

WRISC Project Update

Submitted by WRISC Coordinator, Lindsay Peterson
BOD Meeting 4-4-2018
Wausaukee, WI



Since the Last Meeting

- NMU Summer Job Fair – February 14, 2018
- Forest Health Workshop – March 1, 2018
- AIS/CISMA Partnership Meeting – March 5-7, 2018
- Northern Lights Master Gardener Spring Conference – March 24, 2018

Upcoming Events

- Clean Boats, Clean Waters Training - TBD
- 30 Days Wild event – June 5, 2018 and July 10, 2018
- WRISC Annual Meeting! – June 6, 2018
- Several upcoming workdays, dates are still being confirmed

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.

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. Reporting season for this grant is upon us and Coordinator, PM, and Admin will work to complete these requirements. 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 Energies MEF Expanding Community, Capacity, and Collaboration for Invasive Control: PRE-PROPOSAL

Pre-Proposal Submitted: March 8, 2018

Full Proposals Due: June 15, 2018

We will hear if we are invited to submit a full proposal around the end of April.

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).

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. Treatment locations are being planned for this project to ensure deliverables are met.

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

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.

Purchasing of equipment has begun! Including: ORV and trailer, Underwater ROV for surveying, and a versatile DASH unit (vDASH).

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.

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

These funds will continue to fund WRISC crews throughout the summer of 2018 at launches throughout the management area. Deliverables are approximately 50% met for this project as we enter the second year of the 2 year project.

[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.

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) **Contract Signed**

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. Several interviews have been conducted so far with a few more on the schedule. There were many great applicants this year.

Newsletters/Articles: A Summer kick-off newsletter will be produced and published in May or June. It will introduce new crew, layout WRISC's summer plans, offer volunteer opportunities and more! As priority invasives start blooming or becoming noticeable, WRISC staff will work to release newspaper articles to draw people's attention to what's currently in season and easy to spot.

Website/Facebook: 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 **160 page views** in the last 30 days, but had **over 400 in February**. The picture on the right show the pages most visited in the last month. The Job Posting page was also very busy in February!

Facebook has continued to receive regular updates of invasive articles, links, pictures, etc. The WRISC Facebook page continues to grow, having gone from 246 likes (at the last BOD meeting) to **253 likes** at the end of March. Total reach for our Facebook page for the past two months was really good, where page activity **reached a total of 1140** people and our **average reach was about 50**. This is largely due to some targeted outreach efforts and the promotion of the job posting through our Facebook page. The 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 swing by and get their boat washed even if coming from a different lake in the area.

Content		Pages	Entrance	Exit	Downloads	Events	Media
/	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition	72					+999%
/job-postings-2	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	18					+999%
/documents	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	7					0%
/action-teams	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	7					0%
/board-of-directors	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	5					+400%
/invasive-mapping	Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition ...	5					0%