

WRISC Project Update

Submitted by WRISC Coordinator, Lindsay Peterson
April 3, 2024 BOD Meeting
Marinette County



Recent Events

- NR40 Public Information Sessions – multiple dates
- Marinette Harbor Commission Meeting – February 15th – Marinette
- NISAW – February 25th – March 2nd
- Environmental Health Conference – February 27-29th – Bark River, MI
- Region 1 Strategic Planning meetings – multiple dates
- IM/Kingsford Women’s Club Presentation – March 1st – Iron Mountain, MI
- WI Lakes & Rivers Partnership Meeting – March 5th – virtual
- Glacier Gardeners Presentation – March 11th – Florence, WI
- Kingsford High School Enviro Science Class Presentation – March 14th – Kingsford, MI
- Spotted Lanternfly Stakeholder Meeting – March 25th – virtual
- *Several webinars and/or online meetings*

Upcoming Events

- Spring EFB Collaborative meeting – April 4
- Landowner Trainings: Menominee County – April 6
- Home, Cabin, & Garden Show – April 12-14
- UP Invasive Species Conference – April 16-17
- Millie Hill Garlic Mustard Pull – April 21
- DCD Tree Sale – April 22-27
- WI CISMA Meeting – May 1
- IM School Forest Workday – May 5
- Marinette Co Trade Up Days – May 6-10
- Dickinson Co Trade Up Days – May 13-18
- CLMP Training – Iron Co – May 18
- Strawberry Lake Garlic Mustard Pull – May 21
- Red Arrow Park Garlic Mustard Pull – May 23
- Play Clean Go Week – June 1-8
- WRISC Annual Meeting – June 5
- *Other events being planned for Summer 2024*

Grants:

Red = Ending / Recently Closed; **Orange** = Pending Proposal; **Green** = New / Recently Awarded;

Blue = Existing Award; **Purple** = OTHER/MISC.

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. COVID-19 disrupted planning for this project, but we are hoping to get this back on track. Project teams have since regrouped and have been able to make progress on field activities, with all groups completing river runs this season last season and on track to complete mapping and management runs this season. Project team leads have met to assess the budget, and a request for an extension to this project timeline has been submitted.

WE Energies 2022 – Sustainable Programming for IS Management

\$107,000 for 2023-2025

This project began in January 2023

The focus of this project is to develop and implement a cost-share program specifically for long-term management (retreatment) while also supporting long-standing programs to be more successful and sustainable. It will also allow the construction of a purple loosestrife biocontrol rearing station, supplies for which had been delayed in the spring and will likely be purchased and constructed in the fall.

GLRI – Boat Wash

WRISC Boatwash FY20: WRISC Boatwash

Awarded: \$39,000;

Deliverables: 3,000 boater contacts

This project ended sooner than anticipated this season due to the high level of mileage reimbursements being distributed to staff as they used their own vehicles due to lack of trucks. Final report was submitted in March to close out the project.

USFS GLRI CBCW

This project was set to start in 2024 but was initiated late in 2023 season due to the high demand on the previous project for mileage reimbursements.

This project will continue in 2024 with some careful budget monitoring to ensure the early start to spending does not impact this year's efforts.

USFS Template 7a: Pathway Education: Public Outreach Campaign

Request: \$18,000

The goal of this outreach campaign will be to raise awareness of pathways and prevention of invasive species in a “call to action” effort. WRISC continued to implement billboard campaigns this summer, along with radio PSAs. WRISC has been planning field videos and doing some filming as well as maintaining social media channels.

USFS CWMA Funding – Buffer Zone Project

Funded: \$50,000 Total Project: \$64,370

This project began in January 2023.

The focus of this project is to map “buffer zones” around all federal & state land and natural areas and prioritize survey and treatment within those zones, while promoting invasive species prevention messaging. Some survey and control work has been conducted in 2023 in tandem with the WI DNR SOGL project.

EPA UPRC&D Partner Project – UP Wide Phragmites

This project has been extended again through December 2024. WRISC has completed most committed survey efforts, which focuses mainly the northern half of Dickinson Co., but prioritized outlier populations and has some flexibility. WRISC has been conducting surveys and implementing treatment work in Sept-Oct 2024.

MISGP Core Funding 2022 - Extended

Awarded – \$91,700

The Core project, Oriental Bittersweet EDR, and European Frog-bit survey and management funds were fully awarded. The Wild Parsnip fund was not awarded.

Crews have been conducting some surveys for both survey/treatment projects and core funds have been funding CISMA operations.

WRISC requested and was granted an extension for this project. Project will run through December 2024.

Michigan DNR Hemlock Woolly Adelgid EDR Survey Funding

Sub-award – \$14,300; October 2023 – May 2024

WRISC received sub-award funding from the MI DNR to conduct a limited amount of early detection surveys for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) during the 2023-2024 winter season. WRISC is in the process of adjusting budget for this award.

MISGP Core Funding for 2024 - AWARDED!

Awarded - \$70,000

Operational funding, including primarily core staff time (coordinator, project manager x 2) along with annual supplies and some seasonal staff time.

UPRC&D – MISGP Priority Funding – HWA Surveys – AWARDED!

Awarded - \$91,800* (reduced from 3-year \$337,800 proposal to 1-year \$91,800 award)

Partner project with UP RC&D, Lake 2 Lake & Three Shores CISMAs. Unfortunately reduced and excluded WePIC and KISMA. Will focus on HWA surveys within priority 5-mile target zone near Lake Michigan Shoreline in Menominee Co.

WRISC Proposals

GLRI CWMA – Proposal Submitted - October 2023

GLRI Landscape Scale Restoration – Proposal Submitted November 2023

Early Detection Rapid Response project: Flowering Rush – Proposal flexible

WE Energies – Mitigation & Enhancement Fund (MEF) – Proposal Submitted March 2024

Partner Proposals

UPRC&D – NOAA Project – Phragmites Coastal Restoration – Proposal Submitted November 2023

Misc.

Staffing: WRISC has officially hired three new seasonals for the 2024 season, B. Martonen & R. Henes will also be returning this year. WRISC will be looking to fill the project manager position in the fall, potentially keeping on one of the seasonals.

Newsletters/Articles: Annual newsletter was published on the website in early February. WRISC will look to have another newsletter in the summer. Newspaper articles were published during NISAW and more will be scheduled throughout the summer.

Website/Facebook/Instagram: The website will be undergoing further updates, so please be patient and aware of pages that may be changing or under construction at times.

K. Mentel has been doing an amazing job at keeping WRISC's social media running. Instagram has received several updates throughout the last period and currently has **491 followers**. Facebook received several updates as well and has seen some great feedback and engagement. The WRISC Facebook page has continued to grow, going from **924 likes and 1,121 followers** (at the last meeting) to **939 likes and 1,149 followers** at the end of March.

WRISC has also been seeing great response on TikTok. We have **81 followers**, and have gotten 1,337 views and **52 likes** in the last month.

Total reach for our online pages (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, & website) for the past month (March 2024) has been a great start to the new year! Overall, social media activity **reached a total of 6,525 people**.

The Facebook page generally sees great reach whenever something is posted. Our top-performing posts from the last period are included below:

Post Insights



In honor of #MarchMadness, WRISC has created the **INVASIVE GAMES!** In a battle to become the 2024 "Wor..."

Published by Katherine Mentel · March 6 at 8:41 AM ·

Post Impressions ⓘ

461

Post reach ⓘ

451

Engagement ⓘ

67