

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



October 2, 2019

10:00am

Menominee County Annex
S904 Highway 41
Stephenson, MI 49887

Members Present (in person): Bill Rice (Dickinson Conservation District), Pam Schroeder (Forest Co. Assoc. Lakes), Dick Peterson (Menominee Co. - Lake Township), Justin Bournoville (USFS), Aaron McCullough (WDNR-Marinette), Charlene Peterson (Shakey Lakes), Donna Buechler (Menominee CD), Craig Aho (NRCS – Stephenson Service Center) Amber Butterfield (Dickinson CD Manager)

Members Present (on phone): Darcy Rutkowski (UP RC&D)

Members Absent: Tracy Beckman (Lumberjack RC&D) Scott Goodwin (Florence Co. Land Conservation Dept.), Greg Cleereman (Marinette County Land and Water Conservation Department)

Staff: Lindsay Peterson (Coordinator), Katherine Mentel (WRISC Crew)

Meeting called to order at 10:01 am by B.Rice.

1. **Introductions** – Introductions were made as members that were present and on the phone were acknowledged.
2. **Approval of Agenda** – Motion to approve the agenda **as presented** was made by D.Peterson/J.Bournoville. Motion carried.
3. **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from the August 7, 2019 Meeting were presented. D.Peterson/J.Bournoville moved to accept the minutes **as presented**. Motion carried.
4. **Grants & Treasurer's Report** – A. Nelson has resigned from the Dickinson Conservation District. The District is in the process of hiring for the position. In the meantime, L.Peterson gave the financial report and presented a spreadsheet of updated grant funding as of **9/26/2019**. WRISC did receive confirmation of approval for a five-year WE Energies MEF project, as well as the FY19 Boatwash project. L.Peterson also noted that MISGP will possibly require an extension due to excess of funding, but deliverables are on track. The undesignated fund was reported at **\$1,424.14**. L.Peterson also thanked Shakey Lakes Association for their \$200 donation to WRISC! This will be reflected in the update at the next meeting. A motion to place the grant and treasurer's reports on file as presented was made by J.Bournoville/D.Peterson. Motion carried.
5. **Action Teams** – L.Peterson noted that the general consensus from previous meetings seemed to be that Action Teams did not need to meet regularly, but only as needed. However she encouraged further discussion among the Board to determine what content the Action Teams should be discussing, or how they should proceed. After some discussion, it was determined that the Action Teams do not need to meet regularly and can currently be allowed to sit inactive and can be called on for specific projects as needed. This flexibility is allowable by the WRISC Bylaws, however there was some mention of the Action Teams being present in Strategic Management Plan, yet the language is general enough to allow the teams to act as needed. L.Peterson thanked the Board for their thoughtful discussion on this topic.
6. **Project Updates/Reports** – L.Peterson worked through the Project Updates for the last several months.
 - a. WRISC attended a number of events over the past two months, including several workdays, meetings, area events, and more. There are more events coming up in the near future, including several environmental education events and workdays.
 - b. Most grants are continuing as expected and generally expenditures have been higher with field season. Although this will start to slow down as we wrap up field season and move into office work. Still awaiting final payment for the WDNR WMA grant. The MISGP grant is on track for deliverables with the exception of acreage, which is a bit behind going into this season, however there is some clarification required on whether the number of acres or number of sites is acceptable for this goal. There are a lot

of funds left in wages so an extension strategy will be discussed with project contact. The newest MEF grant has begun and many of those projects are well underway. The purple loosestrife beetles were raised but not many pupated. The surviving beetles were released in the Peshtigo area. The GLRI NNIS project is nearly complete, with only a few miles left to survey for this season. Installing signage will be the next focus for this project. The GLRI EPA grant is progressing well in most components, although insuring the vDASH has been a challenge. It was not able to be fully utilized this season as hoped but will be ready to use in the spring of 2020. Boatwash numbers are a bit behind this year because we lost CBCW staff early this season. Also only two of the boatwashes are operational at this point. There is some major maintenance that needs to be addressed and storage/winterization issues are still apparent. L.Peterson also discussed the sub-award opportunities that WRISC has available for the Counties and Partners. Forest County is ideally a good candidate for this sub-award. The GLRI Play Clean Go outreach project is progressing well and there have been more billboards, radio ads, and work on TV advertisements is underway. Not much work has occurred on the HWA grant, though training opportunities are slated for the late season. The Phragmites Cost Share project is underway with site visits having been conducted during the second week of July. Not much phragmites has been found due to the high water levels. Crews got close to the required acreage this year thanks to extra acreage outside of the cost-share program. UPRC&D was also awarded the Sustain Our Great Lakes phragmites project. D.Rutkowski provided an update on the grant project, which will expand the phragmites cost share into WRISC Wisconsin Counties. We did receive full funding for the Michigamme Purple Loosestrife grant project, which is a joint project with neighboring CISMAs. WRISC also submitted two MISGP proposals, one being CISMA Core Funding and one being a specific project involving the install of a CD3 waterless cleaning station.

