

# Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



**August 1, 2018**      10:00am  
Forest County Courthouse  
200 E Madison St, Crandon WI  
County Boardroom 107

**Members Present (in person):** Bill Rice (WRISC Chair), Amanda Nelson (DCD), Scott Goodwin (Florence County LCD), Dick Peterson (Lake Twp), Pam Schroeder (FCAL)

**Members Present (on phone):** Aaron McCullough (WI DNR), Jennifer Johnson (MDNR), Tracy Beckman (Lumberjack RC&D)

**Members Absent:** Greg Cleereman (Marinette LWCD), Justin Bournoville (USFS)

**Staff:** Lindsay Peterson (Coordinator)

**Guests:** Al Murray (Forest Co Land Conservation)

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

1. **Introductions** – Introductions were made as members that were present, on the phone, were acknowledged.
2. **Approval of Agenda** – Motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by S. Goodwin/P. Schroeder. Motion Carried.
3. **Approval of Minutes** from the WRISC Annual Meeting on June 6th, 2018 were presented. D. Peterson/S. Goodwin moved to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.
4. **Grants & Treasurer's Report** – A. Nelson presented a spreadsheet of updated grant funding as of 7/31/2018. Clarity was provided on the errors encountered with the WMA grant. This has been resolved with the WI DNR and WRISC staff will conduct five more surveys and develop reports for landowners and will also complete a comprehensive management guide with the remaining funds. A. Nelson also reported that while deliverables for grants are on track, project spending is behind, simply because there are so many funds for staff to pull from. This will hopefully help maintain staff into the winter months. A difference of an additional \$12,000 in the MEF fund since the June report was also noted, which stemmed from an accounting error now corrected. Motion to accept Treasurer's report: P. Schroeder/D. Peterson. Motion carried.
5. **Action Teams** – L. Peterson reported in A. Butterfield's absence. SLACK has been quiet throughout the summer months since everyone is quite busy with field activities, but activity is expected to pick up in the fall as the season wraps up. For those still experiencing issues, L. Peterson said that once field work slows down her and A. Butterfield can better assess what's wrong with the program and get everyone back up and running.
6. **Project Updates/Reports** –
  - L. Peterson provided a written report to all Board Members regarding staff activity since June.
  - Many events have been held with several more scheduled for the summer.
  - Overall, WRISC staff is on schedule with executing project goals but behind on projected expenses. The WMA grant has been extended until June of 2019 with a remaining balance of over \$8,000 to be used on more surveys, reports, and the development of a management guide for landowners. An extension is also being requested for GLRI-EPA-ISC because of delays getting equipment set up. Boat wash crews report higher contact numbers and more positive public reception. Billboards with the Play Clean Go messaging are up in 4 locations and the Board was encouraged to view the Forest County billboard after

the meeting. Radio ads are also going to be airing soon, with 5 30-second ads a day being played on Radio Results network and sister stations, which effectively covers the entire WRISC area.

- One seasonal staff member was let go in July after failing to pass the pesticide applicator exam. L. Peterson is hoping to be able to retain Kyle Hafeman as a part time staff member through the winter months and into next year. He is a hard worker and fits in well with WRISC. A. Nelson and L. Peterson will continue to examine the budget and seek additional funding to work towards this goal.

## 7. Old Business –

- a. Election of Officers: Election of officers had been postponed at the Annual Meeting in June due to absence of many current officers. L. Peterson noted that all officer positions are elected annually and that the Treasurer position is not an available officer position as it is held by A. Nelson, Dickinson CD, as the fiscal agent for WRISC.

L. Peterson called for nominations for the officer position of WRISC Chair. B. Rice was nominated for the Chair position. No other nominations were made. B. Rice accepted his nomination. D. Peterson/S. Goodwin moved to accept B. Rice as Chair.

L. Peterson called for nominations for the officer position of Vice Chair. A. McCullough was nominated to continue as Vice Chair. No other nominations were announced. A. McCullough accepted the nomination. P. Schroeder/D. Peterson moved to accept A. McCullough as Vice Chair.

L. Peterson called for nominations for the Secretary position. P. Schroeder was nominated to remain in the Secretary position. No other nominations were made. S. Goodwin/D. Peterson moved to accept P. Schroeder as Secretary. All motions carried.

- b. Partner Signatory Pages: L. Peterson reported that 12 signed signatory pages have been received. There are still 8 outstanding. Including the signatures still waiting to be received, WRISC has 56 formal Partners.
- c. County Fairs: L. Peterson reported that the booth at the Menominee Co Fair was successful and good contacts were made. There are four more fairs yet, and L. Peterson offered to set up and take down the booth at the Marinette County fair as long as someone could check up on it throughout the weekend. A. McCullough offered and L. Peterson will coordinate with G. Cleereman via email to confirm he'll be stopping by. S. Goodwin volunteered himself and his staff to set up and manage the Florence County Fair booth if they can just pick up the stuff. L. Peterson and staff along with the District board and staff will manage the Dickinson County Fair (the biggest one) over the Labor Day weekend. P. Schroeder volunteered to manage the Forest County fair happening the weekend after Labor Day.

