

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



February 7, 2018 10:00am Dickinson Conservation District
420 N. Hooper St., Kingsford, 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), Jennifer Johnson (MDNR), Dick Peterson (Lake Twp)

Members Present (on phone): N/A

Members Absent: Pam Schroeder (FCAL), Tracy Beckman (Lumberjack RC&D)

Staff: Lindsay Peterson (Coordinator), Amber Butterfield (Project Manager), Amanda Nelson (DCD)

Guests: Charlene Peterson (Shakey Lakes Assoc. (on phone)), Rebecca Anderson (DCD)

Meeting called to order at 10:03am 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** – One addition was made to the Agenda. L.Peterson requested that approval of a recently received Partner Signatory page be added under “Old Business.” J.Bournoville/D.Peterson moved to accept the Agenda with corrections. Motion Carried.
3. **Approval of Minutes** from the meeting on December 6th, 2017– One correction was made to the December meeting minutes (correction of a typo – the date was changed at the top from the 7th to the 6th). A. McCullough/J. Bournoville moved to accept the December minutes with these corrections. Motion Carried.
4. **Grants & Treasurer’s Report** – A spreadsheet of current grant funding and status was distributed and the report of funds as of 2/7/2017 was given by A.Nelson. A.Nelson reported that grants are on track and spending has been mostly focused on wages at this point, but we are gearing up for summer. The undesignated funds totaled approximately \$400, although no formal report was provided. J. Johnson/D. Peterson moved to accept the financial reports as presented. Motion Carried.
5. **Action Teams** – A. Butterfield reported that Slack was up and running and was receiving great feedback from the Action Teams. The priority species list was discussed on app and a revision of it is in process given the feedback received. The volunteer descriptions were also posted to the app and corrections were being made and would be posted again for approval. C. Peterson suggested targeting high schools. Stephenson High School for example needs to complete volunteer hours. L.Peterson highlighted that WRISC is making the effort to formalize our volunteer opportunities with the hopes that having specific expectations for volunteers will increase recruitment and retention.
6. **Coordinator Report** –
 - L.Peterson passed around the project report and began the discussion with recent and upcoming events. WRISC was present at the DCD Annual meeting, where an annual update for 2017 was given. WRISC will be attending the NMU Summer Job Fair in February. WRISC is also partnering with DCD Forester/Menominee Conservation District for a Forest Health Workshop. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. The AIS/CISMA Partnership Meeting is upcoming in early March. CISMA representatives are welcome to attend. WRISC has not yet registered.

- L.Peterson proceeded to discuss each grant individually and the progress being made on each one. WMA mapping is complete with recommendation reports being finalized. A management guide for landowners is also being developed. The Forest County Knotweed (WDNR ED/RR) grant was wrapped up and reports were submitted. MISGP has been paying wages for Coordinator and Project Manager. MEF has also funded ½ of the Coordinators wages. The next MEF grant proposal will be underway soon, WRISC is planning to write in work for Purple Loosestrife. Continued planning is in progress for the GLRI NNIS grant for upcoming season. Outreach to local trail groups is underway. With the QAPP completed for the GLRI EPA grant, equipment is planned to be purchased in the near future. Boatwash grants are still fairly inactive this time of year. We closed out one grant in December. Remaining funds were used to purchase CBCW merchandise/freebies and other supplies for CBCW crews. The education/outreach campaign grant from GLRI USFS and new round of boatwash grants are still awaiting contracts. One of these grants will be used to target boaters, fishers, ORV, hiking and forestry pathways. WRISC will utilize billboards, radio, and other outlets in the five WRISC counties. The other is an additional round of CBCW funding. The proposal for the Phragmites Cost Share program grant was denied, a meeting with Darcy and other CISMAs is taking place this week to discuss options and future for Phragmites Cost Share Programs in the UP. The Pathways Educational Guide development with WHIP and TIP was extended into December 2018. The group met in January to discuss progress and are getting close to a draft version, which will brought before the representative boards/steering committees for review and input.
- *Staffing:* L.Peterson/A. Nelson began discussing staffing plans for Summer 2018. Update was given that there will be a lot of work to accomplish this field season. Feelers have also been put out for a part time mechanic/equipment manager to assist with the larger equipment from the EPA grant. The seasonal field technician position openings were posted to the website, Facebook, and were emailed out.
- J. Johnson requested information on the ROV that will be purchased.
- *Newsletters/Articles:* Update was given that the annual report newsletter was completed in January. It had gotten a great response/feedback from the WRISC area and online. Another newsletter is scheduled to be produced in early summer and again in the fall.
- *Website/Facebook:* The WRISC website is currently being overhauled to do some major content updates and to fix some outdated links. If you see an issue with the website, please feel free to let us know!

