

WIRSC Update

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BOD Meeting 2-4-2015
Kingsford, MI

Since the Last Meeting

- Wisconsin CWMA Conference Call (Dec 16)
- Menominee Road Commission Meeting (Jan 13, Charlene Peterson)
- Play Clean Go Partner Conference Call (Jan 20)
- Dickinson Conservation District Annual Meeting/Conservation Fair (Jan 24)
- ANSWERS meeting (Jan 28)

Upcoming Events

- Goodman-Armstrong Creek High School Adopt-a-Spot Talk (Feb 12)
- Musky Club Presentation (Feb 21)
- Marinette Garden Conference (March 28)

Mitigation and Enhancement Fund (MEF) Menominee River Watershed (MRW) Invasives

Note: This grant is set to expire at the end of December.

This project expired at the end of December, and a final report was submitted in January. After talking with the grant coordinator, we discovered that we still had some unused money remaining, and received permission to use the remaining funds for coordinator hours in January (about 94 hours total).

Draft Strategic Plan, a deliverable of this grant, a draft strategic mgmt. plan was completed in December. It will now be put for review by the BOD and Action Teams (as well as any other partners/members that would like to comment) to determine any additions/revisions. The board will also help decide if this plan should replace the old 2010 WRISC Management Plan.

Invasive Mapping: Over the project length, WRISC collected 1,502 invasive locations from partners and online databases for data prior to 2013. Then, over 2013-2014 through WRISC surveys and partners/volunteers we collected another 934 invasive locations. (Note, this includes data points in the MRW but outside of the WRISC area, such as Iron and Marquette counties. It also does not include some 2014 data from the Adopt a Spot and WMA Control programs that has yet to be entered.) In December, the last of the project data was submitted to MISIN and is up on the website for anyone to view. The Coordinator then used the free QGIS software to create several maps that are now posted on the WRISC website on the Invasive Locations page.

WMA Coordinator Grant – Wisconsin

This grant is not due to expire until May 2015, but many of the funds have already been used, as such not a lot is actively being done under this project.

Strategic Plan Status (as above).

Increase membership base, diversity, and involvement:

Action team meetings have continued, as has WRISC's use of the website and facebook page (see below more more details). The Coordinator and Ed/Outreach action team also produced a Winter 2015 newsletter.

WMA Control Grant – Wisconsin

We have received another application for this program from a small property owner in Florence County. He also mentioned the possibility of surveying his neighbor's property as well (they are family and have a larger piece of land).

For the two properties that have already been surveyed through this program, the Coordinator has used QGIS to map the data collected, and has also started working on management plans for the properties.

The Coordinator is hoping to include several of the Adopt a Spot properties in this program as well. Although county-owned land does not qualify for this grant, the UW-Marquette and Crandon High School properties could be used.

Citizen Based Monitoring Grant, Adopt a Spot - Wisconsin

Data was compiled from the two properties that have been surveyed, and entered in QGIS (the data has not yet been submitted to MISIN). The Coordinator has also scheduled a time to present to students at the Goodman-Armstrong Creek high school in February, a classroom training before a spring field day surveying surrounding properties. Adopted properties for the high school classes have yet to be chosen.

GLRI – Rapid Response

A brief end of the year update was submitted to the forest service. This grant continues through 2015 with increased funding from last year. We have created a new work plan for the additional funds, but have yet to determine summer staff needs since we are waiting to hear back about our MI grant application.

The Coordinator has been using QGIS to examine the WRISC data more and will soon be planning properties for treatment this season. She has taken the Wisconsin pesticide applicator exam for the Right-of-way/Natural Areas (January) and is scheduled to take the Aquatic exam later this month. The Coordinator has also begun working with action teams to update the Priority Species list.

GLRI – Boat Wash

A quarterly reimbursement request was submitted for the end of December, along with a final 2014 summary of boatwash and education/outreach activities. This grant will be continuing in 2015, along with increased funding. We are exploring using the increase of funding to split up the boatwashes and have one stationed in southern Marinette county to cover the southern part of the WRISC area, with the other remaining in the northern part.

Misc.

Newsletters: In January the Coordinator and Education/Outreach action team completed the WRISC 2015 Winter newsletter. The newsletter featured a species profile on spiny waterflea, a partner highlight on the Menominee Climate Adaptation Plan, and a summary of WRISC 2014 activities. It was distributed through the WRISC mailing list, the IPAW mailing list, posted on the website, and shared on facebook. Limited print copies were also produced. The Spring newsletter should be produced around April. We would like to again feature a WRISC partner project, so please inform the coordinator if you have any ideas for feature articles.

Wisconsin CWMA Conference Call: In December the Coordinator participated in a Wisconsin-wide CWMA conference call scheduled by the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin (IPAW). On the call were coordinators and CWMA members from across the state, including some folks interested in forming CWMA's in their area. IPAW would like to help connect the regional groups, and will be trying to hold 3-4 conference calls a year, perhaps meeting once a year in person. The next meeting will be in early spring (March). Full meeting minutes are available through the coordinator. Items discussed included: CWMA vs. CISMA, How IPAW can support regional groups; Status of NR40 revisions and the role of invasive coordinators; Funding options; And updates from groups across the state.

