

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



February 6, 2019 10:00am USDA Service Center – Dickinson CD Office
420 North Hooper St.
Kingsford, MI 49802

Members Present (in person): Amanda Nelson (DCD), Bill Rice (DCD), Dick Peterson (Lake Township), Justin Bournoville (USFS), Scott Goodwin (Florence Cty LCD)

Members Present (on phone): Jennifer Johnson (MDNR), Pam Schroeder (FCAL), Tracy Beckman (Lumberjack RC&D)

Members Absent: Aaron McCullough (WIDNR), Greg Cleerman (Marinette Cty)

Staff: Lindsay Peterson (WRISC Coord.), Amber Butterfield (WRISC Project Mgr, *on phone*), Kyle Hafeman (WRISC Project Mgr)

Meeting called to order at 10AM by Chairperson Bill Rice.

- 1. Introductions** – Members who were present and on the phone were introduced.
- 2. Approval of Agenda** – Motion to approve the agenda **as presented** was made by D.Peterson/S.Goodwin. Motion Carried.
- 3. Approval of Minutes** from the Dec. 5, 2018 were presented. S.Goodwin/D.Peterson moved to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.
- 4. Grants & Treasurer's Report** – A. Nelson presented a spreadsheet of updated grant funding as of **2/4/2019**. A motion to place the treasurer's report on file as presented was made by J.Bournoville/S.Goodwin. Motion carried.
- 5. Action Teams** – A.Butterfield reported that most board members are now able to access their action teams via SLACK. A report regarding the WRISC branding project was posted in December and commented on favorably. S. Goodwin recommended that we give this online SLACK meeting of Action Teams until the end of winter before evaluating as we have not been getting the quality of engagement from action teams that we had before SLACK.
- 6. Project Updates/Reports** – L. Peterson provided a written report to all Board Members regarding organizational activity for Dec. 2018 and Jan. 2019.

EVENTS:

- L.Peterson attended an organizational meeting for the **AIS Water Trail Paddle Grant on Dec. 6**. This is a MSU Ext. and MI Sea Grant collaboration, funded by a 2 year grant, with the goal of doing outreach to water trail users via educational materials and workshops. WRISC will help lead 2 of these events in August or September in the Manistique and Menominee areas.
- L.Peterson represented WRISC at the **MISC Annual Meeting on Dec. 11-12**. This was an effective meeting for CISMA conversations, especially since there has been a lot of turnover with young CISMAs.
- On Jan. 15 L.Peterson presented to the **MISC Core Team regarding Wild Parsnip in the UP**. Concern from County Road Commissions regarding areas with spreading Wild Parsnip initiated the conversation and MISC and CISMAs will seek ways to work together to form a regional plan for management.
- WRISC is continuing to participate on the **Play Clean Go Advisory Council** as they develop more marketing materials for the **Eastern Expansion Campaign**.
- WRISC had a booth and gave an annual report at the **Dickinson Conservation District's Annual Meeting** on Jan. 19.
- L. Peterson and A. Nelson attended the North Central WI Land & Water Event on Feb. 1st in Florence County and helped to judge kid's posters and speaking contests. This was a successful event.

- L. Peterson and A. Butterfield will be attending the **NMU Summer Job Fair on Feb. 13**. This has been a fruitful ground for recruitment in the past and WRISC is looking for applicants to fill at least 2 positions.
- WRISC will be hosting a training event for **the MI Cooperative Lake Monitoring Program on May 8**.

WRISC GRANT PROJECTS:

