

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



August 2nd, 2017 10:00am Forest County Courthouse
200 E Madison St, Crandon, WI

Members Present in person: Bill Rice (WRISC Chair), Greg Cleereman (Marinette LWCD), Scott Goodwin (Florence County LCD), Justin Bournoville (USFS), Aaron McCullough (WI DNR), Pam Schroeder (FCAL), Amanda Nelson (DCD)

Members Present on phone: Tracy Beckman (Lumberjack R C&D), Dick Peterson (Lake Twp)

Members Absent: Jennifer Johnson (MDNR)

Staff: Lindsay Peterson (Coordinator), Amber Butterfield (field tech)

Guests: Bill Lester (Forest Co LWCD), Charlene Peterson (Shakey Lakes Assoc.) (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 Annual Meeting from 6/7/2017 – No changes were noted. S.Goodwin/P.Schroeder moved to accept the June minutes. Motion Carried.
4. **Grants & Treasurer's Report** – Spreadsheet of current grant funding status was distributed and the report of funds as of 8/1/2017 was given by A.Nelson. The undesignated funds totaled \$382.74. Several grants are currently pending but it's expected to hear some news soon. There has been confirmation of the GLRI EPA funding proposal. While awaiting the final contract, several questions have been answered and the start date has been shifted. No announcements will be made until the contract is finalized. While there is currently about \$170,000 of funding available for this year, if all pending grants are received (including GLRI EPA) WRISC will have nearly \$450,000 in grant funding – an all-time high! P.Schroeder/J.Bournoville moved to accept the financial reports. Motion Carried.
5. **Action Teams** – Action teams did not meet during the month of July. There will be lots of work to do this fall and winter however. Teams are expected to discuss items at least by email in the month of September. The Organizational Development team will meet to discuss Strategic Management Plan edits/draft.
6. **Coordinator Report** –
 - L.Peterson passed around the coordinator's report and began the discussion with recent and upcoming events. Drain campaign events were successful, as was the Fourth of July parade featuring Milfoil Man. County fairs are on the horizon for the end of August and early September. WRISC has also been invited to FCAL's Fall Forum and Annual Meeting and has been asked to submit an abstract for a presentation at the State of Lake Michigan Conference in November.
 - L.Peterson proceeded to discuss each grant individually and the progress being made on each one. WMA landowner surveys are progressing and should be wrapped up in the next couple of weeks, then reports will be compiled this winter. No contacts have been made for the Crandon Knotweed (WDNR ED/RR) grant. T.Beckman will be in touch with Rosie Page for more information and a better timeline of the work she's doing on the project. MISGP has been paying wages for Coordinator and summer staff. River monitoring for AIS has begun and several road/stream crossings have been surveyed. MEF Strike Team II has been paying wages for field crew and Coordinator. This grant covers most of the treatment and control occurring in the WRISC area. A.Nelson

and L.Peterson will be meeting next week with the grantors to discuss the removal of the European Marsh Thistle study included in the original proposal. The GLRI NNIS grant has been slowly incorporating itself into WRISC's work, particularly with surveying or treatments in recreation/natural areas. The trail surveys will take place in late summer early fall. WRISC has been contacted regarding the GLRI EPA grant for the proposed \$204,000 grant and after a few tweaks (such as shifting start date) the grant is all but confirmed! Currently awaiting the final contract before any official announcements can be made. Current proposed start date is August 15th, 2017. Boatwash grants continued to fund staff CBCW activities this year and with success. G.Cleereman updated that the Marinette Crew was short-handed this year and operated at a reduced capacity; unsure if a crew will be in place next year. Several USFS GLRI funds are still pending, including another round of boatwash funding and an education/outreach campaign grant. It is unclear when we may hear on these funds. The Phragmites Cost Share program grant is moving along nicely. All phragmites treatments for the cost share will be conducted by WRISC and not contracted out. WRISC has also been involved with the Pathways Educational Guide development with WHIP and TIP, this grant is being extended as well. There was also discussion of the possibility of counties budgeting money for paying WRISC to handle invasive control issues within each county or to hire a "travelling crew" to work on only these projects. Could be a source of Match. However, there are a lot of technicalities to consider with this proposal and many counties do not feel the same way about the invasive species threat. More discussion will be had on this topic and members are encouraged to "feel out" their local county organizations.

