

**Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC)
Aquatic Invasive Species Action Team**

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2016 Purpose:

The intent of the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Action Team is to develop and offer resources that will help slow the spread of aquatic invasive species and lessen their environmental and economical impacts. Support will be offered to organizations, agencies, businesses, landowners and managers, volunteers, and staff, which will promote prevention, identification, monitoring, and management of AIS populations in accordance with the goals and objectives of the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition.

2016 Regular Meetings:

Meets on odd numbered months via conference call. Meeting times are scheduled by the WRISC Coordinator using doodle poll results. To join call dial **401-483-4156** and enter code **34985**.

2016 Goals – DRAFT

1. Promote a coordinated public media campaign to prevent and slow the spread of AIS by using existing campaigns, including the Michigan and Wisconsin Clean Boats Clean Water programs.
2. Facilitate species identification, monitoring, and management of AIS populations in the WRISC area.
3. Update WRISC partners with any new or spreading AIS populations and management resources.
4. Assist WRISC partners to successfully request, secure and complete approved aquatic invasive species projects and grants. Provide in-kind match to Partners as able for grant projects.
5. Conduct regular AIS trainings, events, and workshops as needed and according to grant deliverables, including
 - a. A spring Clean Boats Clean Waters and boatwash training for staff, volunteers, and citizens.
 - b. Two to three AIS field demonstrations in Michigan.

January 13th 2016 Meeting Agenda (9:00-10:03am)

In attendance: Emily Anderson, Lindsay Peterson, Margie Yadro, John Preuss, Jennifer Johnson, Ann Hruska, Greg Matzke

(The agenda was adjusted to review the Boatwash items last when Ann would be able to participate.)

1. MISGP AIS Field Demonstrations (Lindsay): Discuss/brainstorm options

As a requirement for WRISC's Michigan grant, we must hold 2-3 AIS field demonstrations in 2016, while not specified, the intent is to demonstrate AIS identification and control measures. Suggestions included ID and handing pulling of milfoil; working directly with lake associations, particularly larger/more active groups, to see what control measures they would even be willing to undertake and potentially doing a demonstration in conjuncture with their annual meeting; working with contractors who may be able to work a demo into a planned lake treatment; highlighting hand pulling as a low-cost upkeep option after herbicide treatments.

2. Review team 2015 goals and set 2016 goals

Suggestions for adjusting the goals included: rewording goal 4 to include working with Partners on grant projects, particularly by providing valuable in-kind match; adjusting goal 5, in 2015 we attended events in all 5 counties but it's a bit unclear how much of that was AIS, instead we should list current deliverables like the MISGP field demos; also, include AIS items in a planned Partner poll to assess how we are doing.

3. WRISC Boatwash Units

a. 2016 Boatwash operation outlook (Emily/Ann)

WRISC has a lot of money remaining in a GLRI Boatwash FY14 grant as well as tentative approval for a new GLRI Boatwash FY15 grant of \$35,000. Ann and Emily plan on clarifying things with Steve Janke this week, but pending his approval in 2016 we will have funding for a 2 person crew in Marinette county working 3 days a week, the same for WRISC out of Kingsford, the purchase of 2 containment pads, and the purchase of a new boatwash (the third WRISC would own). It would also provide funding for a WRISC 2 person crew in 2017.

b. Volunteer use of boatwashes – Discussion. Develop policy and/or liability waiver? Other requirements? (insurance, training, Partners only, etc.)

With a third boatwash WRISC is exploring how to make full use of all units. John talked to the Lake Metonga association, an active group that appears very willing to operate a boatwash at their landing for however long WRISC would give them use. The team discussed important considerations in boatwash use at Metonga, including whether they hold liability insurance, and the need to find adequate storage/parking space when the boatwash is not in use to avoid vandalism. John will talk to the association and get more information. Margie also suggested Twin Falls as a boatwash location since the county will have a trained CBCW inspector there this summer. The team agreed that Metonga and Twin Falls are both good choices, and also discussed potentially approaching WE Energies about a permanent boatwash at Twin Falls.

c. Operation guide – review/edit

The team liked the guide and made a few edits. There was some discussion on what water temperature to use, as well as associated PPE needed if higher temps are used. Greg will pass the guide along to his technician and send any additional comments.

d. Safety Hazard Analysis (from Ottawa NF)

Ann pointed out that this would be a useful document for boatwash training. The idea is that future staff/volunteers will be required to read this as well as part or all of the boatwash owner's manual, and then sign a form stating they have read them.

e. WDNR Boatwash Agreement Continuation

The team agreed that the agreement is an excellent arrangement. There were no changes suggested, and the agreement will go to the DCD board meeting next week and the WRISC board meeting in February. Any comments should be emailed to Emily or Ann. The team also discussed ways to create similar partnerships with other WRISC Partners and/or in other areas. The MI DNR and the WI DNR in Peshtigo were brought up. Greg will reach out to those in Peshtigo to see if they are interested in the use of a boatwash, and the agreement was that WRISC should work to make Partners generally aware of this option and then work out additional agreements on a case-by-case basis.

4. Other

5. BOD Agenda item(s)

WDNR Boatwash Agreement