

WRISC Project Update

Submitted by WRISC Coordinator, Lindsay Peterson
BOD Meeting 10-4-2017
Stephenson, MI



Since the Last Meeting

- Cabela's National Walleye Tournament: Marinette – August 16-18, 2017
- Florence County Fair – August 24-26, 2017
- Marinette County Fair – August 24-27, 2017
- Dickinson County Fair – September 1-4, 2017
- Forest County Fair – September 8-9, 2017

Upcoming Events

- Invasive Workday – KHS – October 6, 2017
- Invasive Workday – West Shore Fishing Museum – October 11, 2017
- Invasive Workday – Crandon School Forest – PENDING
- FCAL Annual Meeting – October 21, 2017
- Golden K Presentation – October 23, 2017
- Fall WI AIS Partnership Meeting – November 1-2, 2017
- State of Lake Michigan Conference – November 7-10, 2017
- MISC CISMA Conference (Treetops in Gaylord) – December 12-13, 2017 (*tentative*)

Grants:

Red = Ending / Recently Closed; **Yellow** = Pending Proposal; **Green** = New / Recently Awarded; **Blue** = Existing Award

WI DNR WMA Grant (2016-June 2018)

Seek private forest landowner partners for creation of a property map for invasive species, management recommendations, and limited rapid response control for top priority species.

At this point, 9 landowners have had surveys completed. Survey maps and reports will be completed this winter once the field season and reporting has wrapped up.

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

Several re-treatments were conducted in Crandon/Wabeno areas. A couple new permissions were secured and these sites were treated as well. This grant will end in December.

MISGP FY2016: WRISC Strategic Management Plan Project (2017-2019)

These funds pay for Coordinator ½ time and supply summer crew wages. This grant involves the re-write of the Strategic Management Plan, which will become a 5-year plan, as opposed to the current 3-year plan. The project also highlights monitoring in riverine settings as well as expanded cooperation with industrial and civic partners. This grant pairs nicely with both MEF and the GLRI CWMA grants. This grant has covered a lot of Michigan treatments of various species. Interim reporting is currently taking place for this grant.

WE Energies MEF Strike Team II (2017-2018)

This grant funds Coordinator hours ½ time and funds summer crew wages. This grant focuses on invasive species management across the WRISC area as well as incorporating more professional partners in these management efforts. We spoke with grantors regarding European Marsh Thistle research aspect of grant and were able to remove this from the project. The funds that would have been dedicated to this project are being redirected to priority phragmites locations and for the treatment of thistle in areas where it will have the greatest impact. We are working on prioritizing sites this winter for treatment in 2018.

GLRI-USFS-CWMA: Targeting Invasives on Trails and Crossings in the Menominee River Watershed (2017-2019) (aka GLRI NNIS)

Project targets a new user group for WRISC – ATV/ORV groups. We hope to produce targeted outreach/education materials, survey and map ORV trails and control woody invasives in these areas. Contract has been signed and the planning process for surveys is underway. Surveys will take place in early October on some local trails, with more work occurring next year. Some treatments of natural areas covered by this grant have occurred this year.

GLRI-EPA-ISC: Menominee River Watershed – Invasive Species Detection & Control

Funding: \$204,000, 2 years

Grant is similar to the USFS-CWMA GLRI proposal, but expanded. With this grant, we hope to do similar work with ATV/ORV trails, but also maintain some aquatic work as well, such as boat landing and road/stream crossing surveys for both terrestrial and aquatic invasives. This grant would allow WRISC to purchase some larger more expensive equipment as well, including: ORV and trailer, Underwater ROV for surveying, and a versatile DASH unit (vDASH).

GLRI – Boat Wash

All boat wash units are the way to storage and efforts have wrapped up for the season. The newest unit was in Green Bay for repairs after several issues were encountered this season.

FY15 (16-PA...)

The remaining funds in FY15 Boatwash grant will go to Marinette County to fund a boatwash crew in that area in 2017. Their boatwash unit has been returned.

