



## Minutes for the April 3, 2012 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. at the DNR Service Center Conference Room Peshtigo, WI.

The Agenda was approved after adding the topic of the UPRCD Phragmites control grant.

The Minutes for the February meeting were approved with the following corrections: Scott Reuss is from UW-Ext, not Madison. Only one GLRI grant, not two. Put in another heading for "other hiring" for Margie Yadro's LTE Positions.

Attendees introduced themselves: Anna Jahns (WDNR Wildlife Tech, Florence); Tim Dettman (Clean Kill Pest Control); Dick Peterson (Deputy Supervisor, Lake Twp, Menominee Co); Charlene Peterson (Zoning, Shakey Lakes Association, Menominee County); Melissa Simpson (US FS Ecologist); Greg Sevenser (Watershed Specialist, WDNR); Bill Tuck (Florence Co. Invasive Species Manager); Ashley Fehrenbach (Botanist/Wetlands Program Director, Forest Co Potawatomi); Aaron McCullough (Wildlife Technician, WDNR); Dave Halfmaan (Wildlife Biologist, WDNR); Bob Ruleau (AIS Coordinator, Marinette Co); Dick Peterson (Deputy Supervisor, Lake Twp, Menominee Co); Greg Cleereman (County Conservationist, Marinette Co); Jen Johnson (Coordinator, WRISC); Ann Hruska (Project Manager, Dickinson County Conservation District)

Business:

1. Phragmites Grant- letter of support
  - a. Upper Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development Council (UPRC&D) is soliciting letters of support of a grant from the US Forest Sustain Our Great Lakes Fund that will address 400 acres of phragmites in the UP (Menominee and Delta Co). It is for 2013-2014 and WRISC would receive \$3,000 for education events and correspondence to landowners that are affected by the removal efforts in Menominee County. Ann Hruska stated this is one of the better partner grants in a while. Bob Ruleau would write a letter of support from Marinette County. Shakey Lakes (Charlene Peterson), Lake Township (Dick Peterson), and Florence County (Bill Tuck) would give their letters of support as well. Anna Jahns put it to a vote and pass in favor of writing a letter of support to UPRCD. Ann Hruska and Jen Johnson will help draft a letter and send it out by April 23.
2. Email and Web page update (Jen Johnson)
  - a. Email: Made a contacts list for the following groups: Citizens & Interested Groups, Newspapers, Partners, and Steering Committee. Jen also deleted contacts whose emails

were no longer valid and removed emails from people requested to be taken off the list (only two requested to be taken off).

- b. Webpage: added Earthworm content, BoatUS information, updates sub-committee names and "In the News" tab. Created a facebook page for WRISC as well and will give WRISC activity updates on there as well throughout the summer.
3. New Partnership Applications
  - a. Two new partner applications were received this year. One from USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (Michael Stinebrink, District Conservationist Rhinelander, WI) and UPRC&D (Darcy Rutkowski, Executive Director, Marquette, MI)
  - b. Notifications letters to current partners were sent out April 2, 2012 and any formal objections must be received by Monday May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012.
4. BoatUS Grant Update
  - a. Melissa Simpson applied for a grant through the BoatUS Foundation titled "Earthworm Education For Anglers". It passed the first stage and went to the public voting stage. WRISC was in the top eight for projects and was awarded \$3,913. All of this money is strictly for education. No personnel will be funded through this project. Education includes brochures, placemats, signs, and newspaper articles submitted to local papers.
5. 2012 Staff Hiring Update
  - a. Bob and Greg interviewed six applicants for their three LTE positions (one boatwash coordinator, two boatwash operators).
  - b. Melissa said they were looking through applications today for the two LTE positions for the Title II grant based out of Florence. Had 9 applicants total- mostly Steven's Point students.
6. Ongoing project updates
  - a. Public Presentations (Jen Johnson)
    - i. Hunting and Fishing Show- Midtown Mall, spoke with ~100 people
    - ii. Bay West Environmental Science Class, 7 students
    - iii. Florence 5<sup>th</sup> graders- WDNR Poster Contest ~40 students
    - iv. June 5<sup>th</sup> Florence Elementary
    - v. June 2<sup>nd</sup> Kid's Fishing Day at Lost Lake (Melissa Simpson)
    - vi. Melissa Simpson will also set up an herbicide talk with Michael Stinebrink and Bob will possibly do one in Marniette County. Dickinson (Hruska) already put on an herbicide talk on Feb 23.
    - vii. Ann Hruska mentioned the possibility of having a buckthorn/goat project seminar
    - viii. Bob Ruleau mentioned Derrick Strof from BLM to do a Menominee River tour of invasives.
    - ix. CBCW training in Crivitz area on May 14<sup>th</sup> (Bob Ruleau)
    - x. May 18-19<sup>th</sup>, Water Sentinel (Dick Peterson) 4 streams monitoring. Bob Ruleau will attend as well.
    - xi. Melissa Simpson mentioned cabins/rooms can be reserved for various activities at Lost Lake.
  - b. Zebra Mussel Project
    - i. Jen Johnson and Bob Ruleau set up a zebra mussel meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup> in Marinette County.
    - ii. Jen Johnson is speaking at Florence Stewardship Program in June on native and zebra mussels

