

WRISC Project Update

Submitted by WRISC Coordinator, Lindsay Peterson
BOD Meeting 12-4-2019
Florence, WI



Recent Events

- Marinette Environmental Days – October 3
- Cowboy Lake Workday – October 4
- NRCS Training Event – October 10
- Iron Mountain Environmental Club Workday – November 3
- HWA Survey Training – November 5, 6
- Phragmites Steering Committee – November 13
- HWA Team Meeting – November 14
- MI Paddle Stewards Meeting – November 21
- GLRI CWMA Grant Webinar – December 3

Upcoming Events

- MISC Annual Meeting – December 10-11, Gaylord, MI
- Phragmites Steering Committee – December 20
- Dickinson CD Annual Meeting – January 25, Norway MI

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 close to being 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)

Deliverables are on track for this project. There were only a few acres left to contribute to this project, a few miles of trail to survey, a couple stream crossings to monitor, and some signage to install. Workdays for this project focused on recreational hygiene and that has been well received by various age groups. This grant may require an extension for only a month or two to spend down the funding and wrap up reporting.

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](#)

Awarded! \$35,401; 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.

WRISC Invasive Species Pathways Education, Play Clean Go

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

Billboards were all rented and two locations were up from mid-June through mid-July, with the remaining ones up in August and September. We will be focusing on getting some TV coverage as well and have started working with a local videographer. Also listen for our radio ads and PSAs. WRISC Coordinator has also been participating on the Play Clean Go Eastern Expansion Advisory Council to help expand the PCG messaging to eastern states and develop new materials. We recently renewed our PCG Partnership at the Advocate level.

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 staff attended a survey training in Lower Michigan in November. WRISC Coordinator and other project leads are working to finalize documents for landowner mailings to secure properties for survey activities. Surveys will take place over the course of the winter as weather permits.

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.

AWARDED! 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.

AWARDED! 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 this winter.

MISGP Core Funding: Seeking Sustainability through CISMA Balance

- Amount Requested: \$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.

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.

Other Projects:

- WRISC is developing a proposal for the GLRI CWMA funding opportunity.
- WRISC has been contacted by CD3 again to potentially pursue funding through WI Surface Waters Planning Grant at the February deadline.

Misc.


































Staffing: WRISC crews have wrapped up field work for the season and have been busy with data management and reporting. Staffing is settling into place after recent changes and everyone is looking forward to a productive winter season. We will be looking at posting seasonal positions in February and these will be presented at the next meeting.

Newsletters/Articles: Fall newsletter was published in mid-October. Radio ads are being aired. Some project articles will be published as well now that work has wrapped up for the season. End of season newsletter will be published around the New Year.

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 exploring changing website providers once our subscription with the current one is due for renewal.

Despite not being as active, the WRISC website had **272 page views** in the last 60 days. Facebook has received more consistent updates over the last period and has seen great reach and engagement! The WRISC Facebook page continues to grow, having gone from **321 likes** (at the last meeting) to **330 likes** at the end of November. Total reach for our Facebook page for the past two months has been great, and page activity **reached a total of 2,706 people**. While the page generally sees great reach whenever something is posted, a list of posts with reach and engagement numbers are included:

Reach: Organic / Paid
Post Clicks
Reactions, Comments & Shares

Published	Post	Type	Targeting	Reach	Engagement	Promote
11/21/2019 8:09 AM	 Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition			64	3 4	Boost Post
11/14/2019 10:02 AM	 We just adore working dogs (okay...all dogs)! Check out this great			689	34 41	Boost Post
11/13/2019 10:10 AM	 Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition			68	3 3	Boost Post
11/09/2019 11:15 AM	 This is too true! Throughout the WRISC area, we only have 4 known			321	38 25	Boost Post
11/08/2019 8:39 AM	 WRISC had a great time this week at our (snowy) downstate training for			87	32 5	Boost Post
11/05/2019 9:04 PM	 On Sunday, WRISC wrapped up our 2019 field season the same way we			300	30 15	Boost Post
10/31/2019 1:12 PM	 Happy Halloween from WRISC! ... #wrisc #wildriverisc #invasivespecies			111	2 8	Boost Post
10/23/2019 11:49 AM	 Sometimes there is hope. New York has seen success in their battle			216	10 6	Boost Post
10/17/2019 1:26 PM	 Check out our Fall 2019 WRISC Newsletter, featuring stories on			141	8 6	Boost Post
10/15/2019 9:50 PM	 It was a dark and stormy day, but that didnt stop the WRISC crew from			392	19 21	Boost Post
10/08/2019 11:59 AM	 Going camping? Your #firewood choices matter- buy local wood or			123	11 11	Boost Post