

WRISC Project Update

Submitted by WRISC Coordinator, Lindsay Peterson
BOD Meeting 12-2-2020
TELECONFERENCE ONLY



Recent Events

- Several Cancelled Events

Upcoming Events

- Not currently planning or seeking events

Grants:

Red = Ending / Recently Closed; **Orange** = Pending Proposal; **Green** = New / Recently Awarded;
Blue = Existing Award; **Purple** = OTHER/MISC.

MISGP FY2016: WRISC Strategic Management Plan Project – RESUMED!

Formal extension was approved through July 2020. A budget discrepancy was noticed on both the State's end and ours and we worked to reassess remaining project funds. This has been straightened out and we have requested an advance on the remaining grant funds up to the last 10% to assist with cash flow demands while spending out the remaining grant funds. We are waiting to receive that advance to start working on the project again.

WE Energies MEF Expanding Community, Capacity, and Collaboration for Invasive Control

This project focuses on developing volunteer opportunities, increased funding for our Strike Team, and puts some special project efforts towards Purple Loosestrife (a priority for WE Energies).

The volunteer platform had been launched and promoted throughout the last several months, but it was challenging to rouse a volunteer force during this time. This fund allows for treatment of priority species throughout the entire watershed/WRISC area and has been valuable funding for our Strike Team this season. Staff have been working on treatments and field work throughout the season as able. However because seasonal staff were not hired the budget for this project is a bit behind on spending. A short-term extension may be requested.

GLRI-EPA-ISC: Menominee River Watershed – Invasive Species Detection & Control

Extension pending

The vDASH was utilized this season on Barrons Lake in the Spread Eagle Barrons and was successful! As far as other deliverables are concerned, there is some more trail surveying to be done in this late season but treatment acreage is on track to be fully completed after this season. We will be looking at another extension for this project since we still have money left in wages, after not being able to hire a seasonal crew and current staff not working full time throughout the shut-down.

GLRI – Boat Wash

[WRISC Boatwash FY19: WRISC Boatwash Program](#)

Awarded! \$36,000; Contract signed August 20, 2019

Deliverables: 3,000 boater contacts

Restrictions on the CBCW programs were lifted earlier in the season and we followed guidance on how to carefully conduct watercraft inspections. Also, produced an online training video walking through the new guidance for lake groups and others. Traffic was fairly busy overall for the season. Boatwash units have since been winterized and stored until next season.

[WRISC Boatwash FY20: WRISC Boatwash](#)

Awarded! \$39,000;

Deliverables: 3,000 boater contacts

Have submitted Operating and Financial Plans

[WI SeaGrant CBCW Assistance](#)

Agreed to assist WI SeaGrant on several landings in/near our area for up to 200hrs or about \$4,000. This was a successful partnership and WRISC made a lot of new connections with boaters/recreationists in the northern Oconto, southern Marinette Lake Michigan shoreline area.

UP Multi-CISMA HWA Survey Project (MISGP, Administered by Alger CD) – RESUMED!

Work is starting to resume for this project. Staff have been compiling information for a landowner mailing, targeting properties within five miles of the Lake Michigan shoreline in Menominee County. A training is also scheduled for early December for staff.

Life After Phragmites: Wetland Restoration & Landowner Stewardship (MISGP, Administered by UP RC&D) – RESUMED!

This project is a very similar continuation to what we've already been doing in MI for Phragmites. Again, most UP CISMAs are partnered on this project for their respective management areas. The goal is to continue implementing the successful Cost Share program. WRISC will be responsible for about 15 acres of cost share phragmites treatment each year of the project as well as various outreach efforts. An initial planning meeting for 2020 season took place and some sites were identified for treatment. The Subaward was also adjusted to reflect actual expenses so far and some predicted reduction in the coming year. After the funding freeze, we focused on spending the MISGP fund down first, however had set up many WI treatments that could not be covered by this fund. This caused some extra effort in keeping treatments and funding straight, but worked out and the season was wrapped up successfully.

Life After Phragmites: Wetland Restoration & Landowner Stewardship in Michigan's UP and Northeastern Wisconsin – (SOGL Fund; Administered by UP RC&D)

WRISC has partnered on this project proposal with UP RC&D, WI DNR, and other area stakeholders. UP RC&D had discussed project adjustments with SOGL grantors and we moved forward with this project for 2020. Cost share site visit mailings have been sent out to over 100 targeted sites throughout WRISC's counties. There had been low response rate for cost share but nonetheless WRISC had conducted several site visits and lined up several treatments for both MI and WI. Treatments were conducted in late September to early October.

Lose the Loosestrife: Purple Loosestrife Management along the Michigamme River

- Joint project with WePIC, Lake 2 Lake CISMA, WRISC, and respective CDs.
- \$253,465 over 5 years

This project will help fund efforts to remove and manage purple loosestrife infestations along approximately 26 miles of the Michigamme River from the dam in Republic to the Way Dam reservoir. COVID-19 disrupted planning for this project, but we are hoping to get this back on track. WRISC and WePIC ran their sections of river, and WE Energies crews ran the lower stretch, but Lake 2 Lake was unable to make a run this year due to limited staffing and spending restrictions. Project teams will regroup during the off-season and make plans for the next year.

