

# Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



**April 4, 2018**      10:00am      via Conference Call  
Dickinson Conservation District  
420 N. Hooper St., Kingsford, MI

**Members Present (in person):** Bill Rice (WRISC Chair), Amanda Nelson (DCD), Scott Goodwin (Florence County LCD)

**Members Present (on phone):** Dick Peterson (Lake Twp), Aaron McCullough (WI DNR), Greg Cleereman (Marinette LWCD), Jenifer Johnson (MDNR), Tracy Beckman (Lumberjack RC&D), Pam Schroeder (FCAL), Justin Bournoville (USFS)

**Members Absent:** N/A

**Staff:** Lindsay Peterson (Coordinator)

**Guests:** Charlene Peterson (Shakey Lakes Assoc.), Darcy Rutkowski (UPRC&D), Scott Reuss (UWEX)

**Meeting called to order** at 10:00am by Bill Rice.

1. **Introductions** – Introductions were made as members that were present, on the phone, were acknowledged.
2. **Approval of Agenda** – One addition was made to the agenda, which was the approval of the Marinette County Fair Contract. Motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by S. Goodwin/D. Peterson.
3. **Approval of Minutes** from the meeting on Feb 7, 2018 were presented. D. Peterson/S. Goodwin moved to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.
4. **Grants & Treasurer's Report** – A. Nelson presented a spreadsheet of grant funding as of 4/4/2018. A. Nelson reported that the MEF grant pre-proposal had been submitted. Two USFS grants have been awarded to WRISC and the contracts signed but this money is not yet available. Most funds that have been spent in 2018 so far have been for wages. Some of the purchases have been made for the EPA grant; quotes are being received for the ATV/trailer. The Lions Club in Niagara has donated garage storage space for construction of the DASH unit. No report was given on undesignated funds. Motion to accept Treasurer's report: A. McCullough/D. Peterson. Motion carried.
5. **Action Teams** – L. Peterson reported in A. Butterfield's absence. She encouraged all Action Team members to regularly check Slack for updates. Revised drafts of the Priority Species List, Volunteer descriptions, and Strategic Management Plan have been posted to their appropriate teams. Organizational Development Action Team will meet in May to finalize Strategic Management Plan for approval in June. In the next few weeks more posts will be made to Slack such as input for treatment locations, CBCW events, etc. L. Peterson reminded members that if they have issues with Slack to contact A. Butterfield or L. Peterson. A. McCullough requested assistance with discussion board access.
6. **Project Updates/Reports** –
  - L. Peterson provided a written report to all Board Members regarding staff activity since February. The NMU Summer Job Fair held Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> proved to be successful in recruiting applicants for summer staff. The Forest Health Workshop held on March 1<sup>st</sup> was well attended with over 50 people. WRISC was unable to attend the AIS/CISMA Partnership Meeting on March 5-7 nor the Northern Lights Master Gardener Spring Conference held March 24. Other than the Annual Meeting in June there are other workshops and meetings being scheduled. Email of upcoming events will be sent to the Board Members.
  - L. Peterson gave reports on grant statuses. WMA has completed its mapping of properties and is finalizing reports. WRISC is also developing a management guide with these funds and will be given to

landowners and others (if funds allow). L. Peterson proceeded to discuss that the funds for MISGP are paying for half of the Coordinators, Project Manager, and summer staff wages. WRISC is currently awaiting reimbursement for this grant. We are currently in reporting season for this grant and are working to complete this, as well as preparation for summer season. L. Peterson then discussed the MEF grant reporting that this grant pays for half of the Coordinator wages, as well as half of summer staff. WRISC staff has been working, this winter, on prioritizing sites for 2018, and want to incorporate some invasive species information into their spring trainings. L. Peterson noted that WRISC has submitted the pre-proposal for the next MEF grant on March 8, 2018 and expects to hear back about submitting a full proposal by the end of April. Full proposal for this is due by June 15, 2018. WRISC intends to target a new user group with GLRI-NNIS. Through outreach/education materials, on ORV trails WRISC is seeking to work with the ATV/ORV groups of the 5 WRISC counties. Treatment locations are also being looked at for this project, and we are working to meet the deliverables for this grant. L. Peterson updated the board on the EPA grant. Several purchases for this grant, such as the DASH Unit, have been made and WRISC is also processing quotes for the ORV and trailer. L. Peterson led into report on the GLRI-Boat Wash grant. All boat washes are still currently in storage. The funds from FY16 are continuing to fund WRISC crews throughout the summer of 2018. WRISC has met about 50% of the deliverables for this project as we enter the last year of this 2 year project. FY17 was awarded and the contract was signed. This awarded WRISC \$37,000. L. Peterson reported that the Lumberjack RC&D project is progressing and the three CISMAS continue to meet, and the pathway guide should be in a presentable draft form soon, and will be sent around to the board for approval. This grant runs through 2018, so the guide should be printed this fall. L. Peterson announced that the Play Clean Go grant had been awarded. WRISC will use this grants ad campaign to target boating, fishing, ORV, hiking, and forestry pathways and the spread of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species. This grant will fund billboards, radio, TV, web and print media within in the 5 counties of WRISC management area.