- **WI DNR WMA Grant** was extended to June of 2019 and is on track for completion. Additional surveys have been completed and the final reports for the landowners have been delivered. L.Peterson will check with the landowners to confirm that there are no confidentiality issues that would be breached by sharing these reports with their respective county representatives. A final draft of the landowner management guide will be presented to the board when complete.
- **WE Energies MEF Strike Team II** has been extended to 2-28-19. Remaining funds will be used to purchase equipment, pesticide and to pay wages.
- **WE Energies MEF Expanding Community, Capacity and Collaboration for Invasive Control** is a new grant focusing on developing volunteer activity. The first order of business is to develop volunteer programs and these should appear on SLACK. WRISC is also developing an on-line system for logging volunteer hours. We will be raising beetles again to attack Purple Loosestrife. Please advise WRISC if you know of any large stands that need to be treated.
- **GLRI-USFS-SCMA: Targeting Invasives on Trails and Crossings in the Menominee River Watershed (aka GLRI NNIS)** Acreage was lagging behind a bit at the beginning of the 2018 season but many acres were contributed this year and put this project back on track. We are now 75% complete.
- **GLRI-EPA-ISC: Menominee River Watershed – Invasive Species Detection & Control...**An extension is being requested to accommodate the vDASH work. S.Goodwin reported that he now has the framework together, the engine mounted, and needs to figure out the outboard which can't be done until spring when the unit is in the water. WRISC would like to thank S.Goodwin for all of his work on this project which is estimated to be 150 hours of labor so far. Divers are lined up for an education session in the spring to obtain certification.
- **GLRI – Boat Wash FY 16...**Remaining funds in this grant were used to purchase new parts for the existing boat wash units such as rollers and tarps. This grant is now closed.
- **GLRI-Boat Wash FY17...**This grant funds WRISC to continue operating portable high pressure heated boat wash units at public boat ramps and fishing tournaments and to support public education in the WRISC 5 county area.
- **GLRI Boat Wash FY18** is pending actual receipt of the contract. WRISC increased deliverables to 3000 contacts for this contract.
- **Lumberjack RC&D – WRISC, WHIP, TIP Pathways Educational Guide** has been completed but was not delivered at today's meeting as planned because of inclement weather.
- **WRISC Invasive Species Pathways Education, Play Clean Go** funded the creation and display of billboards and radio spots in 2018 which were very well received. The goal this year is to put up billboards in Kingsford, Iron Mountain and Florence. There will also be some TV coverage of WRISC activities by local news stations and TV 6 Discovery regarding the use of our new DASH unit.

OTHER PROJECTS:

- WRISC partnered with UPRC&D and other UP Cisma partners in submitting two proposals last June for the **Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program (MISGP)** to continue the **Phragmites Cost Share Program** in Menominee County and also for the early detection survey efforts for **Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA)**. Both projects were awarded. Surveying for HWA happens in winter so activity will not begin on this project until next year.
- WRISC partnered with Sea Grant and MSUE on a project entitled **Michigan Invasive Species Paddling Detection, Reporting and Public Awareness Program**. Collaboration has begun and we are in the process of booking and scheduling an event along the Lake Michigan water trail in partnership with Lake to Lake Cisma.
- WRISC was awarded \$4800 from the WI DNR to conduct phragmites monitoring in Florence, Forest, and Marinette counties as well as develop an updated educational guide and to pull together area partners to discuss developing an "action plan" for the area.

- WRISC wrote letters of support for Florence’s CBCW and AEPP grants and for two Iron-Baraga CD/WePIC proposals for GLRI funding.
- WRISC is near submitting a pre-proposal for a joint project with Environment and Ecology to work on island restoration projects in the Menominee River. WRISC will be the grantee but E&E will do the bulk of the work. WRISC will spend a couple of days on the islands to pull Buckthorn and will manage the invoices. This project should serve as a stepping stone for WRISC to move into restoration projects.
- WRISC is partnering with UPRC&D and the WI DNR to submit **Sustain Our Great Lakes Proposal** that would continue cost share funding for phragmites treatment and would include WRISC’s WI counties.
- **Newsletters/Articles:** The 2018 annual report edition of the newsletter was produced and published. It highlighted 2018 accomplishments, field photos, and partner highlights. WRISC continues to urge partners to share their project information throughout the year so that our partner diversity can be displayed.
- **Website/Facebook/Instagram:** The WRISC website had 448 page views in the last 60 days. The WRISC Facebook page continues to grow, having gone from 283 likes in December to 293 likes at the end of January. Total reach for our Facebook pages for the past two months was really good, with a few highlighted posts where page activity reached a total of 4,454 people.

