

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



October 4th, 2017 10:00am Menominee County Annex Building
S904 Highway 41, Stephenson, MI

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), Dick Peterson (Lake Twp), Jennifer Johnson (MDNR)

Members Present on phone:

Members Absent: Tracy Beckman (Lumberjack RC&D)

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

Guests: Charlene Peterson (Shakey Lakes Assoc.), Darcy Rutkowski (UP RC&D, on phone), Donna Buechler (Menominee CD), Craig Aho (NRCS)

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

1. **Introductions** – A sign-in sheet was passed around, introductions were made, and those on the phone were acknowledged.
2. **Approval of Agenda** – No items were added to the Agenda. G.Cleereman/D.Peterson moved to approve agenda. Motion carried.
3. **Approval of Minutes** from meeting on August 2, 2017– No changes were noted. P.Schroeder/S.Goodwin moved to accept the August minutes. Motion Carried.
4. **Grants & Treasurer’s Report** – Spreadsheet of current grant funding status was distributed and the report of funds as of 9/29/2017 was given by A.Nelson. The undesignated funds totaled approximately \$500. Several grants had recently been approved/received. Contracts for these funds are still pending. While there is currently about \$170,000 of funding available for this year, with all current grants, pending proposals, and recent awards, WRISC will have nearly \$450,000 in grant funding – an all-time high! A.McCullough/J.Bournoville moved to accept the financial reports. Motion Carried.
5. **Action Teams** – Most action teams did not meet during the month of September. 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 did meet to discuss Strategic Management Plan edits/draft, which will be discussed later in the meeting.
6. **Coordinator Report** –
 - L.Peterson passed around the coordinator’s report and began the discussion with recent and upcoming events. Several workdays have been completed or scheduled with local school groups. WRISC also hosted booths at the county fairs. WRISC will also be presenting at FCAL’s Annual Meeting and will be presenting on WRISC’s boatwash program 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 have been wrapped up in the next couple of weeks, then reports will be compiled this winter. Knotweed treatments were conducted for the Crandon Knotweed (WDNR ED/RR) grant. One or two new permissions were received and these sites were treated. MISGP has been paying wages for Coordinator and summer staff. River monitoring for AIS was conducted with no new AIS finds. However Zebra Mussels were

discovered on the Hamilton Lakes Chain in Dickinson County recently. 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 met with the grantors to discuss the removal of the European Marsh Thistle study included in the original proposal. They were fine with this and allowed WRISC to use money that would have been spent on this project to conduct treatments on thistles in priority areas, as well as control the phragmites on the Menominee River. 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 next week and a few treatments have been conducted this summer associated with this funding. WRISC has finally received the contract for the GLRI EPA grant for the proposed \$204,000. No money can be spent however until the QAPP is completed. G.Cleereman will pass along their DASH protocol to help S.Goodwin develop this part of the QAPP. Boatwash grants continued to fund staff CBCW activities this year and with success and the next round of funding from GLRI USFS was confirmed. Marinette will not have a crew next year so WRISC will cover more of Marinette County. The education/outreach campaign grant from GLRI USFS was confirmed as well. This and the new round of boatwash funding are still awaiting contracts. The full proposal for the Phragmites Cost Share program grant was submitted. All phragmites treatments for the cost share were conducted by WRISC. WRISC has also been involved with the Pathways Educational Guide development with WHIP and TIP, this grant is being extended as well and not much has occurred over the summer months. More will be done this winter.

- There was also further 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. G.Cleereman reported that approximately \$3,000 was set aside in Marinette County budget to pay for WRISC to conduct invasive control. However, there are a lot of technicalities to consider with this proposal and many counties do not feel the same way about dedicating limited funds to the invasive species threat. WRISC is also very busy with grant work. More discussion will be had on this topic.
- L.Peterson gave a brief update on staffing. A.Butterfield has been a huge help so far, particularly with phragmites treatments in Menominee County. The project manager position will be discussed later in the meeting. It is likely four summer crew members will be hired in the spring, but this will be discussed in the future. The job posting typically is posted in February.

