Strategic Management Plan, which will become a 5-year plan, as opposed to the current 3-year plan. A CISMA Operations Handbook will also be developed. The project also highlights monitoring in riverine settings as well as expanded cooperation with industrial and civic partners. Staffing funds for 3 years include: Coordinator for 3120 hours, Project Manager for 2496 hours, and Field Techs for 960 hours.

GLRI-USFS-CWMA: Targeting Invasives on Trails and Crossings in the Menominee River Watershed

Requested Funding: \$40,000, 2 years

Pending – Proposal submitted January 4th, 2017. Expected award notification in March.

Update: receive notification that our proposal has reached the second round of review.

Project targets a new user group for WRISC – ATV/ORV groups. We hope to produce targeted outreach/education materials, survey and map ORV trails and control woody invasives in these areas.

GLRI-EPA-ISC: Menominee River Watershed – Invasive Species Detection & Control

Requested Funding: \$204,000, 2 years (no match required!)

Pending – Proposal submitted January 13th, 2017. Expected award notification in March.

Grant is similar to the USFS-CWMA GLRI proposal, but expanded. With this grant, we hope to do similar work with ATV/ORV trails, but also maintain some aquatic work as well, such as boat landing and road/stream crossing surveys for both terrestrial and aquatic invasives. This grant would allow WRISC to purchase some larger more expensive equipment as well, including: ORV and trailer, Underwater ROV for surveying, and a versatile DASH unit (vDASH).

Misc.

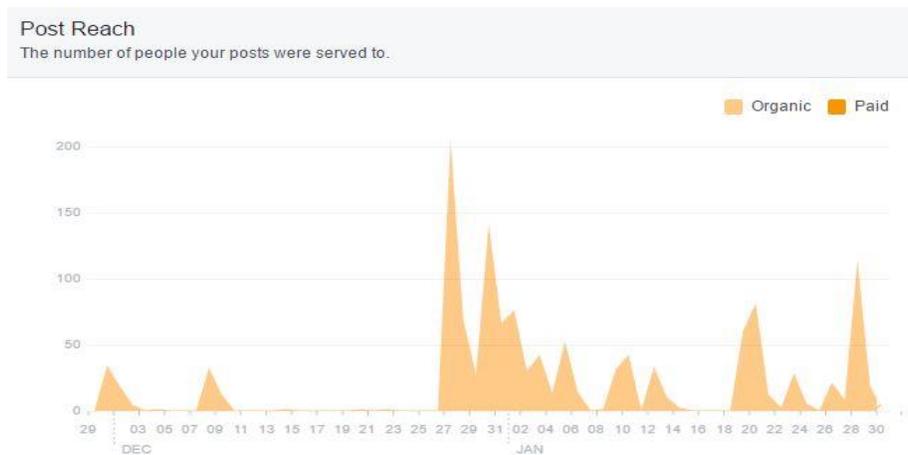
Staffing: Openings are being posted and applications being accepted. Current grant status determines number of positions for summer staff will be filled.

Newsletters: Winter Newsletter has been produced (includes annual report) and has receive great feedback so far! Planning is beginning on the Spring 2017 newsletter soon, Education/Outreach AT has started discussing this.

Website/Facebook: The WRISC website has continued to receive regular updates for events and meetings, and project opportunities for landowners. The WRISC website had **85 visitors in the last 30 days**. Image to the right shows pages most frequently visited. Being that time of year, the Job Postings page has increased in popularity.

Facebook has continued to receive regular updates of invasive articles, links, pictures, etc. The WRISC Facebook page continues to grow, having gone from 209 likes (at the last BOD meeting) to **215 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 33**. Reach increased from the last period, but is still down from late fall and summer. This is mainly because of the work load for the Coordinator and that this is a “quiet” time of the year for Invasive Species updates. Reach will begin to increase with summer preparation and hiring updates, and you can see that the frequency of posts is increasing as well. The Facebook page sees great reach whenever something is posted, it’s just that there hasn’t been much opportunity to post regularly enough for the average to be higher.

Content						
	Pages	Entrance	Exit	Downloads	Events	Media
/	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition	90				+999%
/job-postings-2	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	12				+999%
/apps/calendar/	Calendar	7				0%
/species-profiles	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	7				0%
/board-of-directors	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	6				0%
/volunteer-opportunities	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	6				0%
/documents	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	4				0%
/about-wrisc	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	4				0%
/wrisc-partners	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	4				+300%
/action-teams	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	3				0%



Correspondence of note:

- MISGP Strategic Management Plan Project Grant Award Letter
- MIPN Membership