

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



June 3rd, 2020

10:00am

Conference Call Only

Members Present (on phone): Greg Cleereman (Marinette County Land and Water Conservation Department), Bill Rice (Dickinson Conservation District), Justin Bournoville (USFS), Aaron McCullough (WDNR-Marinette), Amber Butterfield (Dickinson CD Manager), Steve Kircher (Forest County Conservation Dept.), Scott Goodwin (Florence County LCD), Dick Peterson (Lake Township, Menominee Co), Tracy Beckman (Lumberjack RC&D)

Members Absent:

Guests: Harry Graham (UPRC&D)

Staff: Lindsay Peterson (Coordinator), Katherine Mentel (WRISC PM), Kyle Hafeman (WRISC PM)

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am by L. Peterson

1. **Introductions** – Introductions were made as members that were present, on the phone, were acknowledged.

Board of Director Elections

1. **Review Online Voting Results**– L. Peterson led this portion of the meeting.
 - a. L. Peterson sent out letters of intent for board member seats. These letters served as a ballot and were completed by those seeking a board position. The results were uncontested for all open seats and B. Rice, J. Bournoville, T. Beckman were reelected for their two-year terms. S. Kircher was elected for a one-year term filling a previously vacant seat. Greg Cleereman chose not to renew his seat this year and no one else was elected for his vacant seat. The other vacant position was not filled at this time, however G.Cleereman will look for a Marinette County representative to fill the seat. The WRISC board stands at seven board members.
2. **Officially Elect Board Members**—Motion to officially accept voting results made by B. Rice / T. Beckman. ***Motion accepted.***

Election of Officers

1. **Nominations and Election for Chair**
 - a. L. Petersons went through nominations for officer positions. S. Goodwin indicated he would be comfortable accepting the board chair position if nominated. Call for nominations for chair were made by L. Peterson. B. Rice / T. Beckman nominated S. Goodwin. S. Goodwin accepted nomination. S. Goodwin was the only nomination. Board elected S. Goodwin as the new WRISC Chair.
 - b. Nominations for Vice Chair were made. B. Rice/ G. Cleerman nominated A. McCullough, who accepted the nomination. No further nominations were made. A. McCullough was elected as the WRISC Vice Chair.
 - c. Call to nominations for Secretary were made. No nominations were made at this time. L. Peterson suggested that if someone wanted to be Secretary, they could elect them at a later date. For the time being, staff present on the call will record minutes and work with L.Peterson to compile them.
 - d. L. Peterson called for the new officers to assume their duties within their new positions.

Board of Directors Meeting

1. **Approval of Agenda** – Motion to approve the agenda **as presented** was made by D. Peterson/B. Rice. ***Motion carried.***
2. **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from the April 1st, 2020 Meeting were presented. D. Peterson/J. Bournoville moved to accept the minutes **as presented.** ***Motion carried.***

3. Presentation of Partner Applications and Signing of New Partners

- a. L. Peterson stated that WRISC received seven new applications for new Partners. No new partner organizations were on the call. The new organizations were as follows: Little Long Lake Association, Waterfront Sport and Marine, Porterfield Sportsman's Club, Redline Sport & Marine, Tourism Association of Dickinson County Area, Becks Ornamental & Turf Management Inc., and Fiedorowicz Landscaping. L. Peterson stated that she would be sending them their signatory page and a congratulations letter after they are officially approved.
- b. Motion to approve and accept partner applications was made by A. McCullough/D. Peterson. **Motion carried.**

4. Grants/Treasurer's Report

- a. A. Butterfield led the discussion of the grant and treasurer's report. She stated the Undesignated Fund has not changed and remains at \$3,036.85. As for grant updates, all MISGP grants were put under a funding freeze and we are currently waiting to hear more from the State of Michigan. As of April 6th, we were no longer able to spend these funds. Reports and requests for reimbursement had been sent in and are awaiting reimbursement from the MI Strategic Management Plan Project. Other affected grants were the Life After Phrag and HWA subaward agreements as well as the WRISC Core funding project. The MEF CCC and EPA grants are on track, but due to MISGP being paused, we are pulling more heavily from these grants. A. Butterfield also states that WRISC is beginning to spend from CBCW 19 and was awarded another CBCW grant we have not started spending out of. WRISC closed a couple grants recently, which included CBCW 18, GLRI-NNIS, and PCG. WRISC is moving forward with the MEF PL grant and has started to spend from our new CWMA grant, which was awarded from GLRI USFS. WRISC also has the SOGL subaward, which expands Phragmites work into Wisconsin in 2020. A. Butterfield mentioned that WRISC is looking to strategically time our newly awarded GLRI-Pathways grant to cover the potential lapse in funding before new grants kick in in Spring 2021.
- b. Motion to place the grant and treasurer's reports on file was made by B. Rice/ D. Peterson. **Motion carried.**

5. Project Updates/Reports

- a. L. Peterson led this portion of the meeting. She stated that there are no in person events planned due to COVID-19. Instead, WRISC may be doing online trainings and videos with the new CBCW guidelines from the WI DNR. These can be helpful for Lake Associations who run their own CBCW programs.
- b. Speaking on projects, L. Peterson again mentioned that the MISGP funding is frozen, but we were able to spend a decent chunk of the funding prior to the freeze. WRISC is hopeful that the grants will resume. With current events, L. Peterson spoke to making sure funding is diverse, so we remain sustainable. She said we are one of the only fortunate CISMAS able to still operate and have staff employed. This is not the end for WRISC.
 - i. The WE Energies MEF CCC grant has been a big funding source for WRISC staff during this time. This grant ends in December, but L. Peterson has applied for a new MEF grant that would kick in Spring 2021.
 - ii. WRISC finished getting the Volunteer Program on the website and up and running. Want to do some training videos for volunteers because they cannot be held in person.
 - iii. The EPA grant ends in December. This has been a primary funding source recently. The main parts left on this grant are vDASH work, using the ORV, and a couple lake surveys. Overall, it is on track.
 - iv. As for the CBCW grants, WRISC recently got two boatwashes out of storage and took the other two to Appleton for repairs. The boat washes are ready to go for summer. WRISC will be implementing the new COVID-19 guidelines and maintain social distancing. However, we can still preform inspections and wash boats. L. Peterson stated that half of K. Mentel and K. Hafemans' time this summer will be funded by CBCW work.
 - v. The HWA is one of the MI grants put on hold. Hope to resume the work in the fall.

- vi. The Life After Phrag grant is currently frozen, but we are technically in year two of the grant. This grant was also match for our SOGL grant. UPRC&D has been able to adjust the contract with NFWF so we can move forward with Phrag work in MI & WI.
 - vii. For the MEF PL grant, not much work has been done yet. Working with partners and planning to do runs later in the summer.
 - viii. One of the newly awarded grants is the GLRI-CWMA grant. With this grant, we hope to have education days in the fall.
 - ix. For the new Pathways Education grant, the money will be used to air our new PSA, for outreach efforts, and for training videos.
 - x. WRISC is also partnered on the WI DNR SOGL grant, which would have us monitor adjacent land to state land that the DNR would treat.
- c. L. Peterson touched on the subject of staff for the summer. She made the final decision to not hire any new staff because it felt like too much uncertainty to hire a new person. Both candidates were also skeptical of the situation. L. Peterson also mentioned that K. Mentel and K. Hafeman (the remaining staff) knew more about the work, were certified, and did not need to be trained. Moreover, not hiring new staff gives WRISC more of a financial cushion during the indefinite funding freeze.
 - d. In other news, L. Peterson said she had started on the Summer Newsletter. Also, WRISC has continued to use social media to reach as many people as possible. Total reach in the last month was greater than 5,000. Lastly, WRISC has made a YouTube channel to link to our website and post relevant videos and trainings on. Check it out!

