

February 5, 2013



WRISC Meeting Minutes

WRISC Chairwoman Melissa Simpson called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. at the Florence Natural Resource Center (Florence, WI). After approval of the agenda and an amendment to the previous meeting's minutes, introductions were made.

WRISC Board of Directors present: Chairwoman Melissa Simpson, US Forest Service; Treasurer Ann Hruska, Dickinson County Conservationist; Secretary Margie Yadro, Florence County Conservationist; Mick Mlinar, Florence County Lakes And Rivers Association; Anna Jahns, WDNR Wildlife Technician; Charlene Peterson, Shakey Lakes Association; and, Dick Peterson, Menominee County's Lake Township. Corrin Seaman, Florence County UWEX was noted as expected later and Vice President Bob Ruleau, Marinette County's AIS Coordinator's absence was excused.

Also in attendance: John Preuss, Lumberjack RC&D Tri-county AIS Coordinator; Cindy Gretzinger, Forest County Conservationist; Darcy Rutowski, Upper Peninsula RC&D; and ?

Working from the previous month's list of potential formal partners, contact information will be sent by Board Members to Simpson. All will receive an invitation to join the partnership in accordance with the group's Memorandum Of Understanding, MOU. Additional information will be provided regarding the WRISC Annual Meeting.

Yadro reported on the status of the Florence County Watercraft Inspection "Pilot" grant project through the WDNR. Utilizing FCLARA as the eligible sponsor and Florence County as a financial resource, WRISC will be administering a CBCW grant at three boatlandings in Florence County during the 2013 boating season. Simpson noted the value of the WRISC partnership making this project possible.

Committee Updates:

AQUATIC INVASIVES: Yadro stated that Committee Chair Ruleau had forwarded a copy of the AIS Committee's purpose statement for comment and posting on the website. Preuss followed with winter activities attended and information regarding aquatic invasive species recently in the news. Several articles were shared. Simpson added that she is part of a statewide team working on decontamination stations and their effectiveness.

TERRESTRIAL INVASIVES: Jahns informed the Board that the National Invasive Species Awareness Week will be March 3 through 8. She also read the committee's newly drafted purpose statement, explaining their strategy of hosting a demonstration treatment site in each of the 5 counties within the region this year. A stronger public participation component is sought. Jahns would like to focus on garlic mustard in Wisconsin Counties that may still be manageable sites. Hruska presented a draft of the door hanger notices designed by the previous WRISC Coordinator Jen Johnson that are meant to leave at a property where invasives have been sighted. Local contact information and assistance can be included, customized to location and available resources. Hruska also provided a handout from the Michigan Crop Improvement Association Certified Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage and Mulch Certification Program Standards. She reminded everyone that drought conditions likely caused farmers to search out further distances to purchase hay, a potential source of invasive seeds. Hruska volunteers to put together a public awareness article in recognition of the National Invasive Species Awareness week.

GRANTS: Simpson believes that the RAC grant funds will be released soon. The \$17,500 could mean two positions for WRISC. Hruska added that the Zebra Mussel grant project also held a stakeholder meeting recently in Florence County. Dean Premo of White Water hosted the event. Student Maureen Ferry explained her research findings. It was noted that WRISC is believed to

have completed its educational deliverables to the grant. The Florence County Lakes and Rivers Association will manage the continued use of the former Keyes Lake boat wash unit with assistance from WRISC and Florence County. Input is also sought in the development of a Regional Strategic Plan for zebra mussels. Two handouts were circulated by Rutowski regarding Michigan grants. Details for the Michigan Water Center grants can be found at <http://graham.umich.edu/water/rfp/>. The Upper Peninsula RC&D Council has been awarded \$458,160 for a grant project entitled “Invasive Phragmites Control in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.” Rutowski expects that Phragmites will be mapped in the Upper Peninsula along with some treatment done. A PTI, Pulling Together Initiative, project grant could be used toward funding the annual conference, developing CWMA’s and trying to standardize protocols.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Chairwoman Seaman shared a purpose statement handout. Member Yadro will post purpose statement drafts to the WRISC website.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION: In the absence of the WRISC Coordinator acting as Chair of this committee, no action has recently been taken. Several ice fishing opportunities were noted as potential winter public outreach resources. The website again was suggested for more information along with “You Tube” and perhaps school projects.

MONITORING: Chairwoman Hruska reported on the current grant funding position status for WRISC is as a Project Manager. Additional funding may provide resources for coordination.

PERSONNEL: Simpson will set a date for the hiring process to begin. Yadro will assist with job descriptions and organize job list for WRISC website.

Board members set aside June 4th, 2013 as the date for the WRISC Annual Meeting at the Florence Natural Resource Center. A morning meeting is anticipated (9 AM to noon) with an afternoon educational workshop to follow.

With all business completed, the board adjourned until March 26th, 2013 in Marinette County, 10 AM ‘til noon. Location to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Yadro, WRISC Secretary