

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



April 3, 2019

10:00am

Wausaukee Ranger Station
1025 HWY C
Wausaukee, WI 54177

Members Present (in person): Pam Schroeder (Forest Co. Assoc. Lakes), Scott Goodwin (Florence Co. Land Conservation Dept.), Dick Peterson (Menominee Co. - Lake Township), Bill Rice (Dickinson Conservation District), Amanda Nelson (Dickinson Conservation District), Justin Bournoville (USFS), Greg Cleereman (Marinette Co. Land & Water Conservation)
Members Present (on phone): Tracy Beckman (Lumberjack RC&D), Jennifer Johnson (MDNR)
Members Absent: Lindsay Peterson (Coordinator), Aaron McCullough (WDNR-Marinette)
Staff: Amber Butterfield (Project Mgr.)

Meeting called to order at 10AM by Bill Rice.

1. **Introductions** – Introductions were made as members that were present, on the phone, were acknowledged.
2. **Approval of Agenda** – Motion to approve the agenda **as presented** was made by P.Schroeder/S.Goodwin. Motion Carried.
3. **Approval of Minutes** from Feb. 6, 2019 were presented. D.Peterson/J.Bournoville moved to accept the minutes as **amended**. Motion carried.
4. **Grants & Treasurer's Report** – A. Nelson presented a spreadsheet of updated grant funding as of **4-2-19**. A motion to place the treasurer's report on file as presented was made by S.Goodwin/G.Cleereman. The motion carried. Amanda agreed to reformat the Grants Report for the next meeting to show projected income and expenses for 2019. The new format should also show which of the 5 WRISC counties will be recipients of grant expenditures.
5. **Action Teams** – A.Butterfield reported that the Phragmites Brochure has just been posted on SLACK and they have already gotten a number of favorable comments on it. There are plans to post an editable document and team members are encouraged to review and post edits. At the next board meeting there will be a review of action teams and their purpose and an evaluation of SLACK as to whether it is the best way for action teams to communicate.
6. **Project Updates/Reports** –
 - A. Butterfield provided a written report to all Board Members regarding organizational activity since Feb. 1, 2019 . WRISC was represented at 8 events since the February board meeting. The NMU Summer Job Fair was not attended due to bad weather.
 - Upcoming Events : April 9 – MSUE MI Paddle Stewards Project meeting
May 8 – MICorps CLMP Lake Monitoring Training
June 7 – WRISC Annual Meeting
July 19 – MI Paddle Stewards Workshop in Menominee, MI
 - **WI DNR WMA Grant (2016-June 2018) – Extended to June 2019:** A copy of the WI Landowner Management Guide was shared with the board. Remaining funds will be used for printing. How many copies get printed depends on the cost. It will be printed on waterproof, high gloss paper.
 - **MISGP FY2016: WRISC Strategic Management Plan Project (2017-2019):** Treatment acreage was up this past year compared to year one but there is still a need for more MI treatments and planning is being done to accomplish that. The next reporting round is at the end of April.
 - **WE Energies MEF Strike Team II (2017-2018):** This grant is now closed and reimbursement has been received.
 - **WE Energies MEF Expanding Community, Capacity and Collaboration for Invasive Control (AWARDED!):** This program focuses on developing volunteer opportunities and puts some project

efforts towards Purple Loosestrife. We will be seeking input from the action teams regarding development of volunteer programs.