## 8. New Business –

- a. Future Funding & Project Discussion: L. Peterson opened a discussion regarding two main topics: Phragmites in Marinette County and Wild Parsnip throughout the region.
  - L. Peterson stated that there has been considerable pressure from the WI DNR for WRISC to tackle managing Phragmites in Marinette County. While WRISC is well poised to conduct work in this area, this project is a very large undertaking and not one that WRISC necessarily has the capacity for. It was suggested that Waterfowl hunters would be a good group to target for Phragmites outreach,

perhaps as part of a larger project. L. Peterson will look into some initial funding for survey efforts in the county to ground truth data and get an accurate picture of the infestation and then formulate a game plan.

- L. Peterson also brought up that Wild Parsnip has escalated this year in all 5 counties and has spoken with many people who have been severely burned by this plant. There has been a lot of resistance in permitting for ROW work this year from both states, all counties. L. Peterson admitted that the infestation is honestly too large for WRISC's crew to manage at this point and a new strategy needs to be discussed. A. Murry suggested that the resistance from road commissions could be due to pressure relating to pollinators. J. Johnson suggested that funding be secured to do large scale targeted outreach to the public on Wild Parsnip which would develop and amplify the public's voice on the issue and potentially lead to more management. S. Goodwin suggested, while it would be political, that WRISC look into pushing for Wild Parsnip to be added to local noxious weed lists which would force management. A. Murry also suggested seeking funding or partnership with local Health Departments as they should be aware of the human health hazards of the plant and may be able to fund some work towards its management. L. Peterson thanked everyone for their opinions and for the discussion and will look into partnering with the Health Departments and what funding may be available for targeted outreach. As for the noxious weed listing, this issue is a bit too political for WRISC at the time but will remain an option if the problem cannot be solved otherwise.
- The discussion turned a bit from funding and projects to staffing, as S. Goodwin suggested that WRISC and the District look into providing some level of benefits to long-term staff especially as L. Peterson seeks to maintain more staff through the winter months for consistency and to build capacity as an organization. A. Nelson said that she would look into options on the District's end to see what might be possible. The Organizational Development Committee will also look at this proposal and see what options can be drawn up this fall.

## 9. Round Robin

- D. Peterson, Lake Twp – 1<sup>st</sup> annual Kayak fishing tournament was held on Shakey Lakes with Wind Rose North Outfitters in Menominee, MI sponsoring the event. There is a short video of the event. The event will take place next year as well on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in June. There will be a Shakey Lakes Association meeting in September. The culvert repair project is moving along, a coffer dam was utilized during the dam repair project, roads are set to reopen in September.
- A. Nelson, Dickinson CD – Not much to report, just keeping things running during field season.
- S. Goodwin, Florence County LCD – it has been a busy summer, CBCW activities are continuing in part thanks to WRISC's grant contributions and is seeing good numbers. The AIS Lake Grant is going well, while 20 lakes are needed to be tested, it is likely that 30-35 will be done in total. Water lab is up and running, drone training and licensing is wrapping up and it should be in the air by the end of the season. Underwater drone was brought in for Board to see.
- P. Schroeder, FCAL - FCAL and WRISC partnered at Kentuck Days in Crandon in July. This event is well attended. In August FCAL hosts Fall Forum which is attended by member lake association leaders. Al Murray will be a panelist at this event and we are seeking a fish biologist as Greg Matzke has declined.

- B. Rice, Dickinson CD – The District is on the ballot for November for an operating millage to help fund District activities and operation.
- J. Johnson, MDNR – Seth Herbst was promoted and so there is currently no one in the AIS Coordinator position for the State of Michigan. Will update when this is filled. Also working on stream surveys.
- T. Beckman, Lumberjack RC&D – Left the meeting early, but P. Schroeder noted that the Lumberjack RC&D 50<sup>th</sup> year celebration event is coming up August 16<sup>th</sup> in Rhinelander.
- A. Murry – Just recently started with Forest Co. Originally worked in forestry. Forest County departments have seen a lot of restructuring after about 30% of the Board was replaced. County Conservation Department is focusing on developing the county GIS systems.
- No other reports were given.

**10. Other Business:** The next WRISC Board Meeting will be held October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 in Stephenson, MI at 10am

**11. Future Agenda Items:** *Boatwash storage agreement with WDNR – will be discussed in October*

**12. Adjourn.** Motion by D. Peterson/S. Goodwin to adjourn at 11:40 am. Motion carried.

***Meeting Minutes recorded by P.Schroeder.***

***Motion to approve minutes as amended, S.Goodwin/D.Peterson. Motion carried. October 3, 2018***