

# Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

10:00am

Forest County Courthouse  
200 E Madison St.  
Crandon, WI

**Members Present:** Bill Rice (Dickinson Conservation District, on phone), Steve Kircher (Forest County Conservation Dept.), Scott Goodwin (Florence County LCD), Jerry Piche (Menominee County), Amber Butterfield (Dickinson Conservation District), Sheri Denowski (Marinette Co, on phone), Larry Sommer (Lumberjack RC&D/FCAL)

**Members Absent:** J. Bournoville (USFS), Tracy Beckman (Lumberjack RC&D), Aaron McCullough (WDNR-Marinette)

**Guests:** Kathleen Sullivan (Florence CO AIS Coordinator)

**Staff:** Lindsay Peterson (Coordinator), Katherine Mentel (Project Manager)

**Meeting called to order** at 10:00 am by S. Goodwin.

## Board of Directors Meeting

1. **Approval of Agenda** – Motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by S. Kircher/L. Sommer. **Motion carried.**
2. **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from the June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, meeting were presented. J. Piche/S. Kircher moved to accept the minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**
3. **Grants & Treasurer's Report** – A. Butterfield led this portion of the meeting. Currently, WRISC is awaiting payments on some grants. The MISGP Core grant from 2021 was extended, and a budget for the GLRI CWMA grant is in the works. WRISC is also waiting on a report for the EPA grant. In other news, A. Butterfield has recently hired a new accountant and they are currently training. WRISC received a \$3,000 donation from FCLARA since the last BOD meeting, so the undesignated funds sit at \$8,347.34. Motion to put the grant report on file made by L. Sommer/S. Kircher. **Motion carried.**
4. **Project Updates/Reports**
  - a. **Events:** L. Peterson led this portion of the meeting. Since the June BOD Meeting, WRISC has held invasive species workdays and a successful Landowner Invasive Species Training in Foster City, MI, which was focused on the Wild Parsnip problem. At the training, WRISC had high landowner engagement and received multiple new property permissions. As for educational events, WRISC had staff attend the Menominee Kids Camp, which was hosted by the Menominee CD. During this event, staff led kid-centered invasive species identification and learning activities. WRISC staff also attended a two-day, multi-state EFB/Phragmites training in Peshtigo which focused on identification, control, and collaboration. During the week of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, WRISC participated in the Iron Mountain/Kingsford parade and hosted Landing Blitz locations. Thanks to Florence Co, WRISC was also able to partner on a unique event and help host an exotic pet surrender event with J&R rescue, where 46 animals were surrendered! In late July, WRISC staff were present at Kentuck Days in Forest Co, we partnered with Iron-Baraga CD to host a booth at the Waters of Fortune event, and had a booth at the West Shore Fishing Museum Art Heritage event. Upcoming, L. Peterson will be presenting at the Northeast Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation event, focusing on the logging/forestry invasive species pathway. WRISC will also be attending the DCD open house in Norway at the end of August and the UMISC conference in October in Green Bay. WRISC will be presenting on day two of the conference.