- **GLRI-USFS-CWMA: Targeting Invasives on Trails and Crossings in the Menominee River Watershed (2017-2019) (aka GLRI NNS):** There are only a few acres left to contribute to this project and a few miles of trail to survey. Signage will be installed and there was a request from the BOD to coordinate signage with everyone so signs are not duplicated. G.Cleereman will send contact information to A.Nelson for quotes on a very durable kiosk for signage.
- **GLRI-EPA-ISC: Menominee River Watershed – Invasive Species Detection & Control:** An extension was approved until December 30, 2020. Diver equipment has been purchased and divers are lined up to obtain certification this Spring. The work has been completed on the DASH unit and it will be put in the water this Spring.
- **GLRI – Boat Wash:** All units are still in storage and we are still awaiting DNR signed agreement from WI DNR for storage.
WRISC Boat Wash FY17: Blocking the Recreational Boat Pathway: \$37,000 has been awarded. This enables continued operation of portable, high pressure, heated boat wash units at public boat landings throughout the WRISC management area, as well as continued support for public education.
WRISC Boat Wash FY18: Blocking the Recreational Boat Pathway: A contract was received for a \$36,000 award. Working on finalizing budget and project work plans.
WRISC Boat Wash FY19: WRISC Boat Wash Program: A proposal has been submitted and \$40,000 requested to deliver 3,000 boater contacts.
- **WRISC Invasive Species Pathways Education, Play Clean Go:** Billboard spaces will be rented for this summer and late season flights. A radio interview was done with Wishigan Outdoors that was well received and we hope to do more of this in the next year. We will also be focused on getting some TV coverage this coming year.
- **UP Multi-CISMA HWA Survey Project (MISGP, Administered by Alger CD):** This is a new project involving winter surveys for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid within 20 miles of the Lake Michigan shoreline. There will also be several training components and outreach opportunities.
- **Life After Phragmites: Wetland Restoration & Landowner Stewardship (MISGP, Administered by UP RC&D):** This is a continuation of the cost share program we have been doing in MI. WRISC will be responsible for about 15 acres of cost share phragmites treatment each year of the project as well as various outreach efforts.
- **WRISC's Preliminary Project for WI Phragmites (Sub-award from WI DNR GLRI funds):** This project has ended. It funded 1,884 miles of roadway surveys in Florence, Forest & Marinette Counties for Phragmites and knotweed. The data compiled will be available soon. Several phragmites educational documents were developed that were geared towards WI landowners. The project also facilitated discussions among area partners and allowed WRISC to partner with UP RC&D to submit a larger project proposal to the Sustain Our Great Lakes fund.
- **Lower Menominee River Ecological Restoration Project for Rookery Habitat Protection, Island Restoration and Habitat Enhancement (Stage 2) – Pending proposal to USFWS NRDA (Natural Resource Damage Assessment & Restoration):** WRISC was asked to partner with Ecology and Environment, Inc. (EnE) to work on the restoration of 4 islands near the mouth of the Menominee River in Menominee/Marinette. It is intended that WRISC will be the grantee but EnE will do a lot of the project implementation on a contractual basis.
- **Life After Phragmites: Wetland Restoration and Landowner Stewardship in Michigan's UP and Northeastern WI – (Administered by UP RC&D) Invited to submit Full Proposal to Sustain Our Great Lakes:** This seeks to extend the cost share program longer in MI and also to include WRISC's WI Counties and initiate the cost share process there.
- **Other Projects:** 1) WRISC is working with WePIC (Western Peninsula Invasive Species Coalition), Lake to Lake CISMA, Dickinson DC, Marquette CD and Iron-Braga CD to develop a 5-year grant project to survey and remove purple loosestrife from the Michigamme River. 2) WRISC collaborated with Sea Grant and MSUE on a project titled "Michigan Invasive Species Paddling Detection, Reporting and Public Awareness Program", targeting paddlers and Great Lakes Water Trails.

- **Website/Facebook/Instagram:** Please notify the WRISC office if there are any broken links or anything odd or outdated on any of our social media platforms. Our page views and “likes” continue to increase.

7. Old Business

- **Partner Signatory Pages and Partnership Invites:** There are eight current applicants: Town of Homestead, Crivitz Public Schools, Northern Lights YMCA, North Dickinson County Schools, Town of Commonwealth, School District of Niagara, Ingallston Township, and Cedarville Township. Amber was congratulated on her good work soliciting potential partners. She promised to get a list of all those organizations she invited to become partners to all the board members.
- **Annual Meeting Planning Venue and Board Terms:**
 - 1) The search for 2 speakers for the Annual Meeting continues. D. Peterson recommends asking Bill Cook of MSU to speak on the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and also the Asian Long Horned Beetle, which threatens the Sugar Maple Trees.
 - 2) A discussion regarding possible venues for the Annual Meeting was held. A larger venue is necessary to accommodate the larger number of partners and the Friday date. Keyes Peak was suggested and will be investigated. The idea of charging a fee to attend the Annual Meeting at a larger venue was also discussed. Alternative meeting ideas can be addressed earlier next year, when planning the 2020 Annual Meeting.
 - 3) Five Board members are up for re-election and need to send L.Peterson a letter of intent if they are willing to continue serving another two year term. Those members are: Dick Peterson, Aaron McCullough, Scott Goodwin, Jennifer Johnson and Pam Schroeder.
- **Summer Hiring:** WRISC has hired 4 people for the 2019 season: Katherine Mentel and Finn Hakamaki, both of whom worked for WRISC in the 2017 season. Abigail Reimer and Mandy Mellinger are both new staff members. Abigail and Katherine will work with Amber and Kyle on the Strike Team. Abigail has been signed up to take the Pesticide Applicator’s exam on May 8th. Katherine is already certified. Mandy will be a full-time boat wash person and Finn will be a part-time boat wash person.
- **2019 Survey/Treatment Suggestions:** A.Butterfield stated that the strike team is open to suggestions for both aquatic and terrestrial survey opportunities and control sites that board members consider priorities. They are also open to opportunities for presentations and work day events. J.Bournoville recommended an area of the Nicolet State ATV Trail be surveyed.

