

WRISC Project Update

Submitted by WRISC Coordinator, Lindsay Peterson
BOD Meeting 8-1-2018
Crandon, WI



Since the Last Meeting

- Garlic Mustard Workday – Forest County – June 15, 2018
- Landing Blitz (MI & WI) – Week/Weekend of July 4, 2018
- Menominee County Fair – July 20-22, 2018
- Hamilton Lakes Association Meeting – July 7, 2018
- Western U.P. Invasive Species Conference – July 23, 2018
- WE Energies Purple Loosestrife Pull – July 23, 2018
- Kentuck Days – July 28, 2018
- West Shore Fishing Museum Heritage Days – July 29, 2018

Upcoming Events

- 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

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.

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. Staff have started pulling more wages from this fund. Goals are on track as we are in Year 2 of 3 for this project.

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. Progress report was just submitted for this project. There is a lot of 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.

WE Energies MEF Expanding Community, Capacity, and Collaboration for Invasive Control: FULL PROPOSAL

Full Proposal Due: June 15, 2018

A full proposal was submitted for this project by June 15. Award notifications should be made in mid-January 2019. 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.

About 30 more miles of ORV trails have been surveyed and treatments are underway, with more occurring in the late summer to early fall. Deliverables 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 is still being secured, but the DASH is under construction, ORV and underwater ROV have been received. Diver equipment is being addressed as well. 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.

Numbers are looking great for all boatwash activities this year, especially since the weather has been kinder to our crews this year compared to last with many fewer rain outs!

[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 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) **Contract Signed**

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 4th holiday! Radio ads have been finalized and will be ran throughout the 5 counties for the remainder of the summer into fall. We'll seek more radio spots for next year as well.

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!
- 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.

Misc.

Staffing: Three staff were hired for the 2018 season. Unfortunately one crew member was let go in July after being unable to obtain pesticide applicator certification. The remaining staff are working hard and have made great progress this year!

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 as a staff member 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.

Newsletters/Articles: End of season newsletter is scheduled to be compiled in the off season. If any Partners have projects from this year they would like to highlight, send a short blurb to WRISC Coordinator or Project Manager!

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 **338 page views** in the last 60 days. Many of these visitors were new to page as well!

Facebook has continued to receive regular updates of invasive articles, links, pictures, etc, especially now that field season has started and more is going on. The WRISC Facebook page continues to grow, having gone from 265 likes (at

the last BOD meeting) to **277 likes** at the end of July. Total reach for our Facebook page for the past two months was really good, where page activity **reached a total of 2,223** people and our **average reach was about 35**. This is largely due to some targeted outreach efforts and sharing information about priority species through our Facebook page. The page sees great reach whenever something is posted.

Instagram is getting really great attention and continues to grow quickly!

