

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



December 7, 2017 10:00am Florence Natural Resource Center
5628 Forestry Dr., Florence, WI

Members/ Present in person: Bill Rice (WRISC Chair), Greg Cleereman (Marinette LWCD), Scott Goodwin (Florence County LCD), Justin Bournoville (USFS), Aaron McCullough (WI DNR), Pam Schroeder (FCAL), Amanda Nelson (DCD),

Members Present on phone: Tracy Beckman (Lumberjack RC&D)

Members Absent: Dick Peterson (Lake Twp), Jennifer Johnson (MDNR)

Staff: Lindsay Peterson (Coordinator), Amber Butterfield (field tech)

Guests: Charlene Peterson (Shakey Lakes Assoc. (on phone)), Greg Matzke (WDNR Fisheries Div.)

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

- 1. Introductions** – A sign-in sheet was passed around, introductions were made, and those on the phone were acknowledged.
- 2. Approval of Agenda** – One addition was made to the Agenda. C.Peterson was given an opportunity to speak and provide updates between items 4 and 5 as she would need to leave the meeting early. P.Schroeder/S.Goodwin moved to approve agenda with this addition. Motion carried.
- 3. Approval of Minutes** from the meeting on October 4th, 2017– One correction was made to the October meeting minutes (correction of a typo – repeated word in item 4). P.Schroeder/S.Goodwin moved to accept the October minutes with these corrections. Motion Carried.
- 4. Grants & Treasurer's Report** – A spreadsheet of current grant funding and status was distributed and the report of funds as of 12/4/2017 was given by A.Nelson. The undesignated funds totaled approximately \$400. Several grants had recently been approved/received. Contracts for some of these funds are still pending. While there is currently about \$170,000 of funding available for this year, with all current grants, pending proposals, and recent awards, WRISC will have nearly \$450,000 in grant funding – an all-time high! There are also 2-3 grants that are in the closing out process and will end by the end of 2017. J.Bournoville pointed out that the status of the GLRI Boatwash grant (17-PA...) should be "active" not "tentative." S.Goodwin/J.Bournoville moved to accept the financial reports with that one correction. Motion Carried.
- 5. ADDED ITEM** – C.Peterson's opportunity to provide updates, etc.: C.Peterson was given the opportunity to provide some input and updates seeing as she would be unable to stay for the length of the meeting. She wanted to point out that the moving of papers and such can be quite amplified on the phone line and asked that meeting attendees be conscientious of this. She also expressed that her and D.Peterson were supportive of hiring a four person crew for the summer season. A.Nelson and L.Peterson still need to discuss hiring and will likely hire 3-4 staff members for the field season. This is dependent on funding and eligibility of applicants. C.Peterson updated that the phragmites on Spring Lake was treated and that the culvert project near Shakey Lakes is currently on hold for the winter month as it needed more repair and a new liner.
- 6. Action Teams** – L.Peterson and A.Butterfield then presented a new platform known as Slack for Action Teams to utilize that is aimed at increasing collaboration and communication of the Action Teams. L.Peterson expressed that it takes quite a lot of effort and time to organize 5 separate action team meetings, including trying to schedule everyone around busy schedules. With this new program, Action teams can engage in ongoing collaboration and can participate as their schedules allow. L.Peterson feels this will be easier and will actually lead to more

engagement with the teams, which has been lacking lately. A.McCullough/J.Bournoville moved to approve the transition to the use of the Slack program for future action team collaboration.

7. Coordinator Report –

- L.Peterson passed around the coordinator's report and began the discussion with recent and upcoming events. Several workdays have been completed with local school groups. WRISC attended/presented at several conferences since the last meeting.
- L.Peterson proceeded to discuss each grant individually and the progress being made on each one. WMA landowner reports will be compiled in the next month or so. Landowner workshops will take place in the spring/early summer. The Forest County Knotweed (WDNR ED/RR) grant will be wrapping up at the end of December. Some equipment purchases may be made with remaining funds. MISGP has been paying wages for Coordinator and Project Manager. MEF Strike Team II has been paying wages as well. These two grants covered all of the data management and submission to MISIN, all treatment and survey data has been uploaded at this time, which is several months ahead of last year! A lot of planning is underway for the GLRI NNIS grant for next season. We are starting reaching out to more local groups and starting to set up workdays or events. WRISC has finally received the contract for the GLRI EPA grant for the proposed \$204,000. No money can be spent however until the QAPP is completed, which is in progress and will be completed in the next couple of weeks. Boatwash grants are fairly inactive this time of year. One boatwash grant will be closing out in December. Remaining funds will be used for purchasing equipment/supplies. The education/outreach campaign grant from GLRI USFS was confirmed as well. This and the new round of boatwash funding are still awaiting contracts. The full proposal for the Phragmites Cost Share program grant was submitted. This award should be made known around January. WRISC has also been involved with the Pathways Educational Guide development with WHIP and TIP, this grant is being extended as well and not much has occurred over the summer months. More will be done this winter.
- A.Butterfield's hiring was approved by the Dickinson Conservation District board in October. She has officially taken on her role as Project Manager and is already doing an amazing job! We are ahead of last year in the planning process and project management aspects. It is likely four summer crew members will be hired in the spring, but this will be discussed in the future. The job openings are typically posted in February.
- The WRISC website is currently being overhauled to do some major content updates and to fix some outdated links and the like. If you see an issue with the website, please feel free to let us know!

