

WRISC Project Update

Submitted by WRISC Coordinator, Lindsay Peterson
BOD Meeting 2-5-2020
Kingsford, MI



Recent Events

- MISC Annual Meeting, Gaylord, MI – December 10-11
- Phragmites Steering Committee, Marquette, MI – December 20
- Everything Outdoors Show, Marinette, WI – January 18
- Dickinson CD Annual Meeting, Norway MI – January 25

Upcoming Events

- NMU Job Fair, Marquette, MI – February 12
- Great Northern RV, Boat, & Off-road Show, Marinette, WI – March 13-15
- WI Spring AIS/CISMA Meeting, Location TBD – April 22-23
- WRISC Annual Meeting, Location TBD – June 5, 2020
- UMISC, Duluth, MIN – October 12-14, 2020

Grants:

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

MISGP FY2016: WRISC Strategic Management Plan Project (2017-2019) – SEEKING EXTENSION

Wages have been pulled heavier from this fund, especially by project managers and coordinator, now that field activities are wrapped up and more office work is taking place. For treatments, many if not all of the Michigan sites fell under this grant for acreage with the exception of a few specific ones. Received clarification on treatment acres vs. sites deliverable. A formal extension has been submitted but it is still likely that there will be an excess of funds to be turned back.

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

This project 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).

The volunteer platform is ready to be launched and this will be promoted heavily for the coming year. This fund allows for treatment of priority species throughout the entire watershed/WRISC area and is valuable funding for our Strike Team. There are some winter season projects that will be the focus of the next several months.

GLRI-USFS-CWMA: Targeting Invasives on Trails and Crossings in the Menominee River Watershed (2017-2019) (aka GLRI NNIS) – EXTENDED April 2020

Deliverables are on track for this project. There were some wrap up projects that have been the focus of the winter months. A few more materials are left to be purchased, including the final trail signs which will be given out to the counties.

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

Extension approved – December 30, 2020

The vDASH was completed in late season. Unfortunately we were not able to secure insurance for the unit until the water got too cold to dive. The pump system was tested in late June and was functional. We will be able to get the unit on the water come spring. A use policy will be developed over the winter months. As far as other deliverables are concerned, there is some more trail surveying to be done next season but treatment acreage is on track. The ROV will also be utilized to conduct inland lake surveys once a generator is purchased this winter.

GLRI – Boat Wash

WRISC Boatwash FY18: Blocking the Recreational Boat Pathway

End date: April 6, 2020

Deliverables: 3,000 User Contacts

Operated boatwash units across four counties, with a sub-award of \$11,000 to Florence County for Boatwash Operation in that county. Numbers were low this year due to inconsistencies in staffing and lack of reliable vehicles. Boatwashes are now in storage. Maintenance will occur in the spring.

WRISC Boatwash FY19: WRISC Boatwash Program

Awarded! \$36,000; Contract signed August 20, 2019

Deliverables: 3,000 boater contacts

Received contract documents for budget and project work plan. Will begin pulling money from this grant in 2020.

WRISC Boatwash FY20: WRISC Boatwash

Awarded! \$39,000; Pending Contract

WRISC Invasive Species Pathways Education, Play Clean Go

Award: \$23,401; End date: April 6, 2020

Currently working with local videographer on our WRISC PSA/Commercial. This should be ready to air come summer, as there are a few scenes that may need to be shot in the spring. A few other outreach products are being sought with remaining funds.

UP Multi-CISMA HWA Survey Project (MISGP, Administered by Alger CD)

This is a partner project involving several of the UP CISMAs. It involves winter surveys for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid along the Lake Michigan Shoreline. WRISC crews have been out on a few occasions to survey for HWA and thankfully have not identified any evidence of HWA yet. Several more surveys are planned as we continue receiving landowner permissions.

Life After Phragmites: Wetland Restoration & Landowner Stewardship (MISGP, Administered by UP RC&D)

This project is a very similar continuation to what we've already been doing in MI for Phragmites. Again, most UP CISMAs are partnered on this project for their respective management areas. The goal is to continue implementing the successful Cost Share program. WRISC will be responsible for about 15 acres of cost share phragmites treatment each year of the project as well as various outreach efforts. Site visits were conducted the week of July 8-12th. Due to the high water levels, not much phragmites was found and there will not be much to treat along the shoreline. WRISC completed just short of 12 acres of phragmites this year. Work will be done next year to conduct more site visits and treatment in order to reach deliverables. Much planning will take place during the winter months, along with Phragmites Steering Committee meetings.

Life After Phragmites: Wetland Restoration & Landowner Stewardship in Michigan's UP and Northeastern Wisconsin – (SOGL Fund; Administered by UP RC&D)

WRISC has partnered on this project proposal with UP RC&D, WI DNR, and other area stakeholders. The project is very similar to the other recently approved Phragmites project and if awarded, this project will be matched by that one. Essentially it is seeking to again extend the cost share program longer in MI and also to include WRISC's WI Counties and initiate the cost share process there.

Lose the Loosestrife: Purple Loosestrife Management along the Michigamme River

- Joint project with WePIC, Lake 2 Lake CISMA, WRISC, and respective CDs.
- \$253,465 over 5 years

This project will help fund efforts to remove and manage purple loosestrife infestations along approximately 26 miles of the Michigamme River from the dam in Republic to the Way Dam reservoir. Project planning meetings will take place soon.

