

WRISC Project Update

Submitted by WRISC Coordinator, Lindsay Peterson
BOD Meeting 10-7-2020
TELECONFERENCE ONLY



Recent Events

- Several Cancelled Events

Upcoming Events

- Not currently planning or seeking events
- NAISMA Conference – October 6th to 8th (online)
- UMISC Conference – November 2nd to 6th (online)

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 – RESUMED!

Formal extension was approved through July 2020. A budget discrepancy was noticed on both the State's end and ours but we are working to reassess remaining project funds. Once this is straightened out we will be requesting an advance on the remaining grant funds up to the last 10% to assist with cash flow demands while spending out the remaining grant funds.

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 has been launched and promoted throughout the last several months, but it's been challenging to rouse a volunteer force during this time. This fund allows for treatment of priority species throughout the entire watershed/WRISC area and has been valuable funding for our Strike Team this season. Staff have been working on treatments and field work throughout the season as able.

GLRI-EPA-ISC: Menominee River Watershed – Invasive Species Detection & Control

Extension approved – December 30, 2020

The vDASH was utilized this season on Barrens Lake in the Spread Eagle Barrens and was successful! As far as other deliverables are concerned, there is some more trail surveying to be done in this late season but treatment acreage is on track to be fully completed after this season. We will be looking at another extension for this project since we still have money left in wages, after not being able to hire a seasonal crew and current staff not working full time throughout the shut-down.

GLRI – Boat Wash

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. Began pulling money from this grant in 2020. Restrictions on the CBCW programs were lifted earlier in the season and we followed guidance on how to carefully conduct watercraft inspections. Also, produced an online training video walking through the new guidance for lake groups and others. Traffic was fairly busy overall for the season.

WRISC Boatwash FY20: WRISC Boatwash

Awarded! \$39,000;

Deliverables: 3,000 boater contacts

Have submitted Operating and Financial Plans

WI SeaGrant CBCW Assistance

Agreed to assist WI SeaGrant on several landings in/near our area for up to 200hrs or about \$4,000.

UP Multi-CISMA HWA Survey Project (MISGP, Administered by Alger CD) – RESUMED!

Work will resume this coming Fall/Winter 2020. When speaking with Alger CD, they were hoping to get the project extended through next spring to allow for match and educational outreach deliverables/commitments to be met. No other updates at this time.

Life After Phragmites: Wetland Restoration & Landowner Stewardship (MISGP, Administered by UP RC&D) – RESUMED!

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. An initial planning meeting for 2020 season took place and some sites were identified for treatment. The Subaward was also adjusted to reflect actual expenses so far and some predicted reduction in the coming year. After the funding freeze, we are now trying to spend the MISGP fund down first, however we had set up many WI treatments that will not be covered by this fund.

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. UP RC&D has discussed project adjustments with SOGL grantors and we are moving forward with this project for 2020. Cost share site visit mailings have been sent out to over 100 targeted sites throughout WRISC's counties.

There has been low response rate so far on this project. WRISC has conducted several site visits and many of the WI treatments at this point and will likely meet the WI acreage deliverable of 7.5 acres, but may struggle with the MI acreage of 15 acres.

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 took place in March and sub-awards were sent to project partners. COVID-19 has disrupted planning for this project, but we are hoping to get this back on track. WRISC and WePIC ran their sections of river, but Lake 2 Lake was unable to make a run this year due to limited staffing and spending restrictions. Project teams will regroup after the field/reporting season wraps up and make plans for the next year.

MISGP Core Funding: Seeking Sustainability through CISMA Balance – RESUMED! For 2021

- AWARDED! \$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. This project has been delayed until January 2021.

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. Efforts effectively build on WRISC's momentum throughout the area, allowing for continued benefit to the Menominee River Watershed & its natural communities. This project is just getting underway.

AWARDED! 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. This project has not started yet and we may delay efforts until next year so they are more effective, as outreach is difficult at this time.

Sustain Our Great Lakes (SOGL) Category 5 Proposal: WDNR Natural Area Buffer Project – AWARDED! 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. Just found out the WDNR did receive this funding and initial project meetings will be taking place soon!

WE Energies MEF - Pathway Prevention and Assessment – AWARDED!

Awarded August 4th, 2020 for full amount of \$91,000 for 2021–2022

Awaiting project contract

- This project will fund strike team efforts but also implement inland lake monitoring for AIS and provide integrated management. Project will also target private landscapes and offer invasive trade-in events and restoration efforts/education.

Misc.

Staffing: With funding freezes and cancellation of Dickinson CD’s Tree Sale, WRISC decided there was too much uncertainty to hire new staff this year and instead is focused on maintaining current team members. Current team members (K.Hafeman and K.Mentel) are doing amazing at keeping the field season going and have been integral in the survival of WRISC through these uncertain times!

Newsletters/Articles: WRISC has been working on a newsletter and will publish shortly.

Website/Facebook/Instagram: The WRISC website has been completely rebuilt and the new version is now live! Please check it out and share the website. If there are any broken links, or issues noticed on the page, please let us know. The new website is still young and there may be some issues still as well as continued updates. Instagram has received a few updates throughout the last period and currently has **212 followers**. Facebook received some updates despite the shutdown, but hasn’t been particularly active lately. The page has seen good reach and engagement when posts are made though! The WRISC Facebook page continues to grow, having gone from **357 likes** (at the last meeting) to **382 likes** at the end of September. Total reach for our Facebook page for the past two months has been alright, but dropped off in August due to shutdowns and lack of updates but has started to rebound in September. Overall, page activity **reached a total of 1,098 people**. While the page generally sees great reach whenever something is posted, a list of posts from the last period, with reach and engagement numbers, is included below:

Published	Post	Type	Targeting	Reach	Engagement	Promote
09/23/2020 4:28 PM	We are all holding on to these last few nice days, hoping summer will			503	25 12	
09/14/2020 10:25 AM	Check out PlayCleanGo's new ambassador! The greatest			74	3 6	
09/04/2020 11:34 AM	In addition to riding safe and remembering to			69	2 5	
09/01/2020 11:15 AM	Looking to learn a little more about your local lakes? Check out the			57	3 1	
08/26/2020 11:00 AM	We have noticed this in our area as well and actually use it to our			42	4 0	
08/25/2020 2:10 PM	Taking your four-legged furry friends on an outdoor adventure?			64	1 5	
08/17/2020 1:52 PM	Looking for a different outdoor activity to help you get out and enjoy			66	6 5	
08/05/2020 12:24 PM	An unfortunate find for Wisconsin, but a reminder to stay vigilant for			77	6 5	