

WRISC Project Update

Submitted by WRISC Coordinator, Lindsay Peterson
BOD Meeting 8-2-2017
Crandon, WI



Since the Last Meeting

- Drain Campaign – June 9-11
- WI Landing Blitz – June 30-July 4
- MI Landing Blitz – July 1-9
- Fourth of July Parade: Iron Mountain – July 4
- Fumee Lake Field Trip – July 20
- Kentuck Days (Crandon) – July 29
- Heritage Days: West Shore Fishing Museum – July 30

Upcoming Events

- 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
- FCAL Annual Meeting – October 21, 2017
- State of Lake Michigan Conference – November 7-10, 2017

Grants:

Red = Ending / Recently Closed; **Yellow** = Pending Proposal; **Green** = New / Recently Awarded; **Black** = 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 come forward and expressed interest in the project. A few have been difficult to reconnect with, but surveys are being completed by WRISC Coordinator. 5 of the 9 surveys are done and all of them should be wrapped up in the next 2 weeks.

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

No landowners have approached WRISC about treatment yet at this point. Will continue to communicate with Lumberjack RC&D and WHIP Coordinator on progress. May need to request extension of funds.

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.

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. Will be speaking with grantors regarding European Marsh Thistle research aspect of grant and potentially removing from the project. This has also been discussed with the Monitoring Action Team. A meeting to discuss this will occur with the grantors in mid-August.

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 September 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

Requested Funding: \$204,000, 2 years (no match required!)

Pending – Proposal submitted January 13th, 2017. Expected award notification in March.

UPDATE: We received an award finalist notification on June 9th. Shortly after we were asked to clarify an adjusted start date since the funds have been delayed. We expect to receive this contract soon!

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 out of storage and the crew is up and running with Clean Boats Clean Waters Education efforts. They have spent the first few weekends at Lake Antoine to iron out issues and to get comfortable with the program. The Boat Wash Service agreement with the WI DNR has been revised and signed.

We have been approached by Cary Anderson and he has offered to donate to WRISC the Keyes Lake Boatwash unit. We had mechanical issues with our new boatwash this summer and it was out of order for several weeks while being repaired in Escanaba.

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 picked up.

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/AIS Prevention FY17

Pending; next round of CBCW funding

Phragmites Prevention and Control in Michigan's Upper Peninsula

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! The treatment RFPs for bids have come out for interior locations and WRISC will be conducting cost-share treatments in-house without going through a bidding process. Dickinson CD is looking to bid on the retreatment portion of sites, with Lindsay and other staff conducting actual on the ground work this fall (mid-September).

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.

WRISC Invasive Species Pathways Education

Pending; launch an ad campaign targeting invasive species pathways and routes of introduction

Misc.

Staffing: Summer staff are just about done for the summer. August 18th will be when all of them are done. Amber will be staying on through the rest of the season which ends October 29th. She will be helping with summer wrap up of treatments and will be 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.

Newsletters: Summer newsletter is in the works and should be completed by mid-August, so it is available for distribution at local fairs.

Website/Facebook: The WRISC website has continued to receive regular updates for events and meetings, and project opportunities for landowners. The WRISC website had **115 page views in the last 30 days**. Image to the right shows pages most frequently visited.

Facebook has continued to receive regular updates of invasive articles, links, pictures, etc. The WRISC Facebook page continues to grow, having gone from 230 likes (at the last BOD meeting) to **234 likes** at the end of August. At this point one year ago, we had 194 likes, so we've grown quite a bit over the last year! Total reach for our Facebook page for the months of June and July was pretty good, where page activity **reached a total of 1316** people and our **average reach was 37** for both months. Our 4th of July post was the most popular (photo to right). Reach has increased with summer activities and updates, and the frequency of posts is increasing as well. 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.