7. Old Business –

- a. *Strategic Management Plan* – L. Peterson reported that full draft of the plan has been completed and has been passed on to the Organizational Development Action Team. A report was also given on the Assessment survey sent out to partners. Packets of the report findings were passed out to board members. A brief summary was given on results. Overall, feedback was constructive and positive and many of the issues that were mentioned were addressed in the rewrites of the plan.
- b. *Annual Meeting Planning*—L. Peterson began discussion of upcoming WRISC Annual Meeting in June. She asked for suggestions on topics or speakers. J. Johnson recounted speakers from a conference she recently attended. She gave suggestions for AIS topics such as Rusty Crayfish and AIS EDRR in Lake Superior. D.Peterson suggested Spiny Waterflea as a topic folks may be interested in. There was also suggestion that a mapping workshop may be useful and well attended. L.Peterson encouraged Board members to reach out to partners, researchers, educators, etc for presentation ideas and to let her know if they speak with anyone.
- c. *Summer Staffing* -- Job post for summer position was posted to website and Facebook Monday February 5th, 2018. WRISC is looking for 3 people for Summer 2018. It was also stated that WRISC will be attending the NMU Job Fair. J. Johnson also mentioned that Bay College in Escanaba holds a Job Fair in late January and that might

be a good event for WRISC to attend if we didn't mind posting our field positions a little earlier.

- d. *Added:* – L. Peterson acknowledges that we received the formal partner signatory page from NORMENCO and asked for a motion to approve their partnership. D.Peterson/A.McCullough moved to approve partnership with NORMENCO. Motion Carried.

8. New Business –

- a. *New Partner Invitations and Recruitment:* L.Peterson presented the 2018 Partner invitations, both for specific groups and the open invitation. She also said that many invitations have already been sent out to several groups. The group discussed several other groups that may be interested in joining WRISC, including: all townships in all counties, all school districts in all counties, Sagola Sportsmen's Club, Hermansville Sportmen's Club, and ATV/Offroad Groups, the Lake Antoine Park Partners, Trout Unlimited, Menominee County Woods and Streams, and the Marinette/Menominee High School fishing clubs. SECOLA and Carney Nadeau Public Schools are already signed up for this coming year (they had missed the deadline in 2017).
- b. *MIPN Membership Due:* L. Peterson addressed the Board regarding WRISC's MIPN membership, and that dues were up for renewal if they chose to renew. There is a one year membership offer of \$50 or a two year membership for \$90. There was some discussion as to the benefits of being a member of MIPN, which include discounts on MIPN publications and discounted registration to UMISC. D.Peterson/J.Johnson moved to renew WRISC's MIPN membership for 2 years. Motion Carried.
- c. *OTHER:* No other topics were discussed under New Business.

9. Round Robin

J.Bournoville, USFS – Mainly working on GLRI reporting and finalizing contracts for some WRISC grant awards. Also preparing to hire seasonal weed crew; currently have one employee in place and hoping additional will return from last year.

D. Peterson, Lake Township – There are 140 acres between the 5 parks in Menominee County. They are half way through their select cut, and are following up with Bryan. These cuts will help to open up trails on East end of the park. There have been several delays and complications with the culvert replacement in the Shakey Lakes area. The repair and replacement will continue in the spring, but high water levels may be a problem.

G.Cleereman, Marinette LWCD – Recently awarded a Rapid Response grant to do milfoil removal in lake. Continuing with the UW Extension restructuring, now down to 5 County Board committees, instead of 10. Tourism will likely be added to Zoning and Land and Water departments. Could be an opportunity to promote invasive prevention.

S.Goodwin, Florence Co LCD – Passed around report, gave update on Florence Co. CBCW program and the fact that they will not be receiving a CBCW grant in 2018. Water lab is in and being hooked up to network and should be ready for sample testing by end of the month. Also provided an update on the drone.

A.McCullough, Wisconsin DNR – Presented new WI DNR grant opportunity for work on public land - WI Habitat Partnership Grant. Also updated that some mowing of phragmites is being done. Noted that the Northern Lights Master Gardeners Annual Conference is March 24th.

J. Johnson, MDNR – Provided updates from the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Management Conference she attended. MI updated their plan on SSW, it has not expanded in MI. Fish Division has partnered with Play Clean Go and will be developing some wayside information signage. Fish Division is also working with DEQ ANC unit on communication, especially between fish stocking activities and lake treatments.

A.Nelson, Dickinson CD – Updated on new grants and prepping for spring tree sale.

No other reports were given.

10. Other Business: The next meeting will be April 4th, 2018 at the Wausaukee Ranger Station in Wausaukee, WI.

11. Future Agenda Items: None were discussed at this time, although Board Members were encouraged to keep the Annual Meeting in mind and seek out presenters and new Partners.

12. Adjourn. Motion by D. Peterson/J. Johnson to adjourn at 11:39am. Motion Carried.

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

Approved as presented on April 4, 2018; D.Peterson/S.Goodwin