

Board of Directors – Meeting Minutes



October 1st, 2025 10:00am Menominee County Annex, Stephenson, MI

Members Present: Scott Goodwin, Shawna Dishaw (Florence County LCD), Sheri Denowski (Marinette County), Kayla Littleton (Forest County LWCD), Dana Nelson (Dickinson CD), Aaron McCullough (WI DNR, online)

Members Absent: Connie Westrich (Menominee County), Tracy Beckman (Lumberjack RC&D), Sherry Pethers (FCAL)

Guests: Garret Vucenic (Florence Co AIS Technician)

Staff: Lindsay Peterson (Coordinator), Natalie Hunding (Project Manager)

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

Board of Directors Meeting

1. Approval of the Agenda – Motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by K. Littleton / S. Dishaw. **Motion carried.**
2. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes
 - a. Minutes from the August Meeting were presented. Motion to accept the August minutes as presented made by S. Dishaw / K. Littleton. **Motion carried.**
3. Grant/Treasurer's Report
 - a. D. Nelson presented the grant report. She noted WRISC received two new grant awards totaling over \$600,000. L. Peterson added that the cost share fund remained unchanged from the last report and invoices for 2025 treatment services would be sent out shortly. WRISC did receive a \$2,000 donation from the Butternut Franklin Lake Foundation, for which WRISC is very grateful – Thank you! Both undesignated fund accounts are sitting at just under \$12,000.
 - b. It was asked if there was any cost associated with non-profit filing at this time. L. Peterson reported that no costs have been incurred yet. Additional question about grant extension timelines was asked. L. Peterson reported that the MEF Purple Loosestrife grant was extended until March 2026, but will double check that deadline. Additionally, there are some GLRI grants that may require extensions (CWMA 24 and Public Outreach) which will be addressed after the government shutdown ends.
 - c. Motion to place the grant report on file was made by S. Denowski / K. Littleton. **Motion carried.**
4. Project Updates
 - a. L. Peterson presented the project update report.
 - i. Events: there were several workdays hosted with area students during the last period. L. Peterson also presented on AIS at the Wild Rivers Interpretive Center in Florence. L. Peterson noted the International Invasive Species and Climate Change virtual conference is scheduled for December 9-10th and recommends attending this event.
 - ii. L. Peterson presented updates for all grant projects. Several grants will be closing out in the coming months including: MEF Purple Loosestrife, MEF Cost Share (Sept 2025), GLRI

- Boatwash, GLRI Public Outreach (seeking extension), GLRI Buffer Zone project, GLRI CWMA (seeking extension), MISGP Core 23, MISGP Core 24 (spring, seeking extension).
- iii. New grants awarded included two WE Energies MEF projects, including an in-house award for WRISC for three-years and a five-year partnership project for Michigamme Purple Loosestrife Phase 2. Additionally, GLRI funds from the CNNF have been awarded (\$66,000) but not finalized as of yet. WRISC is also submitting several proposals this month for additional funding sources.
 - iv. Hiring: WRISC will be hiring for two HWA Survey Technicians, to start in December 2025.
- b. Please see attached report for full details.

5. Old Business:

a. Non-Profit Filing Update

- i. Received approval of Michigan Articles of Incorporation! With this portion complete, L. Peterson will move forward with incorporation in Wisconsin and move the IRS portion of filing forward.

b. Contingency Plan:

- i. L. Peterson created contingency plan versions for both WRISC and Roots and Rivers. The main change between them is the removal of the Dickinson CD board from the approval chain. Motion to approve both plans made by S. Dishaw / S. Denowski.

c. Staff Cost-of-Living Increases

- i. L. Peterson reported that the Dickinson CD board approved the WRISC Board recommendation of a 4% cost-of-living wage increase for WRISC Staff. This increase will go into effect on October 1st, 2025 and does include seasonal staff.

6. New Business:

- i. No new business at this time.

7. Round Robin:

- i. **Aaron McCullough (WI DNR):** Working on extensive wetland project at Lake Noquebay wildlife area. Barrens restoration project at Amberg Wildlife Area, and prescribed burn set for the Peshtigo River State Forest later this week as part of a red pine research project.
- ii. **Kayla Littleton (Forest Co LWCD):** Environmental Days – October 2nd. Purple Loosestrife beetle release was conducted. Working on buckthorn with the county.
- iii. **Sheri Denowski (Marinette Co LID):** Marinette Environmental Days with 4th graders. Also involved with Camp Bird school programs. Should be able to conduct phragmites treatment on Island and Newton Lakes in 2026. Lundgren Lake conducted monitoring and determined that EWM has returned after being undetectable for 4-5 years. AIS reports for Eagle Lake, Beecher, and Upper Lake. Hiring for NRCS technician for 1 year. Hemlock Curve project is moving forward with contractor for the shoreline reinforcement and restoration.
- iv. **Shawna Dishaw (Florence Co LCD):** Garret noted potential invasive phragmites on Spread Eagle Chain – L. Peterson will investigate. Culvert project completed. Applying for Surface Water Grant for additional creek project.

- v. **Dana Nelson (Dickinson CD):** Conducted work on MEF Shoreline grant doing Score the Shore surveys to identify areas for restoration work in 2026. Tree Sale is ramping up and will be launched in November.
 - vi. **Scott Goodwin:** Will officially be stepping down from the WRISC Board at this time. Currently job searching.
 - 1. **The board thanked Scott for his years of service on the WRISC Board and as Chair and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors!**
8. Any other Business:
- i. Next meeting: December 3rd, 2025 – USDA Service Center (WRISC office), Kingsford, MI (Dickinson County)
9. Future Agenda Items: Officer reassignment, Bylaws for Roots & Rivers Collaborative
10. Adjourn – meeting adjourned at 10:59am

Minutes compiled and submitted by N. Iwaszek & L. Peterson.

Minutes approved with amendments on December 3, 2025 on motion by S. Denowski / S. Pethers.