WRISC Project Update

Submitted by WRISC Coordinator, Lindsay Peterson BOD Meeting 2-6-2019 Kingsford, MI



Recent Events

- AIS Water Trail Paddle Grant meeting December 6, 2018
- MISC Annual Meeting December 11-12, 2018
- MISC Core Team Presentation: UP Wild Parsnip January 15
- Play Clean Go Advisory Council January 15
- Dickinson Conservation District Annual Meeting January 19
- MISC Core Team subcommittee meeting January 25
- Water Trail Paddle Grant meeting January 29
- North Central WI Land+Water Event February 1

Upcoming Events

- NMU Summer Job Fair February 13, 2019
- MiCorps CLMP Lake Monitoring Training May 8, 2019
- Several webinars and trainings are starting to come up

Grants:

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

WI DNR WMA Grant (2016-June 2018) – EXTENDED to JUNE 2019

The additional surveys committed in the extension of this project have been completed and the final reports for the additional landowners have been developed and delivered. We are in the process of finishing a draft of the landowner management guide which we will present to the board when complete.

MISGP FY2016: WRISC Strategic Management Plan Project (2017-2019)

These funds pay for Coordinator ½ time and supply Project Manager and summer crew wages. This grant involves the re-write of the Strategic Management Plan. The project also highlights monitoring in riverine settings as well as expanded cooperation with industrial and civic partners.

Goals are on track as we completed Year 2 of 3 for this project. Not as many wages have been pulled from this grant recently as more has been drawn from MEF to use up those funds before the end of the grant. For treatments, many if not all of the Michigan sites fall under this grant for acreage with the exception of a few specific ones. Treatment acreage was up this year compared to year one but there is still more to be done in the next season. Reporting was completed in October.

WE Energies MEF Strike Team II (2017-2018)

Extension requested & approved

This grant funds Coordinator hours ½ time and funds summer crew wages. This grant focuses on invasive species management across the WRISC area as well as incorporating more professional partners in these management efforts. Grant efforts are on track for this project.

An extension request was approved for this project so that remaining funds can be drawn down. We will use the money to do some ordering and to develop higher quality reports including updated distribution mapping which will posted to the website. This funding is helping to keep both project managers funded through the winter.

WE Energies MEF Expanding Community, Capacity, and Collaboration for Invasive Control: AWARDED!

AWARDED Full Funding as of August 23rd, 2018. Project agreement received January 8, 2019

This proposal 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).

Work will begin on this project shortly now that the agreement has been received. First work to be conducted will be the beginning development of a volunteer program and we will be seeking input from the action teams on this.

GLRI-USFS-CWMA: Targeting Invasives on Trails and Crossings in the Menominee River Watershed (2017-2019) (aka GLRI NNIS)

Project targets a new user group for WRISC – ATV/ORV groups. Work has begun on targeted outreach/education materials. Deliverables are on track for this project. Acreage was lagging behind a bit at the beginning of the season but many acres were contributed this year and put this project back on track.

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

Extension to be requested

Grant is similar to the USFS-CWMA GLRI project, but expanded. With this grant, we hope to do similar work with ATV/ORV trails, but also maintain some aquatic work as well, such as boat landing and road/stream crossing surveys for both terrestrial and aquatic invasives.

An extension request for this project is going to be made shortly mainly to accommodate the vDASH work, which is not quite on track due to assembly and purchasing delays, but has made tremendous progress. Diver equipment has been ordered and procured, and divers lined up for an education session in the spring to obtain certification. The DASH unit is in storage for the season but will be worked on through the winter to get it operational for the 2019 season.

GLRI - Boat Wash

Several of the boatwash units have returned from Escanaba where they were repaired. Those repaired and winterized have been moved to the WI DNR Fisheries cold storage building in Florence, although we are still waiting on the storage agreement.

End of season numbers are looking good for activities this year, with deliverables for all active grants on pace.

FY16 (17-PA...)

This grant funded staff throughout the summer, as well as Florence county staff through sub-award. The remaining funds in this project were used to repair the units and buy new adapter/parts as well as storage covers/tarps.

This project is now closed.

WRISC Boatwash FY17: Blocking the Recreational Boat Pathway

Awarded! \$37,000 (\$33,850 after overhead) Contract Signed

Continue operating portable high pressure heated boatwash units at public boat ramps and fishing tournaments in the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC) management area, which consists of 5 counties within the Lake Michigan Watershed in Michigan and Wisconsin. Continue to support public education by WRISC staff as

well as local agencies and citizen groups on the aquatic invasive species recreational boat pathway.

WRISC Boatwash FY18: Blocking the Recreational Boat Pathway

Awarded! \$36,000 (less after overhead subtracted) Awaiting Contract

Deliverables: 3,000 User Contacts

Lumberjack RC&D – WRISC, WHIP, TIP Pathways Educational Guide

The guides were printed and are available for distribution. This project is now closed.

WRISC Invasive Species Pathways Education, Play Clean Go

We will be developing a variety of other outreach products this winter and will start booking space to ensure we have more billboards up next summer. We will be focusing on getting some TV coverage as well this coming year.

Other Projects:

- In June, WRISC submitted two joint pre-proposals for the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program (MISGP) –
 One seeks to continue the Phragmites Cost Share Program in Menominee County; the other is aimed at early
 detection survey efforts for Hemlock Wooly Adelgid within 20 miles of the Lake Michigan Shoreline (target area
 for the state). Invitations for full proposals were sent out for both grants as of July 31, 2018!
 - Both of these projects were awarded.
- WRISC had offered support/partnered on another statewide proposal with Sea Grant and MSUE on a project titled *Michigan Invasive Species Paddling Detection, Reporting and Public Awareness Program*. So targeting paddlers and Great Lake water trails.
 - Partner collaboration has begun and we are in the process of booking and scheduling an event or two along the Lake Michigan water trail in partnership with Lake to Lake CISMA.
- WRISC was awarded \$4,800 to conduct phragmites monitoring in the WI counties as well as develop an updated educational guide and to pull together area partners to discuss/develop an "action plan" for the area. This has led to discussions of a potential Sustain Our Great Lakes (SOGL) proposal.
- WRISC has offered support to Florence's CBCW and AEPP grants.
- WRISC has offered support to two Iron-Baraga CD/WePIC proposals for GLRI funding.

Misc.

<u>Staffing:</u> The job posting for seasonal positions was posted recently. WRISC Coordinator will also be attending the NMU job fair in mid-February. WRISC is looking to hire on at least two positions, possibly three, with potentially one staff member coming back from last year.

<u>Newsletters/Articles:</u> The 2018 annual report edition of the newsletter was produced and published. It highlighted 2018 accomplishments, field photos, and partner highlights. Thanks to all partners who submitted updates and if you were not included in this issue, we will continue to highlight in the next issue, which is slated for the beginning of field season.

<u>Website/Facebook/Instagram</u>: The WRISC website has continued to receive regular updates for events and meetings, and project opportunities for landowners. If there are ever any broken links or if anything looks odd or outdated, please don't hesitate to let us know!

The WRISC website had 448 page views in the last 60 days. Many of these visitors were new to the page as well!

Facebook has received semi-regular updates of invasive articles, links, pictures, etc, and has been more consistent. The WRISC Facebook page continues to grow, having gone from 283 likes (at the last BOD meeting) to **293 likes** at the end of

January. Total reach for our Facebook page for the past two months was really good, with a few highlighted posts, where page activity **reached a total of 4,454** people and our **average reach was about 74.** The page sees great reach whenever something is posted, a few of the more engaging posts are included here