7. USFS Funds (Melissa Simpson)
  - a. \$5,000 to be split among three CWMA's (WRISC included). \$1500 has already gone to WHIP for the purchase of a Trimble GPS unit and software. This is for Oneida County to do a roadside survey.
  - b. If anyone can think of anything else please let Melissa know by April 17<sup>th</sup>. Money needs to be spent by September or it is gone. Ideas included backpack sprayer (rejected due to liability issues) and a tablet to enter data into the field (Gregg, Marinette Co and Ann Dickinson Co)
  - c. Jen Johnson will email the Steering Committee the tool list.
  - d. Melissa mentioning maybe ordering some herbicides.
8. Discuss Election of Officers
  - a. Anna Jahns will step down as committee chair.
  - b. After discussion it was decided that new officers will be elected the morning of the annual meeting. The organizational sub-committee will write the by-laws. Once those are written up, Jen Johnson will send out a notice of available positions and invite interested candidates to attend the annual meeting at 8:00 am. Newly written by-laws will also be voted on prior to election of officers.
9. Annual Meeting Planning
10. Subcommittee Updates
  - a. Aquatic Invasives (Bob Ruleau)
    - i. Pontoon Removal Systems went through in Marinette County (\$123,000). Bob will be attending the Wisconsin Association of Lakes Convention April 10-12 in Green Bay, WI. Also there is the AIS Coordinator meeting in Steven's Point on May 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. Terrestrial Invasives (Anna Jahns)
    - i. Issues this year include: garlic mustard, wild parsnip, thistle, spraying rosettes
    - ii. Goal in 2012 will be to have one workday per county that is WRISC organized.
      1. Florence-Spread Eagle Barons- overlook or sandy creek (July or Aug)
      2. Forest- Laona School Forest
      3. Marinette- Japanese knotweed
      4. Dickinson- Wild Parsnip, Sagola Sportsman's Club
      5. Menominee- Monitoring Buckthorn (May 18-19, during Water Sentinel)
  - c. Grants (Melissa)
    - i. Application for N. Env. Education Grant was rejected.
    - ii. Submitted a grant to WE Energies for mapping invasive species in Menominee Watershed
    - iii. Pulling Together Initiative for CWMA's due May 18<sup>th</sup>
      1. Ann, Jen, and Melissa will take on grant
  - d. Outreach and Education (Jen)
    - i. Ordered new brochures and placemats
    - ii. Posters and stickers will be ordered
    - iii. T-shirt designs- three this year with educational message- possibility of a hat instead of a t-shirt
    - iv. Magnets were ordered
    - v. Yearly goal: Track goals and accomplishments by providing a summary at the next annual meeting. Specifically, how many people contacted throughout the year, events attended, materials printed and handed out.

1. Additionally, WRISC is attend 10 public events (one in each county and a range of age groups and audiences).
  2. Identify potential partners and work them into our group (Focus on acquiring an active members from Forest and Menominee Counties)
  3. Charlene mentioned she could set up for WRISC to attend a Menominee County board meeting.
- e. Organizational (Charlene)
    - i. Correction for work plan- Forest Conference in 2013, not 2012
  - f. Monitoring (Ann)
    - i. Encourage people to utilize MISIN
11. Annual Work Plan (Anna)
    - a. Pretty much done, if there is anything else you need to add, contact Anna Jahns
  12. Other action items- None
  13. Next Meeting Date: Annual Meeting June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 8:00 am (new by-laws (accept or deny) and election of officers), 8:30 coffee, snacks, and socialize.

12:15 pm Adjourn