8. New Business:

- **Citizen Partnership Opportunity:** A motion was made by S.Goodwin/G.Cleerman to refer the idea of developing Individual Partnership designations to the Action Teams. Motion carried.
- **Volunteer Program Development:** This item was included in the motion to develop Citizen Partnership Opportunities and has also been remanded to the Action Teams.
- **Marinette County Fair Contract:** The BOD recommends WRISC attendance at County Fairs only when required to do so by grant parameters or when someone other than WRISC staff is able to set up the display and man the booth on a volunteer basis.
- **Sneak Peak of Landowner Management Guide:** These completed guides will be available at the Annual Meeting. The cost to print is currently estimated at \$5.50 per each. There is a need to print 50 books with existing grant money to be distributed to landowners WRISC has done surveys for. The BOD recommends finding the money to print more of these guides and distribute to all partners as well as offering them for

sale. A.Butterfield will investigate these possibilities as well as the possibility of posting an on-line version of this reference.

9. Round Robin

- **G.Cleerman – Marinette County Land & Water Conservation:** Awaiting word regarding their Enclosure Grant application. This grant would allow chemical treatment of aquatic invasives that can be contained within an 800 ft. curtain enclosure. Other projects include doing a follow-up survey for EWM on Lundgren Lake and using Rapid Response grant money to treat EWM on Dolan Lake.
- **D.Peterson – Lake Township in Menominee County:** 1) On 3/27 WRISC presented a Phragmites presentation at Stephenson Library that was very well done.
2) Menominee County Lakes Park Board voted to raise the public boat launch in Lake Township about one foot. The launch is currently 8" underwater. This needs to be approved by the County Commissioner.
3) The second select cut in Bailey's Park off of M35 has been completed. There are three more cuts to go. The Forester is very happy with the results.
4) An ordinance has been passed to outlaw the use of drones in Menominee County Parks to protect individual privacy.
5) A 900 page document has been submitted by Aquila Resources regarding sulfide mine operations and is being reviewed by the MI DEQ. A ruling is expected on this document later this month.
6) Menominee County's annual kayak fishing tournament has been moved from Free Fishing Week end of June 8-9 to the last Saturday in July this year. This event has traditionally been very well attended.
- **S.Goodwin – Florence County Land Conservation Department:** 1) Florence County's request for an AEPP lake monitoring grant has been declined as have those requested by Langlade and Oneida Counties. The grant money is being diverted to Lake Michigan and Mississippi Watershed projects. This means that the monitoring on 40+ lakes with funding from this program will be discontinued.
2) Florence County will still have a strong CBCW program with 3 full time, 3 part time employees plus 1 full-time coordinator being funded for a total of about \$40,000 between money from the State, Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes Association, and WRISC to cover a minimum of 7 boat landings.
3) There are plans to use the aerial drone soon for surveying. Software needs to be purchased at a cost of \$6,000 per year to process the information collected by the drone.
4) The state biologist was unable to ID rooting damage by feral pigs because of snow cover. No further update on feral pigs at this time.
- **J. Bournoville – USFS Plant Ecologist:** The Eagle River Forest Ranger District is wrapping up a four month project encompassing parts of Vilas, Forest and Oneida Counties and so, time can finally be spent on other projects.
- **P. Schroeder – Forest County Association of Lakes:** 1) WRISC employees attended the March FCAL BOD meeting and gave their Phragmites presentation. We had 7 visitors in attendance in addition to FCAL board members and all felt the presentation was well worth their time. Thank- you!
2) Funding has been granted to the FC Land & Water department to hire a new tech with GPS, GIS and land conservation responsibly.
3) DATCAP funding has been received for a planting project at Veterans Park on Lake Metonga.
4) FCAL kicked off the 2019 essay contest for FC 5th & 6th grade students. Essays will be judged in May.
5) The Lion's Club has given the county money for ten Conservation Camp scholarships.
6) There is a stream crossing workshop being offered this spring but the date has not yet been announced.
7) The DNR grant applied for by Lumberjack RC&D to fund a tri-county AIS Coordinator has been denied.
- **A. Nelson – Dickinson County Dickinson Conservation District:** 1) May 3-4 is Dickinson County's annual Spring Tree Sale. Volunteers are needed in Norway at the fairgrounds. Order forms are posted on their website and pre-ordering is preferable.
2) The stream monitoring grant begins in June. Hiring will begin soon.

10. Other Business: The next WRISC Board Meeting will be held June 7th in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. B. Rice will not be able to attend that meeting and so A. McCullough will lead the meeting.

11. Future Agenda Items: No future agenda items were discussed at this time.

12. Adjourn. Motion by D.Peterson/J.Bournoville to adjourn at 11:55. Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by P.Schroeder

June 7th, 2019: Motion by D.Peterson/S.Goodwin to approve previous meeting minutes. Motion carried.

DRAFT