

## WRISC Project Update

Submitted by WRISC Coordinator, Lindsay Peterson  
BOD Meeting 2-7-2018  
Kingsford, MI



### **Since the Last Meeting**

- MISC CISMA Conference (Treetops in Gaylord) – December 12-13, 2017
- Dickinson Conservation District Annual Meeting – January 20, 2017

### **Upcoming Events**

- NMU Summer Job Fair – February 14, 2018
- Forest Health Workshop – March 1, 2018
- AIS/CISMA Partnership Meeting – March 5-7, 2018

### **Grants:**

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

#### **WI DNR WMA Grant (2016-June 2018)**

Mapping of properties is complete, management recommendation reports are being finalized. Control workshops will be held in the spring and early summer to wrap up the grant. A management guide for landowners is also being developed using these funds. This will be distributed to the landowners in the project and other grant funds will allow us to distribute it more widely.

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

This grant ended in December. Final reports have been submitted.

#### **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. Currently awaiting reimbursement for this grant. An assessment of the 2015-2017 Strategic Management Plan has been completed, a deliverable on this fund. Planning and preparation for summer season has also begun.

#### **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. We are working on prioritizing sites this winter for treatment in 2018. Also, we've begun outreach to local road commissions to seek permission for 2018, but to also incorporate some invasive species information into their spring trainings.

We are in the process of writing another MEF Strike Team proposal. This grant will be very similar and will focus on funding management of invasive throughout the region and funding field crew.

## **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. We surveyed 60 miles of off-road trails in fall 2017 under this grant and plan to do more in 2018.

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

Funding: \$204,000, 2 years – **QAPP has been submitted!**

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). Purchasing of equipment is underway. The QAPP was submitted and got high remarks from the EPA! We have resubmitted a 2<sup>nd</sup> draft after making some minor revisions and are waiting to hear back, but we have started utilizing funds from this grant.

## **GLRI – Boat Wash**

All boat wash units are the way to storage and efforts have wrapped up for the season. The newest unit was in Green Bay for repairs after several issues were encountered this season.

### [FY15 \(16-PA...\)](#)

This grant closed in December. Remaining funds were used to purchase CBCW merchandise/freebies and other supplies for CBCW crews.

### [FY16 \(17-PA...\)](#)

These funds were used by WRISC summer staff to operate boatwash units and continue CBCW education at boat launches throughout the WRISC area. Crews also surveyed for new boat launch locations and determined suitability of landings.

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

Awarded! \$37,000 (\$33,850 after overhead) **Awaiting contract**

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.

## **WRISC Phragmites Campaign: Dickinson and Menominee Counties (MISGP IS17-1206)**

*Full Proposal Submitted, Total Project: \$165,000 Grant Funds Requested: \$147,200 Local Match: \$17,800*

WRISC did not receive funding for this grant project, neither did CUPCWMA. We will be meeting with Darcy Rutkowski and the other “phrag” CISMAs to discuss next steps and the future of Phragmites management in the UP.

## **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 January 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) **Awaiting contract**

Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition will launch 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.

### Misc.

Staffing: Amanda and Lindsay have been discussing staffing plans for Summer 2018, but with increased funding and amount of work to accomplish, it is likely 3-4 field crew staff will be hired again. We have also started to put feelers out for a mechanic/equipment manager to assist on a part time basis with a lot of the larger equipment from the EPA grant.

Newsletters/Articles: The Annual report newsletter was completed in January. It got great response/feedback from folks in the WRISC area and online! We will produce another newsletter in the early summer and again in the fall. Articles will be published regarding the Forest Health Workshop which is coming up, our Annual meeting as that approaches and any additional public events or trainings that will be held.

Website/Facebook: The WRISC website has continued to receive regular updates for events and meetings, and project opportunities for landowners. It is the hope to overhaul a lot of the current project pages as we've received several new grants and some have ended. This will take place this winter and should increase website traffic as well. The WRISC website had **275 page views in the last 30 days**. The picture on the right shows links to the WRISC website to give an idea of where people have been coming from to get to the WRISC website!

Facebook has continued to receive regular updates of invasive articles, links, pictures, etc. The WRISC Facebook page continues to grow, having gone from 242 likes (at the last BOD meeting) to **246 likes** at the end of January. Total reach for our Facebook page for the past month was pretty good, where page activity **reached a total of 224** people and our **average reach was 28**. The Facebook page sees great reach whenever something is posted.

We hope to have summer staff post on the Facebook page this summer regarding their locations for the boatwash as we'll be moving around a lot more this coming season. We hope this will help reach people in the area, to even swing by and get their boat washed even if coming from a different lake in the area.

### Links

Incoming Domains Recent Unique

<a href="#">members.webs.com/s/sitebuilder/dia...</a>	4	
<a href="#">facebook.com/</a>	3	
<a href="#">forum.michiganinvasives.org/index.p...</a>	3	
<a href="#">michiganinvasives.org/wildrivers/</a>	2	
<a href="#">clmcd.org/weedmanagement_2.asp</a>	1	
<a href="#">michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153--4108...</a>	1	
<a href="#">florencecountywi.com/departments/...</a>	1	
<a href="#">dickinsoncd.org/wrisc.html</a>	1	
<a href="#">florencecountywi.com/departments/?...</a>	1	
<a href="#">mail.ironmtpowersports.com/</a>	1	