

## WRISC Project Update

Submitted by WRISC Coordinator, Lindsay Peterson  
BOD Meeting 6-7-2019  
Florence, WI



### **Recent Events**

- MSUE MI Paddle Stewards Project meeting – April 9, 2019
- WI DNR AIS Identification Workshop – April 24, 2019
- Phragmites Steering Team Committee Meeting – April 25, 2019
- MiCorps CLMP Lake Monitoring Training – May 8, 2019
- Iron Mountain PBL Workshop – May 15, 2019
- Morgan Lake Association Meeting – May 25, 2019
- Iron Mountain Middle School PBL @ Lake Antoine – May 31, 2019
- ANNUAL MEETING! – June 7, 2019
- Play Clean Go Awareness Week – June 1-8, 2019

### **Upcoming Events**

- Butternut Franklin Lakes Association Garlic Mustard Pull – June 15, 2019
- Menominee Islands Management Meeting – June 19, 2019
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade – July 4, 2019
- Drain Campaign – Week of July 4th
- MI Paddle Stewards Workshop – Menominee, MI – July 19, 2019

### **Grants:**

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

### **WI DNR WMA Grant (2016-June 2018) – EXTENDED to JUNE 2019**

The management guide is being finalized and input is being sought from experts/professionals. The printing details are also being finalized at this time. The final development and printing of this guide will consume the remaining budget. Staff has also conducted surveys on large portions of the Florence County forest with some of these remaining funds. This project will be close at the end of June.

### **MISGP FY2016: WRISC Strategic Management Plan Project (2017-2019)**

Goals are on track as we jump into year 3 of 3 for this project. More wages are starting to be pulled from this fund, especially by project managers and coordinator, now that field activities have started. For treatments, many if not all of the Michigan sites fall under this grant for acreage with the exception of a few specific ones. Treatment acreage was up this past year compared to year one but there is still more to be done in

the next season and there is a focus to obtain more MI permissions to increase acreage. This will be alleviated if the MDOT permit goes through and we are able to treat much of the Wild Parsnip in ROW areas.

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

This proposal 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).

Work began as soon as the previous MEF project was expended. Biocontrol beetles will be arriving soon and amazingly our purple loosestrife stock pots are growing well this year!

### **GLRI-USFS-CWMA: Targeting Invasives on Trails and Crossings in the Menominee River Watershed (2017-2019) (aka GLRI NNIS)**

Deliverables are on track for this project. There are only a few acres left to contribute to this project, a few miles of trail to survey, a couple stream crossings to monitor, and some signage to install. Workdays are for this project are focusing on recreational hygiene and that has been well received by various age groups.

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

#### **Extension approved – December 30, 2020**

The vDASH is nearing completion. It is planned to hit the water by the end of June. WRISC staff have been working on diver certification training and will be fully certified soon. As far as other deliverables are concerned, there is also more trail surveying to be done this season. Treatment acreage is on track. The ROV will also be utilized to conduct inland lake surveys this season once a generator is purchased.

### **GLRI – Boat Wash**

Boatwash units have been removed from storage, but unfortunately many are not operational at this time, despite the professional maintenance and winterization that occurred in the fall.

#### *WRISC Boatwash FY17: Blocking the Recreational Boat Pathway*

Awarded! \$37,000 (\$33,850 after overhead) **Contract Signed**

Continue operating portable high pressure heated boatwash units at public boat ramps and fishing tournaments in the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC) management area, which consists of 5 counties within the Lake Michigan Watershed in Michigan and Wisconsin. Continue to support public education by WRISC staff as well as local agencies and citizen groups on the aquatic invasive species recreational boat pathway.

#### *WRISC Boatwash FY18: Blocking the Recreational Boat Pathway*

**Awarded!** \$36,000 (less after overhead subtracted)

Deliverables: 3,000 User Contacts

Received contract documents for budget and project work plan.

### WRISC Boatwash FY19: WRISC Boatwash Program

Proposal Submitted, Requested: \$40,000

Deliverables: 3,000 boater contacts

### **WRISC Invasive Species Pathways Education, Play Clean Go**

Billboards are all rented and two locations will be up from mid-June through mid-July. We will be focusing on getting some TV coverage as well this coming year. Also listen for more radio ads and PSAs. WRISC Coordinator has also been participating on the Play Clean Go Eastern Expansion Advisory Council to help expand the PCG messaging to eastern states and develop new materials.

