

## WRISC Project Update

Submitted by WRISC Coordinator, Lindsay Peterson  
August 3rd, 2022 BOD Meeting  
Forest County



### **Recent Events**

- UW Green Bay Marinette – Phragmites Planning Meeting – August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- European Frog Bit workday – August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- Wisconsin Land + Water – North Central Area Association Summer Tour and Meeting– August 12, 2022
- Dickinson CD Open House – August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- UP CISMA Quarterly Meeting – September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- MISC Ad hoc Coordinator Response Team meeting – September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- Marinette Environmental Days – September 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- Menominee 5<sup>th</sup> Grad Environmental Day – October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- Several webinars and/or online conferences

### **Upcoming Events**

- Cowboy Lake Workday w/ KHS – October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- Upper Midwest Invasives Species Conference (UMISC) – October 25-27<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- Iron Mountain School Forest Workday – November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- *Other events being planned*

### **Grants:**

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

### **WE Energies MEF - Pathway Prevention and Assessment**

Awarded August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 for full amount of \$91,000 for 2021-2022

This project funded strike team efforts in 2022 but also the implementation of inland lake monitoring for AIS and provided integrated management. Project will also continue to target private landscapes. Offered invasive trade-in events in the spring and continue to offer restoration efforts/education. Lake monitoring was a primary focus in 2022 and is mostly wrapped up.

### **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 regrouped for 2022 and have been able to make progress on field activities, with all groups completing river runs this season. Project team leads will be meeting this fall to ensure the project is progressing appropriately for all partners.

## **GLRI – Boat Wash**

### [WRISC Boatwash FY20: WRISC Boatwash](#)

Awarded! \$39,000;

Deliverables: 3,000 boater contacts

WRISC staff were regularly stationed at landings throughout the region conducting watercraft inspection and offering education. Early numbers are looking better for this season than the last couple of years. Data will be fully entered into SWIMS in the next month or so. WRISC is also considering developing and distributing a public program survey to better assess WRISC's longstanding CBCW program and where improvements can be made.

### [USFS GLRI CBCW – AWARDED!](#)

A project agreement has been developed for this project.

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

Request: \$40,000    Match: \$30,800

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.

The modification request for this project was approved and WRISC has worked to get the activities and deliverables back on track for this project.

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

Request: \$23,000

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 has started work on this project and will be implementing the billboard campaigns this summer, along with field videos and more. WRISC recently received campaign data from the TV6 ads that were run and the reach was impressive! Some billboard spaces are already slated for next year as well.

## **MISGP Core Funding: Seeking Sustainability through CISMA Balance – Extended thru Dec 2022**

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

WRISC Coordinator has been working with technical contacts on reworking this project and associated funding. This project has successfully been extended and will continue to fund CISMA operation and management associated with Wild Parsnip.

The wild parsnip portion of this project was limited by the difficulty in obtaining a permit from MDOT. Funds allocated for treatment that were not used are being redistributed toward Wild Parsnip awareness and education efforts, primarily youth focused outreach for schools.

### **MISGP Core Funding 2022 – AWARDED!**

This project kicked off in the mid-spring and has been progressing well. This was a smaller award amount since we were going to be overlapping Core funds. Coordinator and Project Manager have both been exploring the Non-profit Learning Lab resources and attending various trainings/webinars. WRISC intends to do more of this in the off-season, as well as pursuing a non-profit consultation.

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

WRISC has partnered on this project proposal with UP RC&D, WI DNR, and other area stakeholders. This project will again focus on phragmites cost share efforts, with additional focus on WI coastal areas as well. Treatments have pretty much wrapped up for this season, which was successful.

### **Sustain Our Great Lakes (SOGL) Category 5 Proposal: WDNR Natural Area Buffer Project –Partner 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. Project subaward contract was received and submitted in fall 2021. WRISC has begun work on this project by organizing field work for fall 2022, including data collection and soliciting landowner permissions from adjacent landowners.

### **MISGP UP RC&D – UP-Wide European Frog Bit Early Detection Project – Partner Project**

- Awarded! Approx. \$30,000 subaward for WRISC
- Project began in June 2021

WRISC has focused on conducting several surveys in the Menominee area, focusing attention on WRISC's southern border especially after new occurrences of EFB in Marinette and Oconto counties. Coordinator has been participating in EFB planning meetings in both states. The yearly MI EFB training for UP staff was in June in Marinette County and was a great collaborative training for MI and WI folks. WRISC staff spent several days surveying for EFB this season and found several new locations in Michigan (Menominee Co.) which were removed upon discovery. This project ends in April 2023.