QGIS: The WRISC Coordinator finally began to really use our new QGIS software. QGIS is a free software that can be downloaded from <http://www.qgis.org>. So far, it has proved to be very efficient and easy to learn using online tutorials and videos. It also expands our ability to produce maps using our data, to check our data for errors, and to accept data from partners in the form of shapefiles.

Upcoming: 2015-2016 WE Energies Mitigation and Enhancement Fund Grant: WRISC has been approved for this new WE Energies grant, but we are still waiting to hear on final FERC approval to begin it. We expect to begin sometime in February, or March at the latest.

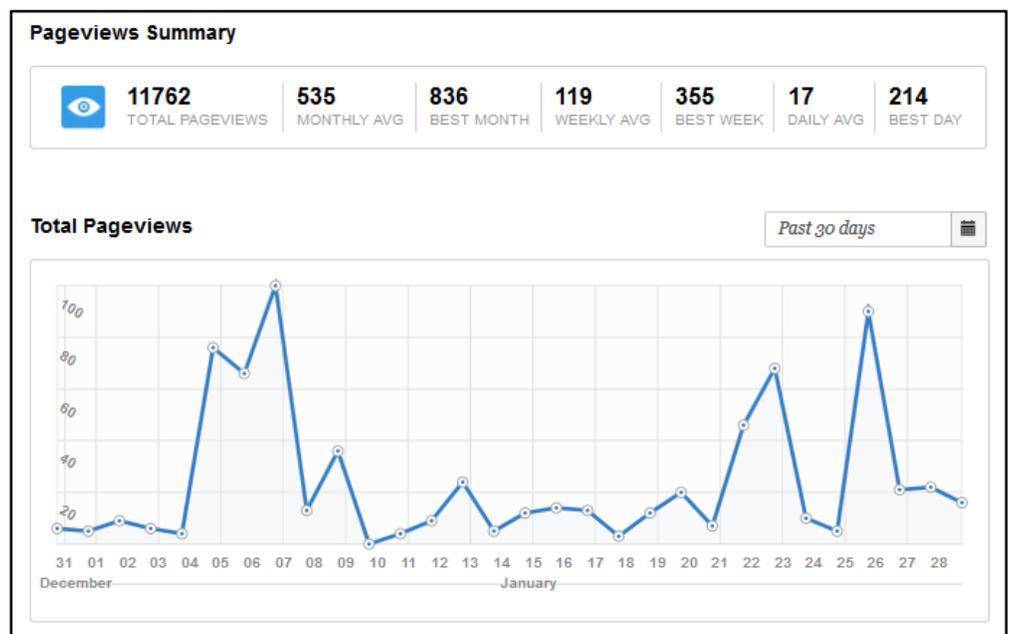
Michigan Invasive Species Grant Application: We are supposed to hear back this month if our proposal was approved.

Newest GLRI project proposals: There is a call for proposals for the most recent round of GLRI funding from fiscal year 2015 funds. WRISC has started working with USFS contact Steve Janke regarding this. If we receive money from GLRI FY2015, we would start spending it in 2016. We have submitted a project description and dollar amount requesting \$35,000 to purchase another portable boat wash with a containment pad and pump to meet Michigan standards, and to continue CBCW outreach. We are waiting to hear if/when they will request proposals related to general CWMA work for GLRI FY2015 funds as well.

Website/Facebook: In January, the WRISC Coordinator finished an update to the WRISC website. After updating our website builder/manager, not only did the layout and content need to be adjusted, but we had several more design options available. The content of the website is pretty much the same (with a few additions), but the design and layout are much improved. The Education/Outreach action team has explored the site for bugs, but if you find any remaining problems just contact the Coordinator.

Over the last month the WRISC website has had **101 total visitors**, 40 of which were new visitors. The image to the upper right shows the pages most frequently visited and the lower image shows a general and 30 day summary of pageviews

Content		Pages	Entrance	Exit	Downloads	Events	Media
/	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coali...	160					+967%
/Documents	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coali...	49					0%
/citizens-and-volunteers	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coali...	34					0%
/invasivelocations.htm	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coali...	25					0%
/about-wrisc	About WRISC	18					+800%
/action-teams	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coali...	17					0%
/wrisc-partners	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coali...	16					0%
/job-postings-2	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coali...	16					0%
/board-of-directors	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coali...	15					0%
/projects	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coali...	12					0%



Facebook has continued to receive regular updates of invasive articles, links, pictures etc. During a recent seagrant webinar in Wisconsin exploring the use of social media, the WRISC facebook page was mentioned as an example of well managed page. The WRISC facebook page has gone from 126 likes (at the last BOD meeting) to **132 likes**. This is a nice increase from the beginning of 2014 when the page had 66 likes.

The graph below shows the total reach for our facebook page for the months of December and January, where our average reach was 30.

