

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



October 3, 2018 10:00am
Menominee County Annex Building
S904 Highway 41
Stephenson, MI 49887

Members Present (in person): Dick Peterson (Lake TWP), Justin Bournoville (USFS), Amanda Nelson (Dickinson CD), Scott Goodwin (Florence County LCD), Bill Rice (Dickinson CD), Pam Schroeder (FCAL)

Members Present (on phone): Tracy Beckman (Lumberjack RC&D)

Members Absent: Jennifer Johnson (MI DNR), Greg Cleereman (Marinette County LWCD), Aaron McCullough (WI DNR)

Staff: Lindsay Peterson (WRISC Coordinator), Amber Butterfield (WRISC Project Manager), Kyle Hafeman (WRISC)

Guests: Craig Aho (NRCS), Charlene Peterson (Shakey Lakes), Darcy Rutkowski (UPRC&D Council)

Meeting called to order at 10:02 AM 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 D.Peterson/J.Bournoville. Motion Carried.
3. **Approval of Minutes** from the August 1, 2018 were presented. S.Goodwin/D.Peterson moved to accept the minutes as amended. Motion carried.
4. **Grants & Treasurer's Report** – A. Nelson presented a spreadsheet of updated grant funding as of 9/27/18. P.Schroeder /D.Peterson moved to accept the grants and treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried. A.Nelson also reported that the Butternut/Franklin Lake Assoc. made a \$250 donation to WRISC. The Shakey Lakes Association also presented a \$200 donation at this time as well, which brought the donations total to \$862.00 YTD. Lindsay expressed her deep appreciation for these gifts which help to fund the Annual Meeting and make the event a success!
5. **Action Teams** – A. Butterfield reported that grant proposals will be uploaded to SLACK for review by teams as we get into that stage. With the winter down time, more educational materials will be developed so watch for those updates on SLACK as well. A. Butterfield will help to get all board members up to speed on SLACK this next quarter.
6. **Project Updates/Reports** –
 - L. Peterson provided a written report to all Board Members regarding organizational and project activity since August 1, 2018. Events both completed and upcoming were reviewed. L. Peterson added that there were youth centered Environmental Days events held in all 5 of the WRISC counties this year. WRISC did many more youth-centric events and WRISC is looking into different ways to present information that will captivate and engage youth and school age kids. Wild Parsnip, Buckthorn, and Phragmites were of great interest to fair attendees who visited the WRISC booths. Many people shared stories of getting badly burned by Wild Parsnip.
 - Project work and fund expenditure is on track for most grants. It is likely that MEF Strike Team II will be extended into early spring until funds can be drawn down. GLRI EPA is going to be extended as well to compensate for the delays in equipment procurement.

- With some of the extra funding, it is the intention to keep Kyle Hafeman on as a project manager through the winter months at least part time and return him to full time in the next season. This effort would really help secure continuity in staffing and help build more capacity for WRISC into the future.
- L. Peterson also updated on pending funding proposals, funds awarded, and potential projects in the works with Partners.

7. Old Business –

- Partner Signatory Pages:* No more signatory pages have been received. We plan to send out reminders to the 8 outstanding partners. L. Peterson also reminded the board that it is time to start thinking of potential new partners to contact and recruit for 2019. It is felt more communication is needed with sportsmen's clubs regarding WRISC's mission to help alleviate fear of shutting down trails and subsequent hesitation to join as partners. The letter sent to potential partners will be reviewed to add clarity to the fact that partnership is free, since that is the first question many people ask when invited to join WRISC.
- Equipment Storage – Boatwash Units, DASH Equipment:* The boatwash units will be stored in the DNR garage in Florence again this year and a signed agreement for that arrangement is currently pending. Storage for the DASH unit is being sought. It needs to be a location where the equipment can be serviced and constructed through the winter. Ideally, the space would need to be heated and large enough to house the unit (16'x7').

8. New Business –

- Grant Proposal Updates:* L. Peterson followed up on the grant proposal discussion held during the August meeting. There is general consensus that seeking funding to specifically target Wild Parsnip is a good idea and this is something WRISC will pursue. Road commissions, health departments and related entities will be the target audience for education and outreach with this funding. WRISC is also looking at getting a small award from the WI DNR to do some preliminary work on Phragmites in WI. This small award will allow more time to assess the best role for WRISC while still actively addressing the issue. It was suggested that WRISC also explore the possibility of obtaining funding to purchase a tow behind mower, which could be useful in management of Wild Parsnip. WRISC would also like to explore funding opportunities to develop more youth oriented educational materials.
- Pathways Educational Guide (review draft):* L. Peterson presented a draft of the Pathways Educational Guide that is being developed by WRISC, WHIP, and TIP CISMAs through a GLRI funded project. Part of the grant requirements is for each group's board of directors/steering committee to review the draft guide and provide input on design, content, etc. There was a favorable response to presentation of the guide. Board members suggested putting icons and CISMA logos on the front cover to grab attention and also that app referrals are made obvious. It was also suggested that there needs to be an order to the pathway pages and species table, perhaps alphabetizing the reference pages. L. Peterson will take suggestions via email as well over the next week or so and appreciated the feedback received. The plan is to have the guide published in December 2018, before the grant ends.