7. Old Business –

- a. *Strategic Management Plan:* Discussion of the Strategic Management Plan continued. L.Peterson presented the Organizational Development Action Teams edits as the discussion of Goals 2 and 3 progressed. There was good discussion. 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 4 and 5 will be addressed at the December meeting and L.Peterson encouraged Board members to be prepared for that review.
- b. *OTHER:* Nothing else was discussed under Old Business.

8. New Business –

- a. *Project Manager Position:*
 - L.Peterson presented the Board with a brief summary of the role and duties of the Project Manager position, as requested at the August meeting. The project manager position is a staff position listed and funded in several WRISC grants. It was the position previously held by L.Peterson before she transitioned to the Coordinator role. L.Peterson gave her personal recommendation of A.Butterfield for the position. The Board presented two motions on the issue. First, D.Peterson/S.Goodwin moved to support the Project Manager position and its fulfillment. Secondly, S.Goodwin/D.Peterson moved to recommend to the Dickinson CD board the hiring of Amber Butterfield to fill the Project Manager position. L.Peterson thanked the Board for their consideration and will keep them updated on the both what the District Board decides and on A.Butterfield's performance through the winter months.

b. *Upcoming Conferences*

- L.Peterson wanted to bring attention to several upcoming conferences that WRISC will be attending. The abstract submitted to the State of Lake Michigan Conference was accepted and L.Peterson will be presenting on WRISC's unique boatwash program. The WI AIS Partnership and the MISC meetings are coming up in November and December as well. Any WRISC Partners are welcome to attend these conferences. L.Peterson let the Board know that UMISC will be in mid-October of 2018 and that WRISC should consider attendance. The conference will be in Rochester, Minnesota. Attendance can be discussed when more details are released on the events.

c. *New Grant Proposals*

- L.Peterson asked the Board if WRISC could pass on applying for new grants this fall/winter, with the exception of the next MEF grant. This is due to WRISC's current funding status and level of grant work, and L.Peterson feels it would be best to focus on the work at hand and apply for more grants next year once we've moved ahead further with current grant work. The Board was in agreement and advised L.Peterson to focus on current grant work and only apply for new grants if it were a specific project/need.

- d. *OTHER*: No other topics were discussed under New Business.

9. Round Robin

D. Peterson, Lake Township/Shakey Lakes Association – Phragmites on Spring Lake was treated. Culvert replacement project near Shakey Lakes was delayed due to heavy rains.

S.Goodwin, Florence Co LCD – County did 3 culvert replacements, on tributary to the Pine River. 27 lakes were monitored for AIS grant. Stretches of the Menominee and Brule rivers were surveyed. Bad milfoil on the Twin Falls Flowage. CBCW numbers look good this year, while hours were down due to rain inspection numbers were up. Experimenting with the tow board will continue next year.

G.Cleereman, Marinette County LWCD – Seventh year controlling the Yellow Floating Heart in a private pond. Seeing some progress. Found EWM at a new site and will apply for a rapid response grant to remove it.

A.McCullough, Wisconsin DNR – No phragmites treatments conducted by WI DNR in Marinette Co. There are 3 confirmed EAB sites in the county (Niagara, Goodman, Wagner).

C.Aho, NRCS – Busy with EQUIP. Discovering issues with brush management in the cost share programs and trying to straighten those out. Hoping to partner with WRISC on a work day with the Carney School Forest, would like to set up an enclosure site to show deer browse impacts of forests.

Jennifer Johnson, Michigan DNR – Further investigation of the Starry Stonewort report in Mackinaw. Renovations are still ongoing at the Crystal Falls office.

USFS, J.Bournoville – About 500 acres were treated. About 10-15 new garlic mustard sites were found in the national forest. Continued management on the Wild Chervil population in Forest County. The mowing project was completed, a little late for timing, but still good. Covered about 146 acres.

Forest County Association of Lakes (FCAL), P.Schroeder – FCAL held their Environmental Days event which had a great turn out. The FCAL Annual Meeting is coming up in late October.

No other reports were given.

10. Other Business: The next meeting will be December 6th, 2017 at the Florence Natural Resource Center in Florence, WI.

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 D.Peterson/J.Bournoville to adjourn at 12:17pm. Motion Carried.

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

One correction made to minutes (typo); Meeting Minutes approved with corrections on December 7, 2017; moved by P.Shroeder/S.Goodwin, Motion Carried.