- *Staffing:* L. Peterson reported that 3 new summer crew staff have been hired and are very eager for the upcoming season.
- *Newsletters/Articles:* L. Peterson stated that a summer kick-off newsletter will be published in May or June, highlighting the new crew, WRISC's summer plans and volunteer opportunities. It was also stated that WRISC will release newspaper articles to draw in the public on what to be looking for in each season.
- *Website/Facebook/Instagram:* L. Peterson updated the board on WRISCs active updates for events, meetings and project opportunities for landowners on the website and Facebook. Facebook receives regular updates of invasive species articles, links etc. We intend to start posting pictures of strike team activities on Instagram as well.

## 7. Old Business –

- a. Summer Hiring: Most staffing updates were given during the project report
- b. Partner Invites and Recruitment: L. Peterson was happy to report that WRISC has received 15 new partner applications, with several more pending! (8 from townships, 3 from school districts, 2 from Lake or recreation groups, 2 from Libraries). A. Butterfield sent out 130 partner invitations.
- c. Annual Meeting Planning: L. Peterson let the board know that a flyer announcing the annual meeting has been posted on the website and that WRISC has good leads for speakers and presenters. Greg Norwood (MDNR) spoke of having interest in presenting an update on the Hemlock Woody Adelgid with emphasis on a strategic preventative approach. A note was made that A. McCullough (vice chair) will chair the Annual Meeting as B. Rice will likely be absent.

## 8. New Business –

- a. Board of Directors Elections/Annual Meeting: B. Rice, T. Beckman, J. Bournoville, and G. Cleereman are all up for re-election in 2018. L. Peterson requested a statement of intent to run for re-election from these board members or names of partners to replace them if they do not intend to continue on the WRISC BOD.
- b. Partner Match: L. Peterson stated that she would send out the partner match timesheets that will include all hours contributed to meetings by WRISC Board Members in 2017. Board members need to complete the form by including pay rate and fringe for 2017. Members can add time spent on additional WRISC projects outside of meetings. This level of reporting is required by several grants.
- c. Added - Marinette County Fair Contract: L. Peterson led discussion on the Marinette County Fair contract. A. McCullough/S. Goodwin to approve paying \$80 for a display space at the Marinette County Fair scheduled for Aug. 23-26. Motion carried. There was some discussion regarding fair staffing and L. Peterson will work to have schedules and staffing sign-ups at the next meeting.

## 9. Round Robin

- S. Goodwin, Florence County LCD – Stated their new water testing lab is up and running. They are gearing up for their CBCW activities. Florence County is in the process of purchasing an underwater drone similar to the one WRISC has purchased. They needing to hire more employees but have had only 3 applicants so please send people their way.
- P. Schroeder, FCAL - Announced that FCAL member Harold Resch will be receiving a WI Lake Stewardship award in the educator category at the WI Lakes Partnership Annual Convention in Stevens Point on April 19, 2018. Harold has organized FCAL's annual essay contest that is offered to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in Crandon, Wabeno and Laona Elementary Schools. He also organizes and participates in FCAL's annual Environmental Day that is held each fall for Crandon and Wabeno High School biology classes on the banks of Lake Metonga. She also shared that FCAL's annual newsletter is being assembled for distribution to all riparian land owners in Forest County at the end of May. She invited WRISC to submit an article re: volunteer opportunities being offered this summer.
- D. Rutkowski, UPRC&D - provided a brief update on a UP wide phragmites project. 400 acres have been treated. 46 acres of biomass have been mowed in Menominee County. Free site visits were offered to 100 landowners whose shoreline had been treated in Menominee County and they were offered additional treatment for a fee of \$25-\$75. 60 people payed to have their shoreline treated. The intention is to continue this cost-share project into the future and for WRISC to be a leader in it. Funding is currently being sought.
- McCullough, WI DNR – Announced that he is currently busy applying for permits to conduct fall follow-up treatments for phragmites.
- D. Peterson, Lake Twp – Reported he and Bryan Reitter did a walk-through of the Shaky Lakes area that had been treated last year for Oak wilt. He said the area is regenerating nicely. Culver replacement has been scheduled in this popular tourist area for July which he fears will impact their tourist season negatively because of the water draw down necessary for culvert replacement. He is trying to get that work postponed

until fall. He also reminded all of the Menominee County Fair scheduled for Aug 20-22.

- J. Bournoville, USFS – Gave no updates
- J. Johnson, MDNR – Gave no updates
- G. Cleerman, Marinette LWCD - Reported that his County has received Rapid Response Grant funding to treat Dolan Lake for Eurasian Watermilfoil.
- T. Beckman, Lumberjack RC&D - A new Coordinator for TIP is being sought. Vilas County has the use of a boat wash unit this summer and Lumberjack RC&D has received approval to purchase their own boat wash unit. This is on hold as they investigate the liability issues with their insurance provider.
- A.Nelson, Dickinson CD – Reported that the District's tree sale is in full swing and progressing well.
- L. Peterson, WRISC - reminded all that effective March 30<sup>th</sup> in WI, there is a statewide quarantine on firewood, in an attempt to control the Emerald Ash Borer.
- No other reports were given.

**10. Other Business:** The next WRISC Board Meeting will be held following the Annual Meeting on June 4, 2018. Note that this does not follow the typical meeting start time.

**11. Future Agenda Items:** S. Goodwin suggested discussion of WRISCs attendance at UMISC and suggested a conference budget be presented at June meeting. L. Peterson reiterated that fair schedules will be discussed at the June Board Meeting

**12. Adjourn.** Motion by D. Peterson/A. McCullough to adjourn at 11:13 am. Motion carried.

***Meeting Minutes recorded by P.Schroeder, L.Peterson***