

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



August 14th, 2024 10:00am

City Beach Park
5207 E Lakeview St.
Crandon, WI 54520

Members Present: Scott Goodwin (Florence County LCD), Sheri Denowski (Marinette County), Larry Sommer (Lumberjack RC&D), Kayla Littleton (Forest County LCD)

Members Absent: Tracy Beckman (Lumberjack RC&D), Aaron McCullough (WDNR-Marinette), Sherry Pethers (Forest County), Larry Phelps (Menominee County), Nicole Schutt (Forest Service)

Guests: Shawna Broullire (Florence County LCD)

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

Meeting called at 10:00 am by S. Goodwin. No quorum present, proceeded with discussion only.

Board of Directors Meeting – No Quorum, discussion only

1. **Approval of Agenda** – N/A

2. **Approval of Minutes** – N/A

2. **Grants & Treasurer's Report** – L. Peterson led this discussion.

- a. Grants and spending are on track. WRISC has about \$900,000 until March 2026, and about \$400,000 is allocated for this year. Expenditures are just shy of \$200,000 this year. Cost-Share fund is at \$1600. Undesignated fund is relatively unchanged, but there was about a \$170 expense for annual meeting and work boot stipends. WRISC also received donations during the last period. The WRISC cost-share undesignated fund has had no expenses this year but did receive cost-share payments.
- b. Report approval will be included in October 2024 meeting.

4. **Project Updates/Reports**

- a. **Events:** L. Peterson led this discussion. June was a busy month for events. Highlights include the Exotic Pet Surrender events, presentations to diverse audiences, Red Arrow Park EFB Pull, MI Paddle Stewards Training Event, and MISGP Summer Field Trip. Upcoming events include the Region 1 meeting for MACD, Conservation District Annual Meeting, Environmental Days, NAISMA Conference, and UMISC in Duluth. L. Peterson is doing a presentation for both meetings and conferences.

b. **Grants:**

- i. MEF PL grant extension was approved. Budget was adjusted and funds were redistributed between CISMAs. Grant extended for one year.
- ii. MEF Cost-share grant includes the successful Trade-Up Days and Cost-Share programs. WRISC increased the number of cost-share signups this year. The PL Biocontrol cage is constructed; plants and beetles are doing well. We have two types of beetles on PL Plants, which were wild harvested. Not going to release this year but trying to overwinter to have steady supply.
- iii. GLRI CBCW grant has been going well. Some rain days. Staff alternates weekends between Wisconsin and Michigan. CBCW event highlights include the GLOW Paddle at Shakey Lakes

in July and Kentuck Days in Crandon. Boat washes are not being used this summer, since they still need repairs. Staff is focusing on education and inspection.

1. Had discussion about repair timeline for boatwashes.
 - iv. GLRI Outreach is going well.
 - v. Buffer Zone project is on track. Conducting survey and treatment.
 - vi. Awarded GLRI CWMA grant focused on ROW areas. Targeting ROW invasives and restoring 1-mile section of road in each county. Waiting to hear back from road commissioners on which stretches they may want to select.
 - vii. UP-Wide Phrag grant was extended. Treated a few sites this week and working on getting permission for more sites.
 - viii. MISGP Core 22 grant was extended through December. Wrapping up EFB and Round-Leaf Bittersweet surveys.
 - ix. DNR HWA grant is closed. Had to turn back some funds due to staffing changes.
 - x. Awarded MISGP 23 fund. Only operational funding.
 - xi. Awarded HWA funds through a sub-award. However, grant was cut down. Will start HWA surveys in fall-winter. Trying to regroup and still apply for a larger scale grant.
 - xii. WRISC was not awarded the LSR grant. Received feedback and will reapply in the fall. Need more treatment.
 1. Pulled back the WE Energies pre-proposal fund for the same fund.
 - xiii. Applied for an NFF grant. This is a partner grant with Forest County Potawatomi. This is a new grant fund and is primarily planning and capacity building funds. Helps to set up collaborative, write a strategic plan, have meetings, and build capacity. Year two includes invasive species coordinator position for FCP. Will find out in November.
 - xiv. UPRC&D did not receive the NOAA grant. Nick will be reaching out for further discussion on why grant was not awarded, since NOAA reached out to apply.
 - xv. Submitted pre-proposal for general AIS prevention and survey to MI EGLE. Helps continue Phrag and EFB work for WRISC.
 - xvi. New LSR and GLRI CWMA RFP's just came out. Resubmitting LSR project this fall with slight changes based on feedback. Looking at the GLRI CWMA for trail project, including FCP trail project. Due mid-September.
- c. **Staff:** Field crew is amazing. Leah ended mid-July to go back to school. Bob ends this week and Cole ends next week. Cole may help 1-2 days per week. Natalie staying on through end of season and may fill empty Project Manager position.
 - d. **Outreach:** Outreach is consistently growing. Doing end of year newsletter. Did a TV6 interview about Wild Parsnip. Also, posting blog posts.

