

WRISC Project Update

Submitted by WRISC Coordinator, Lindsay Peterson
February 2nd, 2022 BOD Meeting
Dickinson County



Recent Events

- MISC Annual Conference – January 5-6th, 2022
- Several webinars and/or online conferences

Upcoming Events

- Landowner Invasive Species Training – February 4th, 2022
- Home & Garden Show – March 26th, 2022
- Sustainable Forestry Conference – April 2022
- WI Lakes & Rivers Convention – April 8-9th, 2022
- *Other events being planned*

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

This project has wrapped up and close out documentation has been submitted.

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

- Extended thru December 2021

This project has wrapped up and we are currently compiling close out documentation and final reporting.

WE Energies MEF - Pathway Prevention and Assessment

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

This project funds strike team efforts in 2022 but will also implement inland lake monitoring for AIS and provide integrated management. Project will also continue to target private landscapes and offer invasive trade-in events and restoration efforts/education.

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

- Extended thru December 2021

This project has wrapped up with all deliverables met. We are currently compiling close out documentation and final reporting.

GLRI – Boat Wash

WRISC Boatwash FY19: WRISC Boatwash Program

Awarded! \$36,000; Contract signed August 20, 2019

Deliverables: 3,000 boater contacts

This project has expired and is in the close out stage.

WRISC Boatwash FY20: WRISC Boatwash

Awarded! \$39,000;

Deliverables: 3,000 boater contacts

This grant will be initiated now that the FY19 project has expired.

USFS GLRI CBCW – AWARDED!

A project agreement will be developed for this project soon.

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 has been progressing slowly and will be getting renewed attention in the off-season as we plan how to meet training and workshop deliverables, which are a large component of this project. This project will be in need of an extension, which Coordinator will arrange with project contacts.

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 just started and will fund much of the targeted outreach this winter/into next season. WRISC has started work on this project and will be implementing the billboard campaigns this spring, along with field videos and more.

MISGP Core Funding: Seeking Sustainability through CISMA Balance – Pending Extension

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

WRISC Coordinator has been working with technical contacts on reworking this project and associated funding.

UP Multi-CISMA HWA Survey Project (MISGP, Administered by Alger CD) – Extended thru April 2022

Some of WRISC's subaward was reallocated to other groups in the project that have more acreage to survey than we do in the WRISC area. We'll be focusing the final funds on some wrap up surveys this winter and primarily outreach. We have several properties lined up for survey in the coming month or two.

Life After Phragmites: Wetland Restoration & Landowner Stewardship (MISGP, Administered by UP RC&D) – Extended thru 2021

This project is in the process of being closed out as well.

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.

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 2021 and have been able to make progress on field activities, with all groups completing river runs this season. Planning for 2022 will be occurring in the spring once seasonal crews are hired/planned.

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. Project subaward contract has been received and recently submitted. WRISC will begin work on this project in the off season with data collection and organization of field efforts for 2022.

MISGP UP RC&D – UP-Wide European Frog Bit Early Detection Project – AWARDED!

- 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 is planned to occur in Marinette County and will be a collaborative training for MI and WI folks.

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

The sub-award agreement for this project is expected to be received in the next couple of weeks. This project has already been extended through September 2024.

USFS GLRI Education – AWARDED!

USFS CWMA Funding – AWARDED!

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

MISGP Core Funding – Proposal submitted

Upcoming: SOGL 2022, WE Energies MEF 2022

Misc.

Staffing: WRISC posted seasonal positions for 2022 at the start of the new year in January. Currently looking to hire 6 positions (4 strike team, 2 watercraft inspectors). If any field crew excel in the position, they may be considered for longer-term employment in a project manager position.

Newsletters/Articles: WRISC hasn't published much as far as articles in the last period. The WRISC commercial and cleaning videos have been distributed in various ways, including an ad campaign through WLUC TV6. A billboard for HWA was set up in Menominee.

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 **332 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 **585 likes and 764 followers** (at the last meeting) to **603 likes and 785 followers** at the end of January.

Total reach for our Facebook page for the past two months has been great! Overall, page activity **reached a total of 13,861 people!** 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:

Reach: Organic / Paid

Post Clicks

Reactions, Comments & Shares

Published	Post	Type	Targeting	Reach	Engagement	Promote
01/27/2022 9:27 AM	 We're one week out from our Landowner Training event! If you			91 	11 3 	Boost event
01/12/2022 9:05 AM	 We know it's January, we know it's cold out, but did you know it's a			146 	22 33 	Boost post
01/10/2022 10:59 AM	 REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! Go to www.wrisc.org/events .			78 	5 4 	Boost event
01/07/2022 3:45 PM	 Hey Everyone!!! We are so excited to finally announce our upcoming			283 	4 13 	Boost post
01/05/2022 9:00 AM	 WRISC is Hiring! It might seem like summer is far off, but we're already			143 	6 3 	Boost post
01/04/2022 2:37 PM	 To ring in the New Year's, WRISC is introducing our new series, called			620 	256 155 	Boost post
12/29/2021 1:02 PM	 Japanese Barberry is a common invasive shrub in the WRISC area. If			77 	2 1 	Boost post
12/23/2021 7:00 PM	 Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Wild Rivers ISC			63 	3 1 	Boost post
12/09/2021 8:00 PM	 Wild Rivers ISC is again offering FREE Hemlock Woolly Adelgid			286 	4 11 	Boost post
12/08/2021 11:55 AM	 Check out this great virtual opportunity to learn about invasive			105 	2 4 	Boost post