

WRISC Project Update

Submitted by WRISC Coordinator, Lindsay Peterson
BOD Meeting 12-6-2017
Florence, WI



Since the Last Meeting

- Invasive Workday – KHS – October 6, 2017
- Invasive Workday – West Shore Fishing Museum – October 11, 2017
- Invasive Workday – Crandon School Forest – October 26, 2017
- 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

Upcoming Events

- MISC CISMA Conference (Treetops in Gaylord) – December 12-13, 2017 (*tentative*)
- Dickinson Conservation District Annual Meeting – January 20, 2017

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.

Surveys on 9 landowner properties were completed. Survey maps and reports will be started soon and completed this winter. Control workshops will be held in the spring and early summer to wrap up the grant.

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 – **Awaiting QAPP**

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 were used by WRISC summer staff to operate boatwash units and continue CBCW education at boat launches throughout the WRISC area. Crews also surveyed for new boat launch locations and determined 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

WRISC conducted phragmites treatments for a straight week in September and completed treatments of all cost-share participants and then some. Final DEQ reporting has been taking place and this contract should be just about complete. Partners of this project will meet soon to discuss pros and cons of the cost-share system and strategize how to work out some bugs before the next season, should MISGP funding be received.

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 to December 2018. The group did not meet in fall, but will hopefully meet around the New Year 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's hiring was approved by the Dickinson CD Board at the October meeting. She has officially taken her role as Project Manager and is so far doing a wonderful job! We are ahead of where we were last year, as far as data management and reports are concerned. This will allow more time for summer planning.

Amanda and Lindsay will be discussing staffing plans for Summer 2018 soon, but with increased funding and amount of work to accomplish, it is likely 4 staff will be hired again.

Newsletters: The Fall Newsletter has been completed. It was posted to the website and Facebook. The Winter Newsletter, which will include annual reports, will aim to be completed in January.

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 **271 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 238 likes (at the last BOD meeting) to **242 likes** at the end of November. Total reach for our Facebook page for the past months was pretty good, where page activity **reached a total of 1388** people and our **average reach was 87**. The Facebook page sees great reach whenever something is posted.