5. Old Business

a.

6. New Business

- a. **Contract Work:** L. Peterson wanted to discuss contract work, since WRISC is being asked to do more. L. Peterson looking for guidance on how to navigate contract work moving forward. Some important notes are that there are many CISMAs who do contracts downstate. One local person does small contracts, but other groups only do extremely large contracts. Looking at how to decide which contracts to take, reasons why, how much to charge, etc.
 - i. S. Denowski mentioned that a good start is to stay true to the WRISC mission. Having a set fee for staff time is also an idea. S. Denowski likes the idea of working with groups who have active participation or volunteers.
 - ii. L. Sommer said that after L. Peterson does the initial overview of a contract request, to send it to the board for approval.

- iii. S. Goodwin said that we should not be bidding against partners, and that the board should contemplate any concerns for the next meeting. Also asked L. Peterson to reach out to CISMAs who do this type of work and how they go about it.
 - iv. Doing contract work does give WRISC flexibility for funding and projects.
 - b. **Board Member Reassignment:** S. Kircher retired, and K. Littleton is now the director for Forest County. K. Littleton was already the alternate so she will have voting power. When we have a quorum, the board can elect K. Littleton to fill seat.
 - c. **Travel Stipend Request – NAISMA:** L. Peterson is requesting a travel stipend for NAISMA conference. The MISGP grant covers registration. Through the undesignated fund policy, L. Peterson can spend up to \$1000 without permission. The stipend will be less than \$1000. L. Peterson is presenting on unique partnerships to manage Wild Parsnip, highlighting the road commission and health department projects.
- 7. Round Robin (Chance for WRISC partners to share updates)**
- a. L. Sommer: President of Lumberjack RC&D as of June 2024. Waiting for counties to send in requests for grants. Had discussion of how grants are approved. Made a lot of changes to grant policy in last 5-10 years. Waiting on grant requests. Worked with Enbridge to administer funds, but did not decide on projects. Next meeting in Argonne.
 - b. S. Denowski: Reported that their two LTE workers have been exceptional this summer, pulling over 4,000 lbs of EFB from coastal areas. WI DNR is going with a different approach to EFB. Will not have summer workers pulling EFB moving forward, at least through the WI DNR. Doing some DASH harvesting on Little Newton Lake. Yellow Iris at one of the lakes. Chuck also doing plant surveys at Thunder Island Lakes and Upper-Beecher. May apply for AIS work next year. Three patches of Phragmites on Island Lake, which are accessible from docks. S. Denowski let us know that Parthie is interested in participating next year but need to know by October. Asked if WRISC's crew can do one more day at Harmony Arboretum.
 - c. K. Littleton said they got 1500 beetles from PL Cages. Overwintered from Seagull Bar. Plants were smaller than anticipated so some plants did die. Just found milfoil in Lake Lucerne, but Derek Thorn is working with them. Planning Environmental Days for September. Looking at 8 stations. May have the DASH boat for the event. (Look at getting 20% grant fund for LTE position)
 - d. S. Broullire said the CBCW program is a bit under hours due to short staffing. Covered North Lake for about 800 hrs. Spiny waterflea on the Menominee River (not officially documented yet). Aquarium dump on Menominee River. S. Broullire asked about WP on HWY 70. Most of the county crew is pesticide certified.
- 8. Other Business:** The next meeting is rescheduled for October 9th, 2024, in Stephenson, MI.
- 9. Future Agenda Items:** Contract work, K. Littleton BOD position reappointment, and WRISC staff wage increases.
- 10. Adjourn.** Not officially adjourned because no quorum present.

Minutes compiled and submitted by Katherine Mentel & Lindsay Peterson