### **UP Multi-CISMA HWA Survey Project (MISGP, Administered by Alger CD)**

This is a partner project involving many of the UP CISMAs. It involves winter surveys for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid within 20 miles of the Lake Michigan Shoreline. There will also be several training components and outreach opportunities. Much of this project takes place later in the season or during the winter, so there are not many updates at this time.

### **Life After Phragmites: Wetland Restoration & Landowner Stewardship (MISGP, Administered by UP RC&D)**

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. The first mailing has gone out to contact shoreline landowners and schedule the free site visits for July.

### **NOT FUNDED - Lower Menominee River Ecological Restoration Project for Rookery Habitat Protection, Island Restoration, and Habitat Enhancement (Stage 2) – Pending proposal to USFWS NRDA, joint project with Ecology and Environment, INC. (EnE)**

This project is a joint effort with Ecology and Environment, INC. who had completed a previous project on the 4 islands near the mouth of the Menominee River in Menominee/Marinette. They have done island restoration and encouraged the rookery habitat there, which is quite a valuable ecosystem. This past year, we were invited to tour the islands and discuss partnership opportunities and grant ideas. We agreed to pursue a project providing some invasive species management efforts on the islands and on the adjacent shoreline. This also provides an opportunity for WRISC to get some experience with a larger-scale restoration effort, doing shoreline buffers, native plantings, etc. and could prepare and equip us for these types of efforts in the future. It is intended that WRISC will be the grantee but EnE will do a lot of the project implementation on a contractual basis.

NRDA = Natural resource damage assessment and restoration

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

### **Invited to submit Full Proposal to Sustain Our Great Lakes**

WRISC has partnered on this project proposal with UP RC&D, WI DNR, and other area stakeholders. The project is very similar to the other recently approved Phragmites project and if awarded, this project will be matched by that one. Essentially it is seeking to again 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:**

- WRISC is working with WePIC, Lake 2 Lake CISMA, Dickinson DC, Marquette CD, and Iron-Baraga CD to develop a 5-year grant project to survey and remove purple loosestrife from the Michigan River. WE Energies has specifically asked our groups to look into this project and we will be seeking MEF funding for this.
- WRISC has offered support/partnered on another statewide proposal with Sea Grant and MSUE on a project titled *Michigan Invasive Species Paddling Detection, Reporting and Public Awareness Program*. So targeting paddlers and Great Lake water trails.
  - Workshop event is scheduled for July 19, 2019 in Menominee at the Spies Public Library.

### **Misc.**

**Staffing:** WRISC has secured staff for the 2019 season. Katherine Mentel and Finn Hakamaki are both returning to WRISC this season. Katherine will be full time for Strike Team, while Finn will be working ½ to ¾ time on CBCW. Abigail Reimer will be starting June 10<sup>th</sup> as our final Strike Team member. Our second CBCW hire, Melissa Stoffel (who will be replacing Mandy Mellinger after she took another position), will also be starting June 10<sup>th</sup> and will be ½ time watercraft inspector.

**Newsletters/Articles:** The summer newsletter has been produced. We switched up the layout and format of the newsletter this time around just to try something new. It was also a more condensed newsletter format which was easier to produce during the busy transition into field season. Several articles were published in area papers since the last meeting including some for the MiCorps training, the Annual Meeting, Partnership, etc.


**Website/Facebook/Instagram:** The WRISC website has not received as many updates in the last period. If there are ever any broken links or if anything looks odd or outdated, please don't hesitate to let us know! We are hoping to give another facelift to the page following the branding update but this is not a top priority at this time. We may change website providers once our plan with the current one is due. Despite not being as active, the WRISC website had **402 page views** in the last 60 days.