9. Round Robin

- **Aaron McCullough, WI DNR:** *Emailed update to L. Peterson:* The DNR is spraying the West shore of Green Bay for Phragmites. The biologist is back in Peshtigo but the biologist in Wausaukee is gone.
- **Pam Schroeder, FCAL:** FCAL held a successful Fall Forum on August 18th. L.Peterson was one of two featured panelists and 13 Forest County lakes were represented. Wild Parsnip was a popular topic. Pam represented WRISC at the Forest County Fair on September 7-9. The booth saw more attendance and there was a lot of interest shown in Wild Parsnip. On September 18th, FCAL hosted Environmental Day at Veterans' Park on Lake Metonga. L.Peterson was also present as one of eight presenters at this event which hosted 52 teens from the Crandon, Wabeno and Laona Environmental Science classes. Pam is currently exhibiting for both FCAL and WRISC at the Tribal Water Workshop being held Oct. 2-4 at both the Potawatomi and Sokaogon reservations in FC where there has been interest shown in obtaining some of our literature/handouts.
- **Craig Aho, NRCS:** NRCS helps to fund private foresters to write a forest management plans. C. Aho shared a situation where he was disappointed with the resulting plan because it made no mention of the extensive Buckthorn infestation on this one property slated for management. He suggested and asked WRISC to help to educate the FAP Foresters and NRCS Partners more regarding invasives, possibly via a webinar or another training workshop. WRISC will look into organizing and hosting an event like this, seeing as the previous Forest Health Workshop was a great success.
- **Scott Goodwin, Florence Co LCD:** S. Goodwin provided a handout with an extensive report of Florence County's 2018 efforts. The CBCW numbers were down because of less staff and less money available for the program. The goal of monitoring 22 lakes this year was exceeded with 42 lakes being monitored. Zebra Mussels were found in Lake Emily and EWM was found on one new lake. AIS Snapshot day evidenced the return of Purple Loosestrife. WDNR is pushing AIS education of waterfowl hunters. The county's underwater drone is now in use to map EWM. S. Goodwin is the first official pilot of the county's aerial drone, which should be operational next spring. The surface water testing lab is processing their final tests for this season. They will reapply for CBCW and AIS monitoring grants for next year.
- **Amanda Nelson, Dickinson CD:** Dickinson CD is seeking a new Forester.
- **Darcy Rutkowski, UPRC&D:** D. Rutkowski gave a brief history of the phragmites efforts in Menominee Co and throughout the UP thus far and noted that the Cost Share Program is running successfully, which WRISC has been involved with, conducting many of the treatments that cost landowners only \$25-\$75. Future funding is being sought with proposals out requesting about \$35,000 for WRISC, and more for other counties/CISMAs in the UP to conduct more work. WRISC has also been able to locate and control new populations of other invasive species thanks to the Phragmites work.
- **Charlene Peterson, Shakey Lakes:** No Update
- **Justin Bournoville, USFS:** This has been a hectic 4 months with the arrival of Justin's new daughter. The USFS has treated approximately 650 acres with their in-house weed crew. New infestations of Garden Valerian were found, and Phragmites have been reported on Fay Lake but needs to be verified.
- **Dick Peterson, Lake Township:** The Shakey Lakes culvert project is completed and the road reopened. The water level of the lake is up several feet. Cofferdam (MI DEQ) made a big difference in project success and

helped keep the park/campground profitable. Water Sentinels out of UW Marinette and UW Green Bay are continuing their project and invertebrate study. More and more Spruce Bud Worm is being spotted. Little Spring Lake Phragmites was treated this year.

- **Bill Rice, Dickinson CD:** Dickinson CD is actively campaigning for millage of .10 mil to increase stable operational funding for the District.
- No other reports were given.

10. Other Business: The next WRISC Board Meeting will be held December 5th, 2018 in Florence.

11. Future Agenda Items:

12. Adjourn. Motion by D.Peterson/S.Goodwin to adjourn at 12:23PM. Motion carried.

Compiled by P. Schroeder, L. Peterson.