

## WRISC Project Update

Submitted by WRISC Coordinator, Lindsay Peterson  
BOD Meeting 10-3-2018  
Stephenson, MI



### Since the Last Meeting

- Menominee AOC Island Restoration Tour – August 3, 2018
- Menominee Waterfront Festival – August 4, 2018
- WE Energies Purple Loosestrife Pull #2 – August 13, 2018
- AIS Snapshot Day – August 18, 2018
- Marinette County Fair – August 23-26, 2018
- Dickinson County Fair – August 30 – September 3, 2018
- Forest County Fair – September 7-9, 2018
- Dickinson County Outdoor Extravaganza – September 13, 2018
- FCAL Lake Ecology Field Day – September 18, 2018
- Menominee County Environmental Day – October 2, 2018

### Upcoming Events

- EPA Tribal Water Workshop – October 2-4, 2018
- Marinette County Environmental Days – October 4, 2018
- Butternut/Franklin Lake Assoc. Garlic Mustard Workday – October 4, 2018
- State of Lake Superior Conference – October 9-12, 2018
- Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference – October 15-18, 2018
- WE Energies Fall Meeting – October 18, 2018
- Science Fest, Stephenson Public Library – November 3, 2018

### Grants:

**Red** = Ending / Recently Closed; **Yellow** = Pending Proposal; **Green** = New / Recently Awarded; **Blue** = Existing Award; **Purple** = OTHER/MISC.

### **WI DNR WMA Grant (2016-June 2018) – EXTENDED to JUNE 2019**

Grant was intended to be wrapped up in June 2018 with all deliverables met and all funds expended, but due to a bookkeeping error it turns out only about half of the project funds were spent. Due to this, WRISC, DCD, and the WI DNR agreed to extend the grant for another year and to conduct five (5) more property surveys and complete reports for these additional properties. Another workshop may also be held and an invasive species management guide will be completed and distributed to landowners.

The additional surveys have almost been completed and work will begin on the final reports for the additional landowners as well as finalizing the control guide.

### **MISGP FY2016: WRISC Strategic Management Plan Project (2017-2019)**

These funds pay for Coordinator ½ time and supply Project Manager and summer crew wages. This grant involves the re-write of the Strategic Management Plan. The project also highlights monitoring in riverine settings as well as expanded cooperation with industrial and civic partners.

Goals are on track as we are in Year 2 of 3 for this project. Not as many wages have been pulled from this grant recently as more has been drawn from MEF to use up those funds before the end of the grant. For treatments, many if not all of the Michigan sites fall under this grant for acreage with the exception of a few specific ones.

### **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. Treatment efforts are on track and are continuing even into late season. There is still a lot Coordinator time remaining in this grant, but that may be redistributed to field crew and PM to buffer their hours through late season and into the winter. **Could possibly extend grant until new MEF funding begins.**

### **WE Energies MEF Expanding Community, Capacity, and Collaboration for Invasive Control: AWARDED!**

AWARDED Full Funding as of August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018!!!

This proposal focuses on developing volunteer opportunities, increased funding for our Strike Team, and puts some special project efforts towards Purple Loosestrife (a priority for WE Energies).

Funds are expected to be available early 2019.

### **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. Work will begin this fall/winter on targeted outreach/education materials. More miles of ORV trails are lined up to be surveyed during October. Deliverables, specifically acreage, appear to be on track.

### **GLRI-EPA-ISC: Menominee River Watershed – Invasive Species Detection & Control**

#### **Extension to be requested**

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.

Pump equipment has been secured, but the DASH is still under construction, ORV and underwater ROV have been received. Diver equipment is being purchased and some select staff will be certified in the spring. An extension will likely be requested for this project mainly to accommodate the vDASH work, which is not quite on track due to assembly and purchasing delays.

### **GLRI – Boat Wash**

All but one boatwash unit is operational, with one other experiencing some minor leaks. All will need maintenance at the end of the season.

End of season numbers are looking good for activities this year, with deliverables for all active grants on pace.

#### **FY16 (17-PA...)**

This grant funded staff throughout the summer, as well as Florence county staff through sub-award. There are still funds remaining and those may be used for much needed professional maintenance on all units, including the replacement of a pump unit on one of the older washers. We may also buy fitted covers/tarps for the units to help protect them while not in use.

### [WRISC Boatwash FY17: Blocking the Recreational Boat Pathway](#)

Awarded! \$37,000 (\$33,850 after overhead) **Contract Signed**

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.

This grant will also fund a sub-award to Florence County to continue to target priority landings in that county and allow WRISC more consistent coverage through the remaining counties.

### [WRISC Boatwash FY18: Blocking the Recreational Boat Pathway](#)

**Awarded!** \$36,000 (less after overhead subtracted) **Awaiting Contract**

Deliverables: 3,000 User Contacts

### **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 met in June to discuss progress and are getting close to a draft version. When this is prepared, it will be brought before each CISMA's board or steering committee for review and input.

### **WRISC Invasive Species Pathways Education, Play Clean Go**

Awarded! \$25,000 (\$21,850 after overhead)

Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition has launched 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.

Billboards went up for over the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday! Radio ads have been finalized and are being run throughout the 5 counties for the remainder of the summer into fall. We'll seek more radio spots for next year as well. Radio interviews will be conducted this fall.

### **Other Projects:**

- In June, WRISC submitted two joint pre-proposals for the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program (MISGP) – One seeks to continue the Phragmites Cost Share Program in Menominee County; the other is aimed at early detection survey efforts for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid within 20 miles of the Lake Michigan Shoreline (target area for the state). Invitations for full proposals were sent out for both grants as of July 31, 2018!
  - Full proposals have now been submitted for these projects!
- WRISC also partnered on a grant with CD3 and Wildlife Forever on another MISGP project which would set up a few permanent waterless boat cleaning stations in WRISC's Michigan Counties – **This project was not funded.**
- WRISC had offered support/partnered on another statewide proposal with Sea Grant and MSUE on a project titled *Michigan Invasive Species Paddling Detection, Reporting and Public Awareness Program*. So targeting paddlers and Great Lake water trails. This was awarded and partner collaboration will begin on this soon.
- There has also been discussion with the WI DNR to get WRISC a small (less than \$5000) award to begin Phragmites work in WRISC's WI Counties, including surveying/mapping and education/outreach.

## Misc.

Staffing: As we approach the end of the season and the winter months are fast upon us, we are looking at numbers and discussing funding options for staff. We would like to retain Kyle Hafeman as a staff member at least part time through the winter months and are currently seeking options for maintaining consistency in staff throughout the year, which will ultimately improve WRISC's capacity. It would be great to have two project managers operating under the coordinator, one terrestrial and one aquatic, to assist with on-the-ground management and implementation of specific project deliverables.

Newsletters/Articles: End of season newsletter is scheduled to be compiled in the off season. If any Partners have projects or success stories from this year they would like to highlight, send a short blurb to WRISC Coordinator or Project Manager! WRISC was featured in an article by the Eagle Herald for Menominee/Marinette area.

Website/Facebook/Instagram: The WRISC website has continued to receive regular updates for events and meetings, and project opportunities for landowners. We have redesigned portions of the website and updated a lot of information on the site. If there are any broken links or if anything looks odd or outdated, please don't hesitate to let us know! The WRISC website had **390 page views** in the last 60 days. Many of these visitors were new to page as well!

Facebook has received semi-regular updates of invasive articles, links, pictures, etc, but hasn't had a lot of consistency mainly due to field season. The WRISC Facebook page continues to grow, having gone from 277 likes (at the last BOD meeting) to **280 likes** at the end of September. Total reach for our Facebook page for the past two months was pretty good despite inconsistency with posts, where page activity **reached a total of 1,105** people and our **average reach was about 20**. The page sees great reach whenever something is posted.

Instagram is getting really great attention and continues to grow quickly; we are almost at 100 followers and it's been fun to share more candid or just cool pictures from the staff.

Fair booths seemed very successful this year! Wild Parsnip, Buckthorn, and Phragmites were the top species of discussion and lots of information on ID and control as well as WRISC was distributed to the public. Thanks to everyone who helped with booths, either setting up, taking down, manning the booth, or just checking in on our stuff!