Facebook has received quite regular updates of invasive articles, links, pictures, etc. and has been more consistent. There's been a lot of activity for Play Clean Go as part of our role on the Eastern Expansion advisory council and the recent Play Clean Go Awareness Week effort. The WRISC Facebook page continues to grow, having gone from 301 likes (at the last BOD meeting) to **311 likes** at the end of May. Total reach for

our Facebook page for the past two months was really good, with a few highlighted posts, where page activity reached a total of 6,206 people! While the page is generally seeing great reach whenever something is posted, a few of the more engaging posts (those interacted with more) are included here:

**Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition**  
Published by Lindsay Peterson (?) · May 9 at 1:31 PM · 🌐

Oh, Knotweed....  
We work hard to battle this plant throughout our area. This article details the invasion history of this aggressive invader and offers an interesting perspective on the fear or panic surrounding this species' spread in some places.



SLATE.COM  
**Knotweed Can't Be Killed. But Can It Be Stopped?**  
The invasive plant that crossed an ocean to terrorize my backyard is...

✔ **Get More Likes, Comments and Shares**  
Boost this post for \$49 to reach up to 9,500 people.


383	60
People Reached	Engagements

[Boost Post](#)

**Performance for Your Post**

383 People Reached		
16 Reactions, Comments & Shares ⓘ		
5 Like	3 On Post	2 On Shares
2 Wow	1 On Post	1 On Shares
4 Comments	0 On Post	4 On Shares
5 Shares	5 On Post	0 On Shares
44 Post Clicks		
0 Photo Views	28 Link Clicks ⓘ	16 Other Clicks ⓘ

**Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition**  
Published by Lindsay Peterson (?) · May 29 at 8:56 PM · 🌐



CRAINSDETROIT.COM  
**Michigan 'beyond 11th hour' as Asian carp move closer to Great Lakes**

✔ **Get More Likes, Comments and Shares**  
Boost this post for \$49 to reach up to 9,500 people.

149	122
People Reached	Engagements

[Boost Post](#)

👍👍 Beth Clawson and Christina Kionka 29 Shares

**Performance for Your Post**

149 People Reached		
111 Reactions, Comments & Shares ⓘ		
10 Like	0 On Post	10 On Shares
6 Wow	1 On Post	5 On Shares
38 Sad	0 On Post	38 On Shares
11 Angry	1 On Post	10 On Shares
17 Comments	0 On Post	17 On Shares
29 Shares	29 On Post	0 On Shares
11 Post Clicks		
0 Photo Views	7 Link Clicks ⓘ	4 Other Clicks ⓘ
<b>NEGATIVE FEEDBACK</b>		
0 Hide Post	0 Hide All Posts	
0 Report as Spam	0 Unlike Page	

**Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition**  
Published by willdriverscwma@gmail.com (?) · June 3 at 12:50 PM · 🌐

The bad news: People spread invasive species with our boots, tires, boats, firewood, pets, and horses. The GOOD news: These are also the ways we can STOP invasives from spreading! 10 Things You Can Do To Stop Invasive Species: [www.playcleango.org/awareness-week](http://www.playcleango.org/awareness-week) #PlayCleanGoWeek

**STOP INVASIVE SPECIES IN YOUR TRACKS**  
JUNE 1-8 #PlayCleanGoWeek 2019



**INVASIVES HURT THE ENVIRONMENT**  
400 of 958 U.S. threatened or endangered species are AT RISK due to competition by INVASIVE SPECIES

**INVASIVES HURT THE ECONOMY**  
INVASIVE SPECIES cost the U.S. \$138 BILLION per year in ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGES, control and losses

50,000 exotic INVASIVE SPECIES in U.S.  
5,000 NON-NATIVE PLANTS versus 17,000 native plants in U.S.

Asian longhorned beetle has cost over \$373 MILLION  
Emerald ash borer alone has cost BILLIONS OF DOLLARS

**HOW PEOPLE SPREAD INVASIVES**  
BOOTS TIRES BOATS FIREWOOD PETS HORSES



**Performance for Your Post**

234 People Reached		
22 Likes, Comments & Shares ⓘ		
17 Likes	7 On Post	10 On Shares
2 Comments	0 On Post	2 On Shares
3 Shares	3 On Post	0 On Shares
16 Post Clicks		
2 Photo Views	0 Link Clicks ⓘ	14 Other Clicks ⓘ
<b>NEGATIVE FEEDBACK</b>		
0 Hide Post	0 Hide All Posts	
0 Report as Spam	0 Unlike Page	

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts