

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



August 4th, 2021

10:00am

Crandon, WI/Conference Call

Members Present: Steve Kircher (Forest County Conservation Dept.), Scott Goodwin (Florence County LCD), Dick Peterson (Lake Township, Menominee Co), Aaron McCullough (WDNR-Marquette), Sarah Topp (Marquette County), Justin Bournoville (USFS), Larry Sommer (Town of Lincoln)

Members Absent: Bill Rice (Dickinson CD), Tracy Beckman (Lumberjack RC&D)

Guests: Adam Christensen (Bay Lake RPC), Charlene Peterson (Lake Township), Shawna Broullire (Florence County AIS Coordinator), Kayla Littleton (Forest County Technician)

Staff: Lindsay Peterson (Coordinator)

Meeting called to order at 10:14 am by S. Goodwin.

Board of Directors Meeting

1. **Approval of Agenda** – Motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by S. Kircher/D. Peterson. ***Motion carried.***
2. **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from the June 2nd, 2021 Meeting were presented. S. Kircher/ L. Sommer moved to accept the minutes as presented. ***Motion carried.***
3. **Grants & Treasurer's Report** – L. Peterson led this portion of the meeting. Overall, all the grants are on track, including the extended grants. The EFB Grant has just started, even though it was supposed to start in January. By the end of the year, L. Peterson expects we will be a little underspend on some grants, but we can easily close the gap in the new year. A. McCullough asked if the EBF grant was only for MI Counties, which it is. However, WRISC may have some flexible funds in other grants to target EBF in WI. WRISC undesignated funds remains at \$3,631.85. Motion to put the grant report on file made by A. McCullough/ D. Peterson. ***Motion carried.***
4. **Project Updates/Reports**
 - a. **Events:** WRISC held many events in June, including Volunteer Monitoring events and an Invasive Trade Up event. In July, WRISC participated in Landing Blitz. For the remainder of July, WRISC had an informational hike at the West Shore Fishing Museum and continue planning for landowner trainings this fall.
 - b. **Projects:**
 - i. WRISC is wrapping up the MISGP16 project. The museum half of the project presented some difficulties, so WRISC worked with our technical contact to find some other ways to spend out the grant.
 - ii. The WE Energies MEF grant was extended through this year. Most of the grant money was allocated to Strike Team and events. WRISC did not have great attendance at any of our events, which may be due to COVID still.
 - iii. The GLRI EPA grant was extended until the end of 2021. Most of this money went to vDASH and field work. WRISC was able to get the vDASH operational this summer. The trail surveying is almost wrapped up as well.
 - iv. For the CBCW grants, none of the boat washes are operational. Therefore, WRISC decided not to use them for this season. CBCW work has been educational this year. WRISC was not able to pay much attention to selling any boat washes this season. S. Goodwin recommends waiting until spring to fix them and possibly use some of the undesignated funds to fix them.

- v. The HWA grant was extended into next year. WRISC has money left but we are running out of Hemlock to survey along the shoreline in Menominee County. WRISC will likely reallocate the rest of the money to the other groups who have more Hemlock to survey.
- vi. The MISGP LAP grant was extended through the end of this year. We will focus on treatments in MI. WRISC got great feedback this year.
- vii. The SOGL LAP grant was extended into next year. WRISC will focus more efforts on this grant next year but re-treatments from last year's sites will be addressed this year.
- viii. The Loose the Loosestrife project focuses on the Michigamme River. WRISC will be conducting Purple Loosestrife pulling and treatment next week for our stretch of the river. This is a five-year grant.
- ix. The MISGP Core grant is for CISMA operations and WP treatments in MI. Due to permitting issues, WRISC was not able to conduct WP treatment on MI ROW, so that portion of the grant will be delayed until 2022.
- x. The GLRI CWMA grant is kicking off more slowly because it entailed a lot of in-person trainings and school-forest workdays.
- xi. WRISC will start the Pathways grant in the fall, when the money can be put to better use.
- xii. The WI DNR SOGL project was awarded, and now we will be waiting on a timeline.
- xiii. The We Energies Pathways Prevention will continue into next year with more work. However, WRISC was able to hold our Invasive Trade-Up Days event, which went well overall. We did learn that we will have to hold it sooner in the growing season next year.
- xiv. WRISC just attended a training for the EFB grant, so the summer crew will be conducting more surveys as the summer goes on.
- xv. WRISC submitted a full proposal for a full inventory of the Menominee River, but it was not awarded. WRISC also partnered on a proposal to EPA to treat more Phragmites inland. Application for the EDRR grant for Yellow Floating Heart grant was put on hold because the previous treatment was very successful. WRISC also submitted a grant for USFS GLRI funding.
- c. **Staffing:** D. Nelson was not able to obtain her pesticide applicator license, so she has mainly been doing CBCW outreach. M. McClure and M. Schinderle are still on the Strike team. There have been no newsletters or recent newspaper articles, but the WRISC social media pages and website have had great reach.

5. Old Business

- a. **MOU Update:** WRISC does not have all the paperwork back yet, but recently got a handful returned. K. Mentel will be sending out reminders when she returns.
- b. **Annual Meeting Video Presentation:** L. Peterson has been steadily working on the video presentation and hopes to include the update from this year. This video update will likely be presented at the end of the year.
- c. **Boat Wash Repair/Sale:** L. Peterson has started contacting other CISMAs to see who may be interested in buying one of the boat washes. L. Sommer is familiar with the CBCW units and believes the unit could be used for winter work. The plan moving forward is to bring two of the broken units to Appleton to have them looked at and get a detailed list of what is wrong and how much it would be to fix them. WRISC would then be able to determine a fair price to list them at. The Board agreed with the decision.
- d. **Annual Work Plan Update:** L. Peterson is trying to keep this updated by each meeting. WRISC is doing well on events and outreach. WRISC is a little behind on volunteer numbers, which was greatly affected by COVID. The Phragmites deliverables have not been added yet, but WRISC is on track to finish the MI deliverables.

6. New Business

- a. **Wage Restructure:** The DCD Board is going through a restructuring, and part of that includes wages for WRISC staff. The new wages will reflect the job duties for each position. The new wages will go into effect this fall, giving L. Peterson time to go through each grant and make sure the wages can be

increased. L. Peterson will send out a detailed list of the wages to the WRISC Board so they can offer suggestions.

7. Round Robin

- a. A. McCullough mentioned that the DNR is finishing up work pulling Knapweed in the Dunbar Barrens and will be responding to EFB next.
- b. J. Bournoville has been busy with field season.
- c. S. Topp said the Marinette seasonal tech did a full inventory of all the boat landings in the county, installed new signage, and installed two cleaning stations. The county also did milfoil treatments on Little Newton and Thunder Lakes and will moving on to EFB response soon.
- d. A. Christensen is the new environmental planner at Bay Lake RPC.
- e. D. Peterson mentioned that the water levels on Lake Michigan seem at their lowest for the season. The parks in Menominee Co. have been continuously filled this season. The Kayak Launch at Mason Park should be completed this month and the county has received donations from local businesses to complete the project. Overall, the water table in the county is down, so Shakey Lakes is down too.
- f. S. Kircher mentioned that Kayla mapped the WP on all County Roads in Forest Co. and will be looking for Purple Loosestrife and Garlic Mustard next. There was a recent report of milfoil so S. Kircher will be reaching out about applying for a EDRR grant for that and will be looking into fund for DASH for the county.
- g. S. Goodwin said the CBCW project for Florence Co. was still ongoing and they were able to hire eight staff for the season. Shawna is doing lake monitoring on smaller lakes. S. Goodwin has also been putting out boot brush stations and signage for different access rivers. They have distributed about 10,000 bar coasters with CLMP and Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers verbiage on the. S. Goodwin mentioned that there may have been a Graceful Cattail sighting on Long Lake, which will require follow-up. There were also several culvert replacements in the county that used lots of fill dirt and will require some monitoring for invasives in the coming seasons.
- h. L. Sommer wanted to thank the Board for having him on and he is looking forward to learning more.

8. Other Business: L. Peterson found a giant infestation of Water Crest at the Norway water treatment plant and is looking for suggestions on management.

The next WRISC board meeting will be the WRISC Annual Meeting on October 6th, 2021 at 10:00AM. The meeting will be held at the ANNEX building in Stephenson, MI, and there will also be a call-in option.

9. Future Agenda Items: There were no future agenda items discussed at this time.

10. Adjourn. Motion by S. Kircher/ L. Sommer to adjourn at 11:34am. *Motion carried.*

Minutes compiled and submitted by Katherine Mentel & Lindsay Peterson

Minutes Approved - A. McCullough/ D. Peterson moved to accept the minutes as presented October 6th, 2021. Motion carried.