8. Old Business –

- a. *Conference Updates:* L.Peterson gave some brief updates on recent conferences that were attended by WRISC, and invited Partners to share anything they took away from meetings/conferences they may have attended as well. Many were typical recurring conferences and nothing too groundbreaking was learned. However, the events provide a unique opportunity to network and connect with other CISMAs in both states and just learn what other groups are doing around our area.
- b. *WRISC for Hire – Travelling crew for Counties:* The possibility of utilizing WRISC as a for-hire travelling crew for the five counties has been discussed at several of the past meetings. Marinette County has even budgeted a few thousand dollars for WRISC to utilize. However, L.Peterson has had some time to look into the idea further and has discovered some issues that would prevent WRISC from doing this. A big concern is that these activities would have to be completely separate and appear completely separate from any grant funding or projects that WRISC is currently operating under as WRISC would be making a profit and that is not allowable with grant funds. Also, the licensing and insurance held by Dickinson CD under which WRISC is able to operate normally would not cover contractual work activities in WI. If WRISC were to seek to pursue obtaining its own licensing and insurance to do contractual work, it would need to be a formal 501c3. Creating a "Friends" group for WRISC could be a way to do this. However, it could create animosity among the private sector if WRISC were to pursue contracts with the Counties. L.Peterson strongly advised against pursuing this course of action and encouraged

Partners to contact WRISC with invasive locations that they may need/want help with. Many species and areas are covered by WRISC's grant projects and it is very likely that WRISC would be able to manage the infestation using those funds, so at no cost to the County. There was a general consensus among the Board to not pursue contractual activities at this time.

- c. *Strategic Management Plan*: Discussion of the Strategic Management Plan continued. L.Peterson presented the Organizational Development Action Teams edits as the discussion of Goals 4 and 5 progressed. There was good discussion. Edits of the plan will be compiled by L.Peterson and distributed to the group for further review. The Organizational Development Action Team will also critically review the proposed edits and look at the next sections. Once all edits are compiled a working draft of the new plan will be distributed, to be further reviewed and then accepted at the June Annual Meeting.
- d. *OTHER*: Nothing else was discussed under Old Business.

9. New Business –

- a. *Strategic Management Plan – Survey for review report of 2015-2017 plan*: L.Peterson transitioned into saying that per a grant requirement, a written review of the current Strategic Management Plan will need to be done. In order to do this, L.Peterson and A.Butterfield will develop a survey to be sent around to Partners asking various questions about the current plan, such as “how effect has WRISC been in accomplishing this goal?” “does this objective need more work?” etc. This will be sent out around the New Year.
- b. *2018 Board Meeting Schedule*: The 2018 Board Meeting schedule follows the same pattern of county rotation as the past several years. All meeting times and spaces were confirmed except for the December 2018 Florence meeting, as it is too far out to reserve the room (this will be done in January) and the April Marinette meeting, since the jury room can no longer be reserved. G.Cleerman and A.McCullough suggested that the meeting could be held at the Wausaukee Ranger Station instead. A.McCullough will look into this and L.Peterson will follow up to ensure the meeting space is confirmed.
- c. *Annual Meeting 2018*: The 2018 Annual Meeting is coming up quick! There are only three meetings before the event! L.Peterson encouraged Board Members and Partners to start brainstorming presenter ideas and to start reaching out to these folks. L.Peterson will get in touch with 4Control about an herbicide workshop in the afternoon. Also, start considering partner invitations as these will be discussed in more depth at the February meeting. If there are any ideas or suggestions or contacts made in between meetings, please send them to L.Peterson.
- d. *Summer Hiring*: L.Peterson provided the Board with a copy of the WRISC Seasonal Technician Job Posting. The openings will likely be posted at the beginning of February and will be due sometime in early March. It is likely that 3 to 4 seasonal employees will be hired. The Board agreed that the posting looked complete and should be used again this year. L.Peterson also asked if WRISC should participate in the NMU Job Fair again this year. The cost is only \$25, it takes place in mid-February, and last year WRISC received about 12 resumes from the event, several candidates were interviewed from this selection as well. The Board agreed that it seems like a worthwhile event to participate in. L.Peterson will register WRISC.
- e. *OTHER*: No other topics were discussed under New Business.

10. Round Robin

S.Goodwin, Florence Co LCD – Water testing lab is built; the aerial drone has arrived and so the County will be testing that out soon and training on it, hopefully it will be useful in aerial mapping of invasive species.

G.Matzke, WDNR Fisheries – Normal work for the most part this time of year; 2018 will be the last year of herbicide study on Cosgrove Lake.

P.Schroeder, Forest County Association of Lakes (FCAL) – FCAL Newsletter is in development and will be going out to all riparian owners in Forest County which is quite a lot of people. FCAL would like to add in an article about WRISC and their presence and partnership in the county.

J.Bournoville, USFS – Working on data, reports, and contracts for GLRI grants. Overall 700 acres were treated and 430 new infestations were reported.

A.McCullough, Wisconsin DNR – Currently lots of computer work and reporting being done.

G.Cleereman, Marinette LWCD – Awarded a rapid response grant for lake work; will be working on a phosphorus budget for Noquebay; fish platforms being installed in Peshtigo; UW Ext in Marinette is being cut to only 2 staff, future is unsure at this point.

A.Nelson, Dickinson CD – Busy preparing for tree sale; Annual meeting coming up at Bay College.

No other reports were given.

11. Other Business: The next meeting will be February 7th, 2018 at the Dickinson Conservation District Office in Kingsford, MI.

12. Future Agenda Items: None were discussed at this time, although Board Members were encouraged to keep the Annual Meeting in mind and seek out presenters and new Partners.

13. Adjourn. Motion by G.Cleereman/S.Goodwin to adjourn at 11:46am. Motion Carried.

Meeting Minutes recorded by A.Nelson; Compiled by L.Peterson.