**b. Projects:**

- i. MEF PATH grant is on track to close out end of the year. This grant mainly funds Strike Team work and lake monitoring.
  - ii. The Loose the Loosetrife grant is in year three and will likely be extended due to 2020 halting work. All groups have river runs scheduled.
  - iii. WRISC started the BW20 grant, and numbers are looking good. Tyler will be doing more CBCW work through Labor Day. We may use some of the money to send out a survey to representative groups to get feedback on the program.
  - iv. WRISC was awarded a new BW grant and has until 2026 to spend it out. This one will not start until the other one is done.
  - v. WRISCs CWMA grant extension was approved and the project will end in December.
  - vi. The Pathways Education grant is used to help with our ad campaign and other outreach material, including billboards. WRISC also plans to use more of the funds for radio PSAs.
  - vii. The MISGP Core funding is MI-only funding. WRISC did not get the MDOT permit and did as much work as we could for WP. Extra treatment money will go into awareness campaign material, specifically kids-level parsnip material.
  - viii. The New MISGP Core funding for 2022 helps with general Cisma work. This also helps with technical training. WRISC has used some of the money to sign up to the Nonprofit Learning Lab.
  - ix. The HWA grant wrapped up in April and we are just waiting for the final reimbursement.
  - x. THE UPRC&D SOGL Phrag grant was extended through this year and will focus on Phrag work in Marinette and the Menominee County shoreline.
  - xi. THE SOGL Buffer Project is lacking communication. Survey work is slated for later this season after treatment work wraps up.
  - xii. The EFB project includes surveys and early detection work in Menominee Co. The WRISC crew has a potential EFB siting off State Hwy M-35 in southern Menominee Co.
  - xiii. The EPA UPRC&D partnered grant is for Phrag work focused on the Lake Superior Watershed. This was extended through 2024. WRISC will do some Phrag monitoring coupled with the Lake Surveys later this month.
  - xiv. WRISC was awarded another GLRI Pathways Education grant which hasn't started yet.
  - xv. WRISC was awarded the full amount of the MEF We Energies grant and will start work on the project starting in January 2023.
- c. Staffing:** WRISC currently has three seasonal staff; however, T. Norris was offered a full-time position as a WRISC Project Manager.
- d. Social Media:** WRISC has not done any recent articles but has been maintaining social media outreach. WRISC may or may not get back to newsletters and will be working on website updates throughout the off-season.
- e. Questions/Comments:** S. Goodwin wants to shoot the EFB with the drone. It was also mentioned that finalizing a vDASH policy is priority.

**5. Old Business**

- a. Hiring Update:** T. Norris accepted the WRISC Project Manager position.

**6. New Business**

**a. Notable Field Updates—Wild Parsnip, European Frog-Bit**

- i. L. Peterson explained that the process of getting a MDOT permit for Wild Parsnip along MI Highways was a frustrating process. L. Peterson was provided conflicting information on the proper way to obtain a permit. Unfortunately, due to the time it took for all parties to communicate with L. Peterson, the Wild Parsnip was out of season by the time any work would have been able to be done. The window for that project is now closed so money that was not used for treatment will be used to make more educational material. Also, after thoughtful

reflection, WRISC has decided to pursue a spring meeting to discuss Wild Parsnip and different management avenues. Representatives from local, state, and federal groups will all be invited to discuss their thoughts and priorities on the issue.

- ii. Based on recent surveys from field staff, EFB is showing up more than WRISC predicted in the Menominee County area. The one site off of HWY M35 was pulled by staff.

## 7. Round Robin

- a. Larry Sommer (Lumberjack RC&D) —Lumberjack RC&D hired a full-time forest inventory person and he is doing a great job.
  - b. Steve Kircher (Forest CO)—Steve and Kayla from Forest County came out with WRISC to treat WP in the Armstrong Creek Area! They are also working to update a boat landing at Pickerel Lake and hiring LTEs for DASH work.
  - c. Sheri (Marinette County)— Marinette County staff have been working on surveying and management of EFB. Unfortunately, they have been finding many infestations. They think that the one EFB site was sprayed too early at Red Arrow Park. They have gotten the DASH out twice this summer at Newton Lake and Dollin Lake.
  - d. Amber (DCD) - The DCD got a small grant through EGLE to send out a Co-wide recycling pamphlet.
  - e. Jerry Piche (Menominee County)—They are interested in having a workday for the Carney school forest
  - f. Scott (Florence Co)—Florence had a EFB report but checked it out and it a native species.
  - g. Kathleen (Florence CO)—The CBCW program is almost done. Wrapping up as school starts. Has monitored 14 lakes and rivers, checking water quality.
8. **Other Business:** Scott said after the next meeting, vDASH policy should be the priority.
9. **Future Agenda Items:** DASH subcommittee. Next meeting in Stephenson at the Annex building at 10:00 AM.
10. **Adjourn.** Motion by S. Kircher/L. Sommer to adjourn at 11:36 AM. **Motion carried.**

*Minutes compiled and submitted by Katherine Mentel & Lindsay Peterson*

*Minutes approved October 5, 2022. Motion to approve the minutes made by J. Piche / B. Rice. Motion Carried.*