

WRISC Project Update

Submitted by WRISC Coordinator, Lindsay Peterson
December 1st, 2021 BOD Meeting
Florence, WI



Recent Events

- AIS Partnership Fall Conference (virtual) – October 12-13th, 2021
- KHS Invasive Workday – October 15th, 2021
- IMHS Invasive Workday – October 17th, 2021
- HWA Field Training – November 19th, 2021
- Several webinars and/or online conferences

Upcoming Events

- MISC Annual Conference – January 5-6th, 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

Extension to expend funds has been flexible. A budget discrepancy was noticed on both the State's end and ours and we worked to reassess remaining project funds. This has been straightened out and we have requested 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 received the advance and have been working on wrapping up this project. Museum exhibit has been completed and has received great feedback so far!

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

– Extended thru December 2021

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 had been launched in 2020 but received little engagement due to COVID. In 2021, WRISC has done a lot of advertising and promotion of the volunteer program and has offered many events but has not seen great engagement/attendance. Strike Team conducted treatment on priority sites throughout the MRW. This grant is set to wrap up at the end of 2021

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

- Extended thru December 2021

The vDASH was utilized this season on Bass Lake in Iron Mountain and was successful after a few mechanical roadblocks. Although the treatment acreage deliverable was not fully met here, the proof of concept and operation of the equipment has been solidified. As far as other deliverables are concerned, most are wrapped up or scheduled to be fully completed after this season.

GLRI – Boat Wash

[WRISC Boatwash FY19: WRISC Boatwash Program](#)

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

Deliverables: 3,000 boater contacts

Boatwash units were not repaired or utilized this season due to budget constraints. Education at landings was conducted and there was good reach this season.

[WRISC Boatwash FY20: WRISC Boatwash](#)

Awarded! \$39,000;

Deliverables: 3,000 boater contacts

This grant was not yet initiated this year

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

Some of WRISC's subaward will be 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. The field portion of training was held in November. The remaining training session will be held mid-December.

Life After Phragmites: Wetland Restoration & Landowner Stewardship

(MISGP, Administered by UP RC&D) – Extended thru 2021

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.

There was much better response this year from shoreline landowners. Many site visits were conducted in August, and treatments were conducted thru early October. A phragmites ID and management video is also being developed by WRISC to distribute as a resource to local municipalities and land managers.

Life After Phragmites: Wetland Restoration & Landowner Stewardship in Michigan's UP and Northeastern Wisconsin – (SOGL Fund; Administered by UP RC&D) – Extension Pending

WRISC has partnered on this project proposal with UP RC&D, WI DNR, and other area stakeholders. UP RC&D had discussed project adjustments with SOGL grantors and we moved forward with this project for 2020. Less focus will be given to this project in 2021, minus some follow up treatments for those properties

addressed in 2020. This project will be extended to allow for more time to conduct field work once MISGP is closed out.

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.

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

- \$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 had been delayed until January 2021. A big focus of this project is Wild Parsnip education & management. WRISC was unable to obtain a MDOT permit for 2021, so the project funding portion of this grant will be delayed until 2022 when a permit can hopefully be obtained and target management carried out. With K.Hafeman leaving his position, this project will be substantially underspent. WRISC Coordinator will work with technical contacts to adjust the budget and potentially arrange an extension.

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 - AWARDED!

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 much of it this winter and into next season.

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.

WE Energies MEF - Pathway Prevention and Assessment

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

Received project agreement and have started work on this project

- 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. WRISC hosted the first Invasive Species Trade Up days event and it went well! Lots was learned and next year’s event should be even more successful.

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

Staff attended training in Sault Ste. Marie in June and was able to conduct several surveys in the Menominee area, focusing attention on WRISC’s southern border especially after new occurrences of EFB in Marinette and Oconto counties.

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

USFS GLRI CBCW – AWARDED!

USFS GLRI Education – AWARDED!

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

USFS CWMA Funding – AWARDED!

MISGP Core Funding – Proposal submitted

LOTS of requests!

Misc.


Staffing: WRISC's seasonal strike team wrapped up for the season in mid-October. Kyle Hafeman recently resigned his position at the end of September. We do not intend to fill his position at this time as we regroup for the off-season. We are hoping to post seasonal positions for 2022 at the start of the new year in January. If any field crew excel in the position, they may be considered for longer-term employment in a project manager position.

Newsletters/Articles: WRISC has published a few newspaper articles, blog posts, etc. The WRISC commercial and cleaning videos have been distributed in various ways, including an ad campaign through WLUC TV6.

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 revitalizing WRISC's social media presence this year! Instagram has received several updates throughout the last period and currently has **321 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 **578 likes and 742 followers** (at the last meeting) to **585 likes and 764 followers** at the end of November.

Total reach for our Facebook page for the past two months has been great! Overall, page activity **reached a total of 84,974 people!** This was in part due to the **paid ad campaign for the commercial and related PCG messaging**. 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
11/17/2021 10:15 AM	 It's important during all seasons to know what plants you're working with,			122 	11  7 
11/10/2021 9:30 AM	 WRISC works hard to keep our wild places healthy and invasive free. But			89 	6  3 
10/31/2021 9:00 AM	 Happy Halloween from WRISC! Be sure to watch out for spooky species			73 	2  7 
10/29/2021 12:25 PM	 What's the spookiest, most spine-chilling, most sinister invasive			145 	4  12 
10/20/2021 11:21 AM	 A stark reminder as to why it's important to not move firewood!			155 	2  9 
10/15/2021 1:07 PM	 The KHS Environmental Class braved the cold this morning at			234 	16  15 
09/29/2021 8:09 PM	 Today WRISC had the honor of receiving this beautiful award as a			489 	18  44 