FY16 (17-PA...)

These funds are being used by WRISC summer staff to operate boatwash units and continue CBCW education at boat launches throughout the WRISC area. Crews have also been scoping out new boat launch locations and determining suitability of landings.

WRISC Boatwash FY17: Blocking the Recreational Boat Pathway

Awarded! \$37,000 (\$33,850 after overhead) Awaiting contract

Continue operating portable high pressure heated boatwash units at public boat ramps and fishing tournaments in the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC) management area, which consists of 5 counties within the Lake Michigan Watershed in Michigan and Wisconsin. Continue to support public education by WRISC staff as well as local agencies and citizen groups on the aquatic invasive species recreational boat pathway.

Phragmites Prevention and Control in Michigan's Upper Peninsula

Sub-award through UP RC&D

Facilitate phragmites cost share pilot program in Menominee County. Landowner site visits were conducted in partnership with Darcy and UP RC&D/UP Phragmites Coalition staff in late June. Landowner participation has been

impressive thus far and we continue to get new sign ups! WRISC conducted phragmites treatments for a straight week in September and completed treatments of all cost-share participants and then some.

WRISC Phragmites Campaign: Dickinson and Menominee Counties (MISGP IS17-1206)

Full Proposal Submitted, Total Project: \$165,000 Grant Funds Requested: \$147,200 Local Match: \$17,800

WRISC will work with landowners/managers in Menominee and Dickinson Counties to sustain previous successful non-native phragmites management and outreach by the UP Phragmites Coalition, using a cost share program to increase local stewardship. WRISC will map new infestations and provide rapid response for MI Watch List and WRISC EDRR species.

Lumberjack RC&D – WRISC, WHIP, TIP Pathways Educational Guide

Sub-award to partner with neighboring CISMAs to develop an educational guide for various user groups highlighting invasive species pathways. Grant has been extended. Group will meet in fall to further develop the guide.

WRISC Invasive Species Pathways Education, Play Clean Go

Awarded! \$25,000 (\$21,850 after overhead) Awaiting contract

Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition will launch Play Clean Go and Work Clean Go ad campaign targeting boating, fishing, ORV, hiking, and forestry pathways to aquatic and terrestrial invasive species spread. Utilize billboards, radio, TV, web, and print media across five county WRISC management area in the Lake Michigan Watershed. WRISC lies within the main tourism corridor between large cities such as Chicago and Milwaukee and the north woods.

Misc.

Staffing: Amber will be staying on through the rest of the season which ends October 29th. She has been helping with summer wrap up of treatments and has been a large part of the phragmites work this fall. With the current funding status, we have started looking at the possibility of hiring her on through the winter as part time to assist with 2018 prep. She also intends to re-apply for the technician position next summer if not hired on as a project manager. Amanda and Lindsay will be discussing staffing plans for Summer 2018, but with increased funding, it is likely 4 staff will be hired again.

Newsletters: Newsletter has been started but has taken a backseat to late season field work as staff hasn't been in the office much. Now with more office time to commit, an end of summer/fall newsletter will be wrapped up and sent out soon.

Website/Facebook: The WRISC website has continued to receive regular updates for events and meetings, and project opportunities for landowners. It is the hope to overhaul a lot of the current project pages as we've received several new grants and some have ended. This will take place this winter and should increase website traffic as well. The WRISC website had **96 page views in the last 30 days.**

Facebook has continued to receive regular updates of invasive articles, links, pictures, etc. The WRISC Facebook page continues to grow, having gone from 234 likes (at the last BOD meeting) to **238 likes** at the end of September. Total reach for our Facebook page for the past months was pretty good, where page activity **reached a total of 1446** people and our **average reach was 35**. The Facebook page sees great reach whenever something is posted. We tried having summer staff post when they were at boat launch locations. It worked a few times but they more often forgot. It will be something to implement at the start of next year and see how it progresses. We've also discussed doing a photo contest with our portable billboard to engage with the public.