- c. There have been some staffing changes since A.Butterfield has become District Manager. L.Peterson indicated that she would like to promote K.Mentel from the WRISC Strike Team to fill A.Butterfield's vacant position. This will be discussed later in the meeting.
- d. Late-season newsletter will be published soon.
- e. Online outreach has been a little quiet lately since wrapping up field season has consumed a bit of time.

7. **Old Business:**

a. **Partner Signatory Pages:**

- L.Peterson has received no new partner signatory pages at this time. Reminder letters will be sent out in the off season.

- ##### b. **Annual Meeting Planning:** L.Peterson asked for input on Annual Meeting planning, particularly the location. The general consensus was that Friday was still a good day to host the event on. It was suggested that the meeting possibly be held at a more central location, perhaps Governor Thompson State Park. It was also suggested that the event be more of a field demo or tour type format instead of a proper presentation meeting. This could highlight WRISC's "toolshed." Shakey Lakes Park was suggested as another potential venue for this type of event. L.Peterson and staff will brainstorm some more options for the event.

8. **New Business:**

- ##### a. **Staffing:** Due to A.Butterfield's departure from WRISC and transition to DCD Manager, L.Peterson would like to recommend that K.Mentel be promoted to the Project Manager position. K.Mentel has been with WRISC's Strike Team crew for two seasons now and is an exceptionally hard worker with a passion for this field of work. A motion to recommend the hiring of K.Mentel as part- to full-time WRISC Project Manager was made by D.Peterson/J.Bournoville. Motion carried.
- ##### b. **MOU Update:** It is time to review and update the WRISC MOU. This will involve resigning all 67 Partners. It was suggested that the Organizational Development team meeting to review past changes and the current document.

- c. **vDASH Policy – Initial Discussion:** L.Peterson initiated discussion of a policy for the operation of the vDASH. The goal of this discussion was to determine the overall concepts to be included in the policy, of how to utilize the equipment and how to do so fairly across the WRISC landscape. Also, need to consider how much time should be spent on vDASH management. Site prioritization is also a point of discussion. It was suggested that lakes should submit a formal application. It was also suggested that the EQIP ranking system through NRCS be reviewed as well to help with prioritization. Much discussion was had and L.Peterson encouraged the Board to continue to share ideas or feedback between meetings. Work on a policy will take place in the winter months.
- d. **Winter Storage:** Currently seeking winter storage options for WRISC equipment. There is some money for storage but the more affordable the better. L.Peterson will get the square footage of all equipment to help in the search for space. C.Peterson will look into some options at the Shakey Lakes Park. The broken boatwashes can be stored back in Florence.

9. Round Robin

- a. **Dick Peterson (Menominee County):** Lots of flooding over the last season with the record rainfall. European Marsh Thistle seems to be spreading aggressively with the wet conditions. Noted that it is interesting to see the effects of the high water on invasive species and what will happen when things return to normal.
- b. **Aaron McCullough (WI DNR):** Discussed new prioritization tool from WI DNR. Finishing phragmites treatments and fall burns are pending due to weather conditions. Conducted glossy buckthorn and spotted knapweed surveys in wildlife area.
- c. **Donna Beuchler (Menominee CD):** Looking to work on the Autumn Olive infestation at the Carney School Forest. WRISC is willing to help with a workday.
- d. **Craig Aho (NRCS – Stephenson Office):** Discussed EQIP program and lack of invasive species funding. Also mentioned RCPP grants through the Farm Bill that could allow for cost share opportunities.
- e. **Amber Butterfield (Dickinson CD):** Excited to be learning the new position with the District. Busy with grant reporting and upcoming audit.
- f. **Pam Schroeder (FCAL):** High water issues as well as large boats have been the primary issues for Forest County lakes. There are many AIS and erosion concerns associated with these issues. The FCAL Fall Forum was August 24th and 16 lakes were represented there. Ecology days was also a big success.
- g. No other updates were shared.

10. **Other Business:** The next WRISC Board Meeting will be held December 4th, 2019 in Florence County.

11. **Future Agenda Items:** No additional future agenda items were discussed at this time.

12. **Adjourn.** Motion by D.Peterson/J.Bournoville to adjourn at 12:19pm. Motion carried.

Minutes compiled and submitted by L.Peterson