6. Old Business

- a. **Summer Hiring-** WRISC did not hire any new people.
- b. **Annual Meeting-** During the last meeting, the board talked about postponing the meeting until August or outright cancel it, with further discussion to be had at the June 3rd meeting. L. Peterson asked for thoughts on the matter. A. McCullough and S. Goodwin suggested that WRISC cancel the meeting and the board was in consensus that is was a good call. Final agreement to cancel the WRISC 2020 Annual Meeting was made. L. Peterson will post this update on the WRISC social media and website pages.

7. New Business

- a. **Annual Work Plan Updates-** Field work for the 2020 season has started and the WRISC crew has been out pulling and checking Garlic Mustard sites. The big focus for the summer will be CBCW, as that is a big source of funding. After GM season is done, the WRISC crew will move onto WP, with other AIS and plant species mixed in. The WRISC crew will be surveying last years wild parsnip sites to see the effectiveness of 2019 treatments. During the wild parsnip season, WRISC's crew will be targeting high priority sites before expanding. Unlikely we will be able to treat many new areas this year. The same system will be in place for knotweed, and WRISC will mainly be targeting 1st and 2nd year treated sites and no new ones. During late season, trail surveys and phragmites work will be mixed in. One target for surveys is private forest land if we get the WMA grant L. Peterson applied for, which will allow us to do WI private properties and fill funding gaps. That grant would start in August. Coming shortly, WRISC will be squeezing in vDASH work and lake surveys. WRISC is partnering with some WI groups to also target and follow up on some yellow floating heart sites on private ponds in WI. A. McCullough had a follow up question about GM sites in Marinette Co. L. Peterson said the WRISC crew had not made it to WI yet because they still had a stay-at-home order in place. L. Peterson said that WRISC called to see if private landowners could check/pull their own sites. WRISC will be following up soon. J. Bournoville noted that most of the field activities sound like they will be low risk as far as COVID-19 is concerned but was wondering what WRISC was doing to make CBCW work safe. L. Peterson said WRISC would be following the guidelines set forth by the WI DNR for CBCW. As for other work, WRISC is taking precautions, such as giving each crew person their own set of gear and requiring masks in vehicles or while in close proximity.

8. Round Robin

- a. D. Peterson talked about the increase of areas opening up, such as parks and campgrounds. He thinks they can make up funding at Shakey with reservations in June and July; he is looking at the movement positively.
 - b. G. Cleerman said their enclosure study is expanding. Had a group from Oconto County come to learn about it.
 - c. T. Beckman asked about UMISC and if L. Peterson and folks will attend virtually. L. Peterson said WRISC is still planning to attend and may be submitting an abstract for the pathways guide, vDASH unit, or Volunteer Program. T. Beckman liked the idea for the Pathways guide abstract, as it showed collaboration between CISMAS.
 - d. A. McCullough, from the WI DNR, said they were told not to do any new invasive work and are not sure when they will be returning to the field. The only invasive work would be from long-standing projects at that time.
 - e. B. Rice talked about attending the Farmer's Market last year and stated the DCD will not be replicating what they did last year. B. Rice also mentioned the DCD Spring Tree Sale was cancelled, so the DCD is closely watching their budget. B. Rice also thanked G. Cleerman for his time working with WRISC.
 - f. S. Goodwin said his organization is moving forward with their CBCW program and are looking to hire about 11 people. Training will be run June 4th. They have also lost their AIS Coordinator and will be looking for a new one.
9. **Other Business:** The next WRISC board meeting will be August 5th, 2020. The meeting will most likely be virtual due to COVID-19 concern.
10. **Future Agenda Items:** No additional future agenda items were discussed at this time
11. **Adjourn.** Motion by D. Peterson/ B. Rice to adjourn at 11:36AM. ***Motion carried.***

***Minutes compiled and submitted by Katherine Mentel & Lindsay Peterson
Minutes approved on August 5, 2020***