

WRISC Update

Submitted by Interim Coordinator, Lindsay Peterson
BOD Meeting 12-7-2016
Florence, WI

Since the Last Meeting

- Kingsford High School Invasives Workday – Cowboy Lake (Oct 12)
- Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference – La Crosse (Oct 17-19)
- UP CISMA Summit – Marquette (Nov 10)
- Iron Mountain Environmental Club Workday – IM School Forest (Nov 12)
- MISC Annual Meeting – Gaylord (Dec 5-6)

Upcoming Events

WE Energies Mitigation and Enhancement Fund (MEF) Strike Team (2015-2016)

Extension request for March 31st, 2017 for this grant was approved August 16th. With this extension, this grant will continue to fund the Coordinator position part time and allow for a more effective transition to a new coordinator in the spring.

All treatment reports have been sent out. Updated records have yet to be entered into MISIN. Conducted a few late-season treatments, mostly associated with workdays. Much of the work left under this grant will be data management and updating WRISC's internal database and populating MISIN with updated information and new locations.

This grant continues to fund a majority of Coordinator's hours (approx. 20hrs/week)

GLRI – Rapid Response/Coordinator (2015-2016)

This grant was closed out in October.

GLRI – Boat Wash

Boatwash activity has wrapped up for the season. Portable units have been transported to Florence for winterization and storage by the WDNR.

FY14

Closed/spent out at end of September

FY15

The FY15 Boatwash grant will continue to partially fund AIS boater inspection/washers in 2017.

Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program (MISGP) (2015-2016)

This grant has been extended through December to allow for better compilation of data, quality mapping, and development of lake management plans, all ongoing at this time.

Aquatic: 2016 data has been sent to the Contractors of the lake management plans and Coordinator has been communicating with them on progress, deadlines, and invoicing.

Treatment sheets from summer work associated with this grant have been sent out.

This grant will be spent out in December and much of the work from here on out will be wrapping up this grant and its various aspects.

Funding some Coordinator hours, but being light on hours now to conserve them for final reporting which will be time consuming.

UP RC&D Pulling Together Grant

The UP CISMA Summit in November was a success and a great opportunity to discuss unique projects or CISMA structures with all UP CISMAs.

We are currently looking into the funds of this project to potentially fund some of the printing cost associated with the Wild Parsnip brochure currently in the works. Would need to finalize brochure soon in order to capitalize on available funds. Education/Outreach Action Team will be assisting with revisions and finalizing the draft in the next couple of weeks.

WI DNR AIS Early Detection/Rapid Response Knotweed Grant (Lumberjack RC&D) (2016-2017)

No new work has been conducted related to this grant. Will be looking to plan out 2017 treatments of known locations.

WI DNR WMA Grant (2016-June 2018)

August 17th we received the award letter for our requested level of funding of \$14,200!

Carolyn Weber-Starling (Florence Co.) assisted with getting this grant started by talking to landowners, spreading the word, developing flyers and press releases, etc. A minimum of 9 private forest landowner partners are being sought for creation of a property map for invasive species, management recommendations, and limited rapid response control for top priority species. Since this grant has a strange cycle, ending July 2017, we need to work on accruing partners now to be prepared to jump on the mapping next field season.

At this point, 2 landowners have come forward to be a part of the project. A press release will go out in the next few weeks as well to garner more interest.

WE Energies MEF Strike Team II (2017-2018)

WRISC received the full proposal award letter to this grant on September 20th. We received funding of \$76,532 over a two year period (\$38,266 each for 2017 and 2018), the full amount requested, to continue funding several of the activities already supported by our current MEF grant, including education/outreach, mapping, and control. This grant also includes specific items to engage industry professionals that are impacted by invasives (road crews, foresters, utility workers, etc.), and continue to study European Marsh Thistle. Through this grant WRISC should be able to fund a coordinator at 20hrs per week for 2017-2018, and a 2 person crew for 2 days per week each summer.

MISGP FY2016: WRISC Strategic Management Plan Project – Full Proposal Submitted (2017-2019)

Full proposal for this grant was submitted September 15th, requesting funding of \$162,000 (plus \$80,000 match) for a 3-year period. We're hoping the different grant cycle will help prevent a funding gap seeing as most WRISC grants are 2 year grants on matching cycles which can leave several winter/spring months quite low on funding. This grant, if awarded, would help carry a coordinator through the winter, at least part time, in this event.

This grant would essentially allow WRISC to better implement the Strategic Management Plan. It would fund a coordinator position ½ time for three years, assist in the next revision of our plan, and highlights monitoring in riverine settings as well as expanded cooperation with industrial and civic partners.

A big thanks to all the partners who submitted Letters of Support and/or offered Match towards this grant! We feel it really strengthened our proposal and we're confident about our odds of receiving funding.

Misc.

Staffing: Interim Coordinator position is working well, balancing out fine with other projects. Still waiting on news regarding MISG Grant Proposal which, if awarded, would allow for full time coordinator funding. As of right now, only 20hrs/wk have been secured for 2017 through MEF Strike Team II. This has limited planning for the 2017 staff. Job postings for summer staff will be a task in the near future early next year.

Newsletters: Work has just started on WRISC’s Winter Newsletter, which will cover Autumn Olive and the Annual WRISC Report.

Website/Facebook: The WRISC website has continued to receive regular updates for events and meetings, and some summer 2016 photos have also been uploaded to google photos. The WRISC website had **63 visitors in the last 30 days**. Image to the right shows pages most frequently visited.

Facebook has continued to receive regular updates of invasive articles, links, pictures, etc. The WRISC Facebook page has gone from 206 likes (at the last BOD meeting) to **209 likes** at the end of November (we’ve passed the 200 mark!). The graph below shows the total reach for our Facebook page for the months of October and November, where our **average reach was 17**. Reach dropped a bit in the last month or so because the Coordinator has been working tirelessly on reports, new grants, and various projects and simply doesn’t have time for Facebook updates at the moment. December will allow for more time for outreach on social media and the Coordinator will see that reach increases substantially for the next meeting. The Facebook page sees great reach whenever something is posted, it’s just that there hasn’t been much opportunity to post regularly enough for the average to be higher.

Content		Pages	Entrance	Exit	Downloads	Events	Media
/	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition	63					+425%
/contact-us	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	9					+800%
/species-profiles	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	9					+800%
/board-of-directors	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	8					0%
/job-postings-2	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	6					+500%
/invasivelocations.htm	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	6					0%
/about-wrisc	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	5					+150%
/wrisc-partners	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	4					+300%
/invasive-control	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	3					0%
/action-teams	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	3					0%

Total Reach

The number of people who were served any activity from your Page including your posts, posts to your Page by other people, Page like ads, mentions and checkins.



Correspondence of note:

- Minutes from A.N.S.W.E.R.S. meeting
- MOU Signatory Page from Felch Township Parks & Recreation Committee