### **EPA UPRC&D Partner Proposal – UP Wide Phragmites Project – Awarded!**

This project has already been extended through September 2024. WRISC has started some survey effort towards this project, which focuses mainly on the Lake Superior watershed, so includes primarily the northern half of Dickinson Co., but prioritized outlier populations and has some flexibility.

### **USFS GLRI Education – AWARDED!**

Project agreement has been submitted.

### **USFS CWMA Funding – AWARDED!**

Project agreement has been submitted.

## **WE Energies 2022 – AWARDED! \$107,000 For 2023-2025**

This project was just awarded on August 2, 2022

## **MISGP Core Funding – Proposal Due November 1st, 2022**

## **WI EDRR Grant – Yellow Floating Heart & Graceful Cattail – Postponed, will reassess if needed next season**

### **Misc.**

**Staffing:** In July, T.Norris was offered a full time year round project manager position with WRISC, which he accepted. All seasonal crew have completed their time with WRISC for 2022. WRISC will be posting for 2023 seasonal positions in January 2023.












**Newsletters/Articles:** WRISC has published a couple of articles in the last period, primarily grant required topics such as Phragmites or EFB. The WRISC commercial and cleaning videos have been distributed in various ways, including an ad campaign through WLUC TV6.

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

Katherine 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 **370 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 **647 likes and 865 followers** (at the last meeting) to **684 likes and 854 followers** at the end of September.

Total reach for our online pages (Facebook, Instagram, & website) for the past two months has been great! Overall, social media activity **reached a total of 6,165 people!** Facebook has **changed how they monitor and report reach/engagement on their platforms so these numbers and the way we present them may change in the future.**

The Facebook page in particular generally sees great reach whenever something is posted. A list of posts from the last period, with reach and engagement numbers, is included below:

	<p>WRISC has been working to wrap up Phragmites management in our counties this week. It is great to see the progress from year to year on the sites we revisit!</p> <p>Fri, Sep 30</p>	Post reach 77	Engagement 10
	<p>--</p> <p>Tue, Sep 27</p>	Post reach 85	Engagement 4
	<p>Governor Witmer has officially declared the week of September 18-25 as #TrailsWeek in Michigan! Michigan has over 13,400 beautiful miles of trails in the state and we encourage everyone to get out this week and enjoy some of them. Whether you enjoy hiking, biking, walking, running, horseback riding, off-road vehicle use, snowmobiling, cross-country...</p> <p>Thu, Sep 22</p>	Post reach 80	Engagement 4
	<p>WRISC is gearing up for Phragmites management throughout the WRISC service area as part of the UP Phragmites Coalition. If you think you have phragmites on your property, give us a call today!</p> <p>Fri, Sep 16</p>	Post reach 55	Engagement 5
	<p>Invasive Knotweed is a prevalent problem in the WRISC area! Every year, the number of survey sites we find is increasing and right now, WRISC has around 300 sites recorded on the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network (MISIN). While Japanese Knotweed is the most common knotweed found in our area, this poster can help you identify the other three...</p> <p>Thu, Sep 15</p>	Post reach 2172	Engagement 110
	<p>This fall, don't let your dogs carry the burden of invasive species alone. Whether hiking, hunting, or just playing in your yard, check your dogs periodically for sticky seeds and burs. In the fall, many invasive species like Burdock and Houndstongue produce sticker seeds that get caught in clothing, on shoes, and in our pets' fur. Though it can be tedious...</p> <p>Wed, Sep 14</p>	Post reach 277	Engagement 29
	<p>We have recently welcomed Tyler Norris to the WRISC Team! Read all about it below!</p> <p>Fri, Sep 9</p>	Post reach 194	Engagement 32
	<p>Want to learn more about invasive Phragmites? Check out this post by the UP Resource Conservation and Development Council!</p> <p>Fri, Aug 19</p>	Post reach 221	Engagement 25
	<p>Last week, the highly invasive Spotted Lantern Fly was spotted for the first time in Michigan. It was found in Pontiac in Oakland County. Spotted lanternfly prefers to feed on the invasive tree-of-heaven, but will also feed on a wide range of plants including grapes, and other trees such as black walnut, river birch, willow, sumac, and red maple. When feeding,...</p> <p>Fri, Aug 12</p>	Post reach 113	Engagement 7
	<p>Such a fun event!</p> <p>Mon, Aug 8</p>	Post reach 139	Engagement 19
	<p>If you have been seeing a lot of pretty, purple-pink flowers on the roadsides this year, you may actually be looking at the highly invasive Purple Loosestrife plant. Purple Loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria) is originally native to Eurasia, but was introduced to the United States in the 1800s through ballast water or the ornamental plant trade. Since then, it has spread...</p> <p>Mon, Aug 8</p>	Post reach 679	Engagement 215