

## WRISC Project Update

Submitted by WRISC Coordinator, Lindsay Peterson  
December 7, 2022 BOD Meeting  
Dickinson County



### **Recent Events**

- Cowboy Lake Workday w/ KHS – October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- Upper Midwest Invasives Species Conference (UMISC) – October 25-27<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- Iron Mountain School Forest Workday – November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- EFB Collaborative – November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- Several webinars and/or online conferences

### **Upcoming Events**

- Forest Health Seminar – December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – Bay College, Iron Mountain
- Wisconsin Lakes & Rivers Convention – April 19-21, 2023 – Stevens Point, WI
- *Other events being planned*

### **Grants:**

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

### **WE Energies MEF - Pathway Prevention and Assessment - Extension Request Submitted**

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

This project funded strike team efforts in 2022 but also the implementation of inland lake monitoring for AIS and provided integrated management. Project will also continue to target private landscapes. Offered invasive trade-in events in the spring and continue to offer restoration efforts/education. Lake monitoring was a primary focus in 2022 and is mostly wrapped up.

### **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. Project teams regrouped for 2022 and have been able to make progress on field activities, with all groups completing river runs this season. Project team leads will be meeting this winter to ensure the project is progressing appropriately for all partners.

## **WE Energies 2022 – Sustainable Programming for IS Management**

\$107,000 for 2023–2025

This project will begin in January 2023

The focus of this project is to develop and implement a cost-share program while supporting long-standing programs to be more successful and sustainable. It will also allow the construction of a purple loosestrife biocontrol rearing station.

## **GLRI – Boat Wash**

[WRISC Boatwash FY20: WRISC Boatwash](#)

Awarded! \$39,000;

Deliverables: 3,000 boater contacts

Data has been entered into SWIMS and the numbers are a bit lower than anticipated for this year, but this was due to inconsistencies in staffing. WRISC is also considering developing and distributing a public program survey to better assess WRISC's longstanding CBCW program and where improvements can be made.

[USFS GLRI CBCW – AWARDED!](#)

A project agreement has been developed for this project. This project will start in 2024

## **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.

The modification request for this project was approved and WRISC has worked to get the activities and deliverables back on track for this project.

This project will be completed at the end of 2022.

## **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. WRISC has started work on this project and will be implementing the billboard campaigns this summer, along with field videos and more. WRISC recently received campaign data from the TV6 ads that were run and the reach was impressive! Some billboard spaces are already slated for next year as well.

### **USFS CWMA Funding – Buffer Zone Project**

Funded: \$50,000 Total Project: \$64,370

This project will begin in 2023

The focus of this project is to map “buffer zones” around all federal & state land and natural areas and prioritize survey and treatment within those zones.

### **MISGP Core Funding: Seeking Sustainability through CISMA Balance – Extension request submitted**

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

WRISC Coordinator has been working with technical contacts on reworking this project and associated funding. This project has successfully been extended and will continue to fund CISMA operation and management associated with Wild Parsnip.

The wild parsnip portion of this project was limited by the difficulty in obtaining a permit from MDOT. Funds allocated for treatment that were not used are being redistributed toward Wild Parsnip awareness and education efforts, primarily youth focused outreach for schools.

We are looking for another short term extension to push this out through Spring 2023 to help wrap up outreach development and spend down underspent funds.

### **MISGP Core Funding 2022**

This project kicked off in the mid-spring and has been progressing well. This was a smaller award amount since we were going to be overlapping Core funds. Coordinator and Project Manager have both been exploring the Non-profit Learning Lab resources and attending various trainings/webinars. WRISC intends to do more of this in the off-season, as well as pursuing a non-profit consultation.

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

WRISC has partnered on this project proposal with UP RC&D, WI DNR, and other area stakeholders. This project will again focus on phragmites cost share efforts, with additional focus on WI coastal areas as well. Treatments have pretty much wrapped up for this season, which was successful.

WRISC has spent out the sub-award for this project after the 2022 season.

### **Sustain Our Great Lakes (SOGL) Category 5 Proposal: WDNR Natural Area Buffer Project –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. Project subaward contract was received and submitted in fall 2021. WRISC has begun some survey work and will continue to implement more survey and treatment in 2023.

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

- **Awarded!** Approx. \$30,000 subaward for WRISC
- **Project timeline:** June 2021 to April 2023

WRISC has focused on conducting several surveys in the Menominee area, focusing attention on WRISC's southern border especially after new occurrences of EFB in Marinette and Oconto counties. Coordinator has been participating in EFB planning meetings in both states. The yearly MI EFB training for UP staff was in June in Marinette County and was a great collaborative training for MI and WI folks. WRISC staff spent several days surveying for EFB this season and found several new locations in Michigan (Menominee Co.) which were removed upon discovery.

## **EPA UPRC&D Partner Proposal – UP Wide Phragmites Project**

This project has already been extended through September 2024. WRISC has started some survey effort towards this project, which focuses mainly on the Lake Superior watershed, so includes primarily the northern half of Dickinson Co., but prioritized outlier populations and has some flexibility.

## **USFS GLRI Education – AWARDED!**

Project agreement has been submitted.

## **MISGP Core Funding – Proposal Submitted November 1st, 2022**

## **WI EDRR Grant – Yellow Floating Heart & Graceful Cattail – Postponed, will reassess if needed next season**

### **Misc.**

**Staffing:** WRISC will be posting for 2023 seasonal positions in January 2023. WRISC is also considering connecting with a veterans program for hiring watercraft inspectors, to help with hiring of those positions, which has been very difficult over the last few years.

**Newsletters/Articles:** WRISC has published a couple of articles in the last period, primarily grant required topics such as Phragmites or EFB.

**Website/Facebook/Instagram:** The website will be undergoing further updates this winter, so please be patient and aware of pages that may be changing or under construction at times.

Katherine has been doing an amazing job at keeping WRISC's social media running. Instagram has received several updates throughout the last period and currently has **388 followers**. Facebook received several updates as well and has seen some great feedback and engagement. The WRISC Facebook page has continued to grow, going from **684 likes and 854 followers** (at the last meeting) to **698 likes and 881 followers** at the end of November.

WRISC has also created a TikTok and has started posting on that platform as well, which is already seeing some good results. With only 3 videos posted so far, WRISC has gotten 275 views!

Total reach for our online pages (Facebook, Instagram, & website) for the past two months has been great! Overall, social media activity reached a total of **32,630 people!** Facebook has changed how they monitor and

report reach/engagement on their platforms so these numbers and the way we present them will be a bit different starting in 2023.

The Facebook page generally sees great reach whenever something is posted. Our most popular post from the last period is included below:



Boost post

Happy October 1st! Fall is truly here and that means it's time to start decorati...  
October 1, 2022 at 6:00 PM

ID: 422687913311256

Interactions

543 reactions   94 comments   166 shares

Performance

Reach	Reactions, comments and sh...	Results
<p>Total <b>24,077</b></p> <p>Worst   Best</p> <p>This post reached more people than <b>100%</b> of your 50 most recent Facebook posts and stories.</p>	<p>Total <b>803</b></p> <p>Worst   Best</p> <p>This post received more reactions, comments and shares than <b>100%</b> of your 50 most recent Facebook posts and stories.</p>	<p>Total <b>3</b></p> <p>Worst   Best</p> <p>This post received more link clicks than <b>22%</b> of your 50 most recent Facebook posts and stories.</p>
<p>Reach: 24,077</p>	<p>Reactions: 543 Comments: 94 Shares: 166</p>	<p>Link clicks: 3</p>