MISGP Core Funding: Seeking Sustainability through CISMA Balance – RESUMED! For 2021

- AWARDED! \$70,000; Match: \$36,500; Total Request: \$106,500

WRISC seeks to balance operational capacity by dedicating staff to each focused CISMA aspect, like daily operation, outreach, and management of terrestrial and aquatic invasives. Secure staffing and specific goals will allow WRISC to adapt to meet the needs of and provide relevant services to our local communities. This project has been delayed until January 2021.

USFS-GLRI-CWMA: Enhancing Ecosystems of the MRW through Invasive Species Detection, Education, & Control

Request: \$40,000 Match: \$30,800

WRISC proposes efforts to inventory high-traffic recreational areas, mainly off-road trails & public accesses, & determine current distributions of & control several priority IS, like Buckthorn, Eurasian Watermilfoil, etc, which threaten recreational opportunities. WRISC seeks to empower local communities to engage in IS management by offering trainings to landowners & workdays for students. Efforts effectively build on WRISC's momentum throughout the area, allowing for continued benefit to the Menominee River Watershed & its natural communities. This project has been progressing slowly and will be getting renewed attention in the off-season as we plan how to meet training and workshop deliverables, which are a large component of this project.

AWARDED! USFS Template 7a: Pathway Education: Pathway Publicity - Raising Awareness through Media Outreach

Request: \$23,000

The goal of this outreach campaign will be to raise awareness of pathways and prevention of invasive species in a “call to action” effort. This project has not started yet and we may delay efforts until next year so they are more effective, as outreach is difficult at this time.

Sustain Our Great Lakes (SOGL) Category 5 Proposal: WDNR Natural Area Buffer Project – AWARDED! Partner Project

WDNR seeks to utilize CISMA partnerships to enhance the State’s IS management efforts on state lands, by connecting with adjacent private landowners and mirroring state management on private lands to serve as a buffer. May involve funds for monitoring and some control. Just found out the WDNR did receive this funding and initial project meetings will be taking place soon!

WE Energies MEF - Pathway Prevention and Assessment – AWARDED!

Awarded August 4th, 2020 for full amount of \$91,000 for 2021-2022

Awaiting project contract

- This project will fund strike team efforts but also implement inland lake monitoring for AIS and provide integrated management. Project will also target private landscapes and offer invasive trade-in events and restoration efforts/education.

MISGP UP RC&D – UP-Wide European Frog Bit Early Detection Project

- Pending proposal to be submitted in early December 2020

Will involve AIS and European Frog Bit focused outreach and boatwash event, as well as EDRR survey efforts along Lake Michigan shoreline areas and priority inland waterways.

Misc.

Staffing: Current team members (K.Hafeman and K.Mentel) did an amazing job at keeping the field season going and have been integral in the survival of WRISC through these uncertain times! L. Peterson will be taking maternity leave in January. 2021 work plans will be in place for staff to work on in her absence.

Newsletters/Articles: WRISC published a fall newsletter and will publish an annual report around the new year.

Website/Facebook/Instagram: The new website is still young and there may be some issues still as well as continued updates, but the updates have been well received so far.

Instagram has received a few updates throughout the last period and currently has **226 followers**. Facebook received some updates despite the shutdown, but hasn’t been as active as normal. The WRISC Facebook page has continued to grow, going from **382 likes and 394 followers** (at the last meeting) to **412 likes and 534 followers** at the end of November.

Total reach for our Facebook page for the past two months has been alright, but lower than normal simply due to lack of activity/updates. Overall, page activity **reached a total of 1,167 people**. The page generally sees great reach whenever something is posted, and a list of posts from the last period, with reach and engagement numbers, is included below:

■ Reach: Organic / Paid ▼
■ Post Clicks ■ Reactions, Comments & Shares ▼

| Published | Post | Type | Targeting | Reach | Engagement | Promote |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 11/30/2020 1:16 PM |  Check out NAISMA's monthly invasive species news roundup for |  |  | 4 | 0 1 | Boost Post |
| 11/26/2020 9:00 AM |  We give thanks this holiday season for the wonderful opportunities we've |  |  | 65 | 0 4 | Boost Post |
| 11/20/2020 4:38 PM |  Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) has been found in yet another Michigan |  |  | 62 | 0 2 | Boost Post |
| 11/17/2020 2:34 PM |  |  |  | 29 | 0 1 | Boost Post |
| 11/11/2020 12:38 PM |  As we all gear up for opening weekend of deer season, let's not |  |  | 200 | 2 7 | Boost Post |
| 11/09/2020 10:29 AM |  Another unfortunate find.... The Michigan departments of Natural |  |  | 60 | 1 42 | Boost Post |
| 10/30/2020 11:18 AM |  An unfortunate advance of Spotted Lanternfly in Ohio. 😞 It is |  |  | 76 | 2 4 | Boost Post |
| 10/28/2020 2:32 PM |  #UMISC2020 is right around the corner! There's still a chance to |  |  | 46 | 1 2 | Boost Post |
| 10/26/2020 3:46 PM |  With winter right around the corner (or maybe showing up a little early!), |  |  | 127 | 6 7 | Boost Post |
| 10/12/2020 12:15 PM |  This past year may not have been a traditional one, but as always the |  |  | 112 | 5 3 | Boost Post |