

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



April 5th, 2017 10:00am Marinette County Courthouse
1926 Hall Ave., Marinette, WI

Members Present in person: Bill Rice (WRISC Chair), Greg Cleereman (Marinette LWCD), Scott Goodwin (Florence County LCD), Justin Bournoville (USFS), Dick Peterson (Lake Twp), Aaron McCullough (WI DNR)

Members Present on phone: Tracy Beckman (Lumberjack R C&D)

Members Absent: Jennifer Johnson (MDNR)

Staff: Lindsay Peterson

Guests: Charlene Peterson (Shakey Lakes Assoc.), Amanda Nelson (DCD), Jerry Piche (Carney-Nadeau School Forest Committee) - on phone

Meeting called to order at 10:01am by Bill Rice.

- 1. Introductions** – A sign-in sheet was passed around, those on the phone were acknowledged.
- 2. Approval of Agenda** – No items were added to the Agenda. S.Goodwin/G.Cleereman moved to approve agenda. Motion carried.
- 3. Approval of Minutes** of 2/1/2017 – D.Peterson noted the spelling of North Menominee County's sportsmen's club as NORMENCO. No other changes were noted. D.Peterson/S.Goodwin moved to accept the February minutes as amended. Motion Carried.
- 4. Grants & Treasurer's Report** – Spreadsheet of current grant status was distributed and the report of funds as of 3/31/2017 was given by A.Nelson. The undesignated funds totaled \$390.47. Several grants have now closed out, such as MISGP: Michigan Expansion and MEF Strike Team. Conversely, several grants have recently been confirmed and finalizing funding/contract processes are underway. There has not been any word on the GLRI EPA funding proposal. G.Cleereman/D.Peterson moved to accept the financial reports. Motion Carried.
- 5. Coordinator Report** – L.Peterson passed around the coordinator's report and discussed the various new grants in more detail as far as current status, reporting, challenges, etc. Several grants have been closed out since the last meeting and several more are just beginning. It will be a busy summer and there is quite a lot of control work and education/outreach to conduct. WRISC's social media presence has been increasing with job postings and as the field season starts more topics become relevant to the time of year. Events since the last meeting included the NMU Job Fair, the WI AIS/CISMA meeting in Green Bay, and hosting the Lake Stakeholder meeting which presented the MISGP lake management plans. L.Peterson is working to contact Forest Co. landowners again with the knotweed AIS EDRR grant. Treatments under this grant are not likely but hopefully framework can be established. The MDNR WMA grant is underway, permissions are still coming in for the 7 landowners currently signed up (need 9 minimum). G.Cleereman will publish some information about this project in Marinette County's newsletter. The MEF Strike Team grant will allow for general control efforts throughout the WRISC area. G.Cleereman asked about knotweed treatment in Marinette Co. L.Peterson suggested he make note of priority locations and site specific treatment options will be assessed in early season, as with current knotweed treatment sites. The MISGP grant will allow the re-write of the strategic management plan and includes a large riverine survey component. G.Cleereman requested that L.Peterson share WRISC's stream monitoring data sheets/protocols so this can be incorporated into Marinette County's 2017 surveys and can serve as a source of match for the MISGP funding. The newly confirmed GLRI CWMA grant focuses on surveying ATV/off-road trails and the control of woody species. A.McCullough questioned the focus of woody invasives, but although this was the funding focus L.Peterson explained that flexibility was written

into the grant to allow for treatment in other areas if necessary. Education components of this grant will still focus on all priority species (wild parsnip, phragmites, etc) not just woody species. J.Bournoville suggested that Nicole Shutt would be a good resource to ask about outreach to ATV groups.

6. Action Teams – All but the Education and Outreach team (meeting cancelled, emergency) met in March via conference call while the Organization Development team met in person. Each team was updated on the upcoming grant projects and which projects each team may be responsible for or at least involved with in some way. L.Peterson noted that team meetings were very productive. L.Peterson asked the Board if there were any concerns with the Action Teams to convert to a “field season friendly” format of discussing projects and topics as necessary via email and calling teleconference meetings only if necessary. This seemed to work very well last year and is preferred by the Coordinator as well due to the heavy load during field season. The Board (and Action Team members who were present) all agreed this was acceptable and schedules can be determined by the Coordinator and individual Action Teams.

