

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



October 6th, 2021 10:00am

Stephenson, MI/Conference Call

Members Present (on phone): Bill Rice (Dickinson Conservation District), Steve Kircher (Forest County Conservation Dept.), Scott Goodwin (Florence County LCD), Dick Peterson (Lake Township, Menominee Co), Aaron McCullough (WDNR-Marquette), Bournoville (USFS), Larry Summers (Town of Lincoln), Tracy Beckman (Lumberjack RC&D)

Members Absent: Sarah Topp (Marquette County)

Guests: Charlene Peterson (Lake Township), Craig Aho (NRCS Soil Conservationist- Stephenson), Donna Buechler (Menominee CD), Nick Cassell (UPRC&D)

Staff: Lindsay Peterson (Coordinator), Katherine Mentel (Project Manager)

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am by S. Goodwin.

Board of Directors Meeting

1. **Approval of Agenda** – Motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by D. Peterson/B. Rice. **Motion carried.**
2. **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from the August 4th, 2021 Meeting were presented. A. McCullough/ D. Peterson moved to accept the minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**
3. **Grants & Treasurer's Report** – A. Butterfield led this portion of the meeting. Grants are on schedule. WRISC is beginning to ask for grant reimbursements. The HWA grant is the only one that is not reflected correctly on the sheet. The total will be higher. Also, WRISC will not be spending out the remaining funds for the HWA grant, so WRISC will be turning the rest back to Alger CD so the other groups can use the funds. WRISC undesignated funds remains at \$4,631.85. D. Peterson mentioned that some of the undesignated funds can be used for boat wash repairs in the spring. Motion to put the grant report on file made by B. Rice/ J. Bournoville. **Motion carried.**
4. **Project Updates/Reports**
 - a. **Events:** Since the last meeting, there have not been many events. WRISC did attend the West Shore Fishing Museum event in July. L. Peterson also attended the Invader Crusaders event in Wisconsin, where she received the award for WRISC. Next week is the AIS fall partnership conference, and L. Peterson will be presenting at that conference. WRISC will also be holding some school forest workdays in the upcoming weeks.
 - b. **Projects:**
 - i. The MISGP16 grant is almost fully spent out. The museum portion of the grant turned out nicely, but WRISC was left with some funds. L. Peterson is working with our technical contact to spend down the grant.
 - ii. The WE Energies grant is on track. The Strike Team funding is spent out. There is some PM money left, which will be used to input data. WRISC may still try to host some events this fall.
 - iii. The GLRI EPA grant is winding down. WRISC was able to do some vDASH work on Bass Lake this season and pull milfoil. All other deliverables have been met.
 - iv. For the CBCW grants, we did not utilize the boat washes, but the education went nicely. D. Nelson was able to get many boater contacts.
 - v. The HWA grant was extended through 2022. WRISC has a couple properties to survey this winter and some education and outreach.
 - vi. The Life After Phrag grant had a lot of participation this year from landowners. Almost 50 landowners signed up. Overall, the grant is on track.

- vii. The SOGL Life After Phrag grant was extended into next year, so WRISC did not fully focus on this grant. For the WI sites, WRISC just did follow-up treatments.
- viii. The Loose the Loosetrife grant is a five-year project, and we are in year two. All the participating groups were able to hire crew this year and complete at least one river run.
- ix. The main portion of the MISGP Core grant is on track. The Wild Parsnip portion did not go as planned due to permitting issues. WRISC will be working on obtaining a permit this winter.
- x. The USFS GLRI CWMA grant is behind due to covid preventing in-person trainings. The focus of this grant was school forest workdays and landowner trainings. WRISC will try to make up the trainings this fall or extend grant.
- xi. THE USFS Pathways grant has just started. This grant pertains to outreach, so WRISC will be making training videos and other materials.
- xii. The contract for the WI DNR Buffer Project was just given to WRISC. L. Peterson is waiting to here back on the timeline for what needs to be done.
- xiii. The WE Energies Pathways Prevention grant included the Invasive trade-up days. Next season, WRISC will be doing more of the lake monitoring.
- xiv. The EFB grant got a late start this season, as the staff had to attend a training mid-season. Since then, the Strike Team has been conducting surveys, focusing on lower Menominee Co.
- xv. The proposal to treat phragmites UP wide was just awarded through the EPA. This grant will target Phragmites in the Lake Superior Watershed. WRISC is partnered on this grant with the UPRC&D and the MIDNR.
- xvi. The EDRR grant for Yellow Floating Heart and Graceful Cattail was put on hold as the landowners have been successfully keeping it at bay for now.
- xvii. L. Peterson is working on the new MISGP Core grant, which is due November 1st. This will be mainly for staff funding.
- c. **Staffing:** K. Hafeman has recently resigned from WRISC. For seasonal Strike Team, only M. Schinderle remains. L. Peterson is not looking to fill the PM position in the off-season.
- d. **Social Media:** WRISC has had great outreach recently, in part from the video campaign with TV6.
- e. **Comments:** S. Goodwin mentioned that getting the vDASH out earlier in the season could prevent some of the problems associated with the vDASH.