MISGP Core Funding: Seeking Sustainability through CISMA Balance

- AWARDED! \$70,000; Match: \$36,500; Total Request: \$106,500

WRISC seeks to balance operational capacity by dedicating staff to each focused CISMA aspect, like daily operation, outreach, and management of terrestrial and aquatic invasives. Secure staffing and specific goals will allow WRISC to adapt to meet the needs of and provide relevant services to our local communities.

NOT AWARDED: MISGP: CD3 Watercraft Station at Lake Antoine – New Tools Preventing Spread

- Amount Requested: \$53,000; Match: \$11,800; Total Request: \$64,800

Seeking to purchase and install a CD3 Waterless Cleaning Station at Lake Antoine, Dickinson County, MI. This project builds on established momentum of WRISC's decade long efforts to Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers through watercraft inspection projects and will continue encouraging recreationists to Clean, Drain, Dry, Dispose.

- Encouraged to re-apply. May seek other funding source with expanded project idea.

Other Projects:

USFS-GLRI-CWMA: Enhancing Ecosystems of the MRW through Invasive Species Detection, Education, & Control

Request: \$40,000 Match: \$30,800 Proposal submitted January 9, 2020

Should be notified around April 2020

WRISC proposes efforts to inventory high-traffic recreational areas, mainly off-road trails & public accesses, & determine current distributions of & control several priority IS, like Buckthorn, Eurasian Watermilfoil, etc, which threaten recreational opportunities. WRISC seeks to empower local communities to engage in IS management by offering trainings to landowners & workdays for students. Efforts effectively build on WRISC's momentum throughout the area, allowing for continued benefit to the Menominee River Watershed & its natural communities.

USFS Template 7a: Pathway Education: Pathway Publicity - Raising Awareness through Media Outreach

Request: \$23,000 Proposal submitted January 31, 2020

The goal of this outreach campaign will be to raise awareness of pathways and prevention of invasive species in a "call to action" effort.

Sustain Our Great Lakes (SOGL) DUE February 11, 2020

- **Category 4 Proposal: Restoration of Menominee River Islands:** This project will focus on continuing the IS management efforts and island restoration/shoreline fortification of previous USACE GLRI project. Partnering with Ecology&Environment, WDNR, Chappée Rapids Audubon Society, etc.
- **Category 5 Proposal: (Untitled WRISC Project):** This project is looking to focus on inland lake monitoring, primarily in WI but hoping to expand into MI. Also potentially including some terrestrial restoration efforts involving native-invasive plant trade in events, promotion of micro-prairies, etc.
- **Partner on Category 5 Proposal: WDNR Natural Area Buffer Project:** WDNR seeks to utilize CISMA partnerships to enhance the State's IS management efforts on state lands, by connecting with adjacent private landowners and mirroring state management on private lands to serve as a buffer. May involve funds for monitoring and some control.

WE Energies MEF 2020

Proposals Due: March 15, 2020







- Will be submitting a proposal to this fund. Will likely seek Strike Team funding as well as additional funding for restoration efforts, monitoring, etc.

Misc.

Staffing: Seasonal positions will be posted in early February, with approval of the Board. Potentially seeking 3-5 new seasonal hires for the 2020 season.

Newsletters/Articles: Annual report newsletter will be finished soon and posted online and to mailing list.

Website/Facebook/Instagram: The WRISC website has not received as many updates in the last period. If there are ever any broken links or if anything looks odd or outdated, please don't hesitate to let us know! We are currently working on developing our new website through the WIX website developer. The renewal is much needed and will be a nice refresh as well as create a website that is easier to update and manage. Instagram continues to receive updates with field and event photos and currently has **155 followers**. Facebook has received fairly consistent updates over the last period and has seen good reach and engagement! The WRISC Facebook page continues to grow, having gone from **330 likes** (at the last meeting) to **335 likes** at the end of January. Total reach for our Facebook page for the past two months has been pretty good, and page activity **reached a total of 1,380 people**. While the page generally sees great reach whenever something is posted, a list of posts from the last period, with reach and engagement numbers, is included:

Reach: Organic / Paid Post Clicks Reactions, Comments & Shares						
Published	Post	Type	Targeting	Reach	Engagement	Promote
01/31/2020 8:28 AM	 Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition			75 	12 5 	Boost Post
01/29/2020 1:29 PM	 Checking needles closely & carefully			93 	20 7 	Boost Post
01/18/2020 9:30 AM	 WRISC is at the Everything Outdoors Show at the Marinette Rec Center			68 	4 3 	Boost Post
01/14/2020 8:49 AM	 We talk about partnerships a lot and this is exactly what we love seeing!			86 	8 7 	Boost Post
01/07/2020 9:50 AM	 Boot brush stations are a great tool in raising awareness and preventing			69 	1 4 	Boost Post
01/06/2020 9:02 AM	 The Everything Outdoors Show in Marinette is less than 2 weeks away!			98 	9 1 	
12/31/2019 11:12 AM	 Still figuring out those #NewYears #Resolutions? Why not pledge to			52 	1 3 	Boost Post
12/31/2019 9:41 AM	 Enjoy a happy and safe New Year! Thanks again for all your support			185 	5 11 	Boost Post