7. Old Business –

a. PERSONNEL POLICY LANGUAGE: Bylaw Revisions – Action or Table

- The bylaw revisions were subject to a 30-day review period allowing for Board Members to comment on the edits. The general consensus was that the language was placed in an awkward place within the document. The language was moved and presented again at this meeting. C.Peterson made suggestions of two small edits, changing “should” to “shall.” G.Cleereman made a motion to approve the bylaws with these amendments, but withdrew this motion as discussion continued. T.Beckman suggested that the “Dickinson Conservation District” be removed from the bylaws entirely and should change all such references to “fiscal agent” seeing as there is the possibility for this role to change and DCD is not perpetually the fiscal agent. After some discussion and clarification, the Board agreed to table the bylaws until the June meeting. Edits will be made and another 30-day review period will be conducted.

b. PERSONNEL: Summer Staffing – interviews

- The application period for the WRISC summer staff has closed as of March 18th. Approximately 15 candidates applied for the openings. With the confirmation of a few new grants, WRISC has funding available for four seasonal technicians this year. Several interview have been set up for Friday, April 7th, 2017. All WRISC Board members are welcomed and encouraged to attend. A.Nelson will send out the confirmed times.

c. ANNUAL MEETING PLANNING: speakers, elections, training

- Planning for the annual meeting is well underway. Dr. West has been confirmed as a speaker. A few other people have been contacted as well and their participation is pending. L.Peterson is contacting Lee Shambeau from 4Control as well to invite him to present or assist with the afternoon training. Ideas for the afternoon training so far are the GPS training as usual, although Hank is not available this year to lead this training. Ann Hruska is willing to assist with the training. The idea to do native plant i.d. for common “look-a-like” species has been presented as well. If Lee confirms, herbicide training could be a component of the training as well.
- A survey will be sent out to WRISC partners for WRISC’er of the Year nominations. L.Peterson thinks this method will help get more suggestions and streamline the award process.
- L.Peterson reminded the Board of elections and that several member positions are up for re-election since staggered terms were instated last year. The 4 members that accepted 1-year terms in 2016 have reached their terms and T.Beckman has stepped back from her officer position as well. L.Peterson will include election information for Partners along with the survey.

d. **NEW PARTNER INVITATIONS/APPLICATIONS**

- L.Peterson informed the Board that she had distributed approximately 15 formal invitations to prospective partners and has a few more yet to send out. She again encouraged Board members to invite groups that they have connection with as well. An open invitation for new partners has been published in area newspapers and has been posted online as well.

e. **OTHER:** Nothing else was discussed under Old Business.

8. New Business –

- a. There was no “New Business” listed on the agenda for this meeting.
- b. **OTHER:** No other topics were discussed under New Business.

9. Round Robin

Florence Co LCD, S.Goodwin – The Florence CBCW program will cover 7 landings this year. There have only been 3 applications submitted for the 6-7 CBCW positions available at Florence Co. Another 2 year AIS grant will be starting soon and will monitor/test several local lakes. The drone program for Florence County is moving along and S.Goodwin has been researching the use of drone technology for detecting and mapping invasive species, although there is limited research. S.Goodwin also recently submitted two grant proposals for wetland and trail restoration in Florence.

Marinette County LWCD, G.Cleerman – The Beecher Lake channel project has completed and there will be a drawdown this coming year and follow-up will be conducted with the harvester. A fish viewing platform is being installed. Marinette Co. will likely be conducting transect surveys this summer, both roadside and road/stream crossing surveys. The county recreation plan will also undergo the re-writing process.

Lake Township/Shakey Lakes Association, D. Peterson – The Menominee Co. Park and Recreation plan is still in the works but progress is being made on that document. There is a new project between Menominee and Delta Counties to potentially increase off-road trail connectedness between the two counties. The Shakey Lakes drawdown is nearing the end of its cycle and re-planking of the dam will take place in the next week or two.

Wisconsin DNR, A.McCullough – Not much work has been conducted in the Winter months. Some mowing of Phragmites has been done to cut paths in larger paths to prepare for fall treatments. A.McCullough also made note that the Spring Hearings are approaching and both monk parrots and Eurasian collared doves are topics to be addressed.

USFS, J.Bournoville – Updated the status of the wild parsnip project to conduct mowing activities along Hwy 70 and potentially on 250 infested acres of forest service land. The hiring process is moving slowly and only 1 technician has been hired so far.

No other reports were given.

Other Business: The next meeting is the Annual Meeting, June 7th, 2017 at the Florence Natural Resource Center. L.Peterson reminded everyone that this meeting does not follow the typical schedule and that the Annual Meeting event begins at 8:30am and the meeting typically starts at 12-12:30pm.

10. Future Agenda Items: None were discussed at this time, although elections will be conducted at the Annual Meeting, and approval of the WRISC Bylaws will be revisited.

11. Adjourn. Motion by D.Peterson/A.McCullough to adjourn at 11:41am. Motion Carried.

Meeting Minutes recorded by A.Nelson; Compiled by L.Peterson.