5. Old Business

- a. **MOU Update:** There have been one or two new letters received from the last meeting. L. Peterson and K. Mentel will be working on getting the remaining letters back.
- b. **Annual Work Plan Update:** L. Peterson did not get a chance to fully update the treatment sheet, as it mainly needed treatment numbers. Final treatment numbers should be done by the December meeting.

6. New Business

- a. **Board Member Adjustment:** S. Topp is taking a new position with Trout Unlimited, which is not a formal partner with WRISC yet. L. Peterson is hoping to get Trout Unlimited to sign on as a formal partner, so S. Topp can remain on the board. For right now, the membership for S. Topp may have to be suspended. The Board is thinking about giving Trout Unlimited to sign on by the next BOD meeting so S. Topp can remain a Board member.

7. Round Robin

- a. A. Butterfield mentioned that the DCD was able to offer a position for a new forester. The DCD is also working on a five-year plan, and the district also received funding from the state through the MI budget.
- b. A. McCullough said the WI DNR just finished up their phragmites treatments and are working on EFB in Marinette. There is one large patch that will have to be sprayed next season, as it is too late right now.
- c. S. Kircher said that Forest County completed some water surveys in the Tri-County service area. S. Kircher is getting a lot of reports from citizen scientists about PL sightings. S. Kircher also had an infestation of JK that did not come back. Forest County is getting ready to write their first soil sampling grant.

- d. L. Summers added that he enjoys being part of WRISC and is looking forward to meeting everyone in person.
 - e. B. Rice is excited that the DCD received funding from the State of MI.
 - f. D. Peterson said Menominee County has been dry and the water table is down. Sturgeon season has just ended and many that were caught were quite small. They are looking forward to the upcoming rain.
 - g. N. Cassell mentioned that the EPA Phragmites grant was just awarded. This new grant will focus on the Lake Superior Watershed.
 - h. J. Bournoville said that he is working on end-of-year reporting and data entry. He was able to have a full seasonal staff.
 - i. T. Beckman said Lumberjack RC&D has a upcoming meeting and will be deciding on grant recipients then. TIP just ended their season but were not able to hire a summer technician. They are applying for a Landscape Restoration project for 9 counties in WI that WRISC is partnered on.
 - j. Florence County wrapped up their CBCW season end of August. They did a beetle release for PL and also received one new Lake Monitoring person from the bar coasters.
- 8. Other Business:** L. Peterson was asked to be on the panel for the Lumberjack RC&D Sustainable Forestry conference, but the date would coincide with a WRISC April BOD meeting. After some discussion, the BOD decided that this would be a valuable conference for WRISC to attend and so they support bumping the April meeting back one week. Motion to move the April BOD Meeting to April 13th was made by A. McCullough/ T. Beckman. **Motion Carried.** The next WRISC board meeting will be December 1st, 2021 at 10:00AM. The meeting will be held at the Natural Resource Center in Florence, WI, and there will also be a call-in option.
- 9. Future Agenda Items:** There were no future agenda items discussed at this time.
- 10. Adjourn.** Motion by D. Peterson/ J. Bournoville to adjourn at 11:10AM. **Motion carried.**

Minutes compiled and submitted by Katherine Mentel & Lindsay Peterson

***Minutes approved - S. Kircher/ D. Peterson moved to accept the minutes as presented December 1st, 2021.
Motion carried.***