- L.Peterson updated that summer staff are just about done for the year as most of them head back to school. A.Butterfield will be staying on through the entirety of the season (til October 29) but A.Nelson and L.Peterson proposed hiring her on longer to fill the part-time Project Manager position throughout the winter months and assist L.Peterson with special projects and daily operations. G.Cleereman requested that a Job Description be presented to the Board at the next meeting, as well as to the Dickinson CD Board, to better clarify the position and work to be done. L.Peterson will compile this for the October meeting and will present it to the DCD Board at the August meeting.
- During the Boatwash portion of the discussion, it was brought to the Board's attention that Cary Anderson, formerly of FCLARA, would like to donate their Boatwash Unit to WRISC. L.Peterson asked the Board's opinion, and all were in agreement to accept the donation and were extremely thankful to Cary Anderson for this generous gift. A.McCullough/J.Bournoville moved to formally accept the donation to WRISC of the FCLARA Boatwash Unit.

7. Old Business –

- a. *Strategic Management Plan*: L.Peterson started the discussion of the Strategic Management Plan by reminding the Board that WRISC is transitioning to a 5 year plan from a 3 year plan and that the goals and objectives should be looked at critically to assess their relevance currently and thinking into the future. Great discussion was held regarding the introductory sections of the plan and all of Goal 1. Edits of the plan will be compiled by L.Peterson and distributed to the group for further review. The Organizational Development Action Team will also critically review the proposed edits and look at the next sections. Goals 2 and 3 will be addressed at the October meeting and L.Peterson encouraged Board members to be prepared for that review.
- b. *Partner Signatory Pages*: Four official signatory pages have been received. The only one left is from NORMENCO sportsman's club, who will be contacted again shortly.
- c. *OTHER*: Nothing else was discussed under Old Business.

8. New Business –

- a. *County Fairs – Volunteers for Booths*:
 - L.Peterson confirmed that WRISC will be present at all upcoming county fairs at the end of August and early September. She presented a sign-up sheet with several time slots for each day of each different fair, including set-up dates and take down times. Volunteer help is crucial for successful outreach at these events, especially those that overlap.
- b. *OTHER*: No other topics were discussed under New Business.

9. Round Robin

USFS, J.Bournoville – Seasonal staff was finally hired but are leaving early in the season. Updated on the wild parsnip mowing activities along Hwy 70 and treatment on about 250 infested acres of forest service land.

Marinette County LWCD, G.Cleereman – Have been doing DASH treatments, but overall not as much work as in the past. Will be doing buckthorn removal at the Harmony Arboretum after identifying a large infestation. The county recreation plan will also undergo the re-writing process and Greg will try to get invasives included more.

Florence Co LCD, S.Goodwin – Did roadside mapping of Wild Parsnip throughout Florence County and provided map of that infestation. Attended the ANSWERS meeting and spoke with representative Beau LaFave about Parsnip and he wanted someone from WRISC to testify in Lansing on the issues regarding invasives in this region. L.Peterson and A.Nelson have a meeting scheduled to speak with Mr. LaFave first and see if this is the best next step, but intend to mostly just educate him on the issues. Scott has also conducted surveys of Phragmites on Cosgrove with WRISC's help, will be doing AIS Surveys, etc. The Pine River Dam is up for recertification and Florence Co will have a seat at the table for this discussion as to the future of the dam.

Lake Township/Shakey Lakes Association, D. Peterson – The Menominee Co. Fair was held at the Shakey Lakes park, and a brown trout tournament was held on the Bay which had great turn out. A contractor from Iron River was selected to replace the culverts around Shakey Lakes, and the water is going down for the dam project.

Forest County Association of Lakes (FCAL), P.Schroeder – FCAL continues to serve as a resource and connection for Forest Co residents on AIS and related issues. FCAL hosted a booth at Kentuck Days with which WRISC crews helped staff and provided information/resources. The Fall Forum and Annual Meeting are both approaching and WRISC has been invited to present at both events. There is also an Environmental Days event held on Lake Metonga. WRISC and FCAL will pair up their booths at the Forest Co. Fair.

Wisconsin DNR, A.McCullough – Focusing on knapweed control in the barrens, this has been ongoing for 15+ years with combo of spraying, handpulling, and biocontrol. Seeing success and positive results. Working with Green Bay University on phragmites test plots and planning for work on the bay shore. Dealing with sand accumulation at the mouth of the Peshtigo River boat landing after heavy storms washed out a nearby sand point. White nose is still a threat, but volunteer bat count efforts are still reporting bats in the area.

No other reports were given.

10. Other Business: The next meeting will be October 4th, 2017 at the Menominee County Annex Building in Stephenson.

11. Future Agenda Items: None were discussed at this time, although Board Members were encouraged to continue to review the Strategic Management Plan for next meeting's discussion.

12. Adjourn. Motion by J.Bournoville/S.Goodwin to adjourn at 12:42pm. Motion Carried.

Meeting Minutes recorded by A.Nelson, P.Schroeder; Compiled by L.Peterson.

Approved 10/4/2017. P.Schroeder moved, S.Goodwin supported.