7. Old Business –

- a. **Signatory Pages:** There are still 4 outstanding signatory pages to be collected and L.Peterson will follow up on those. 136 invitations have been sent out to potential new partners for this year. Applications are due back in mid-April and new partners will be accepted at the annual meeting. It was requested that a list of those invited be shared with the board, A.Butterfield will share this.
- b. **Annual Meeting Planning:** Several discussions were held regarding the 2019 WRISC Annual Meeting
 - P.Schroeder/D.Peterson moved that the WRISC By-Laws shall be amended to reflect the change regarding the day of the annual meeting, under the heading of “**Regular Time and Day**” to read: **Regular Board of Directors meetings will be held at 10AM on the first Wednesday of the month with the exception of the annual meeting.** And, under the heading “**Annual Meeting**” to read: **One (1) Annual Meeting shall be held every year, typically in the spring or early summer (June), of every year with special presentations and programs or workshops.** The motion was unanimously carried with a role call vote with the required quorum of 2/3rds of BOD members met.
 - The 2019 Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, June 7th.
 - L.Peterson will research changing the venue for the Annual Meeting to accommodate more attendees.
 - Registration for the meeting will open at 8:30. The program will begin at 9AM. Lunch will be served after the program and the Board of Directors meeting will begin after lunch.
 - There will be no afternoon training this year.
- c. **Summer Hiring:** Seasonal technician positions were posted. WRISC is looking to hire at least 2 seasonal staff, with one of last year’s technicians returning. One of these positions will include a full time boatwash operator. Copies of the job postings for 2 seasonal positions were handed out to the BOD.

8. New Business –

- a. **WRISC Branding – Logo Update:** The new WRISC logo workup and branding guide was presented to the BOD via SLACK and email in January. A motion was made by P.Schroeder/J.Bournoville to adopt the new look. Motion carried.
- b. **2019 Work Plan – Survey/Treatment Suggestions:** The 2019 work plan is being constructed now and input for survey and/or treatment suggestions are being solicited from WRISC partners. Please send all suggestions to WRISC Coordinator.

9. Round Robin

- **S.Goodwin (Florence Cty LCD)** Copies of the 2017-18 2 year lake monitoring report were passed around and are available on the Florence County website under Land Conservation Department. Word has not been received yet regarding their application for a new round of funding. Funding for CBCW project has been received to cover 7 landings. Permission to store a WRISC boatwash unit at Lake Emily has been received but the exact location for that is yet to be determined. Feral pig testing was on 6 week hold due to government shut-down so no DNA results yet to show their origin.
- **J.Bournoville (USFS)** Trying to catch up from furlough because of Govt. shut-down.
- **D.Peterson (Lake Township)** MI has a new governor who campaigned on a ticket to enforce Great Lake restoration efforts and protection of ground water. It appears as though the new governor is pro-environment so that bodes well for WRISC. On the 9th of Jan. there was a public hearing soliciting feedback regarding an amendment to the Aquilla Resources Sulfide Mine plan. The DEQ had responded with 100 pages of conditions regarding the proposed plan to stockpile rock sulfides for 2 years as they dig down to reach the gold and silver deposits. The time for feedback has been extended 15 days so the public can still comment. 4 parks scheduled for timber cutting and they hope to finish 2 before spring breakup. The lakes have seen a large increase in kayak use since a big push by outfitters last summer. These outfitters should be extended invitations to become WRISC partners and WRISC should strengthen these relationships because the outfitters provide a first line of defense by spotting AIS.
- **J.Johnson (MIDNR)** is now working fully from office out of Norway, MI. On March 16 the DNR's "Coffee and Conversation" meeting will be held in Bay West campus in Iron Mountain. All are encouraged to attend and offer feedback to the fishery order proposals, etc.
- **P.Schroeder (FCAL)** This is a quiet time of the year for FCAL. The annual 5th & 6th grade essay contest theme for this year is "Things We Can Do to Improve the Quality of Forest County Lakes and Streams". This contest kicks off at the end of March and concludes with winners being announced at the end of the school year awards ceremonies at Crandon, Laona & Wabeno elementary schools.
- **A.Nelson (Dickinson CD)** The DCD Annual Meeting went off very well. Thank you to all who attended. The annual Spring Tree Sale is underway. A new Forester has been hired and begins work on January 19th. DCD is looking into applying for a couple more grants to enable hiring more people.

10. Other Business: The next WRISC Board Meeting will be held on April 3rd at the Wausaukee Ranger Station in Marinette.

11. Adjourn. Motion by D.Peterson/S.Goodwin to adjourn at 12:06 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Pam Schroeder & Lindsay Peterson

April 3, 2019: Motion by D.Peterson/J.Bournoville to accept minutes as amended. Motion carried.