

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



*Conference Call-In option

February 2nd, 2022 10:00am

Members Present (on phone): Bill Rice (Dickinson Conservation District), Steve Kircher (Forest County Conservation Dept.), Scott Goodwin (Florence County LCD), Dick Peterson (Lake Township, Menominee Co), Aaron McCullough (WDNR-Marquette), Tracy Beckman (Lumberjack RC&D), Amber Butterfield (Dickinson Conservation District), Larry Sommer (Town of Lincoln)

Members Absent: J. Bournoville (USFS)

Guests: Amanda Pyke (USFS), Charlene Peterson (Lake Township, Menominee CO.)

Staff: Lindsay Peterson (Coordinator), Katherine Mentel (Project Manager)

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am by S. Goodwin.

Board of Directors Meeting

1. **Approval of Agenda** – Motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by D. Peterson/L. Sommer.
Motion carried.
2. **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from the December 1st, 2021, meeting were presented. L. Sommer/ D. Peterson moved to accept the minutes as presented. *Motion carried.*
3. **Grants & Treasurer's Report** – A. Butterfield led this portion of the meeting. WRISC closed out multiple grants at the end of December. All file requests were submitted. The last one that needs to be submitted is the CBCW 19 grant. The WRISC undesignated fund sits at \$5,131.85. S. Goodwin mentioned that some of the undesignated funds could be used to get a boatwash unit operational. L. Peterson mentioned that a new CBCW grant will be starting and has maintenance funds in it to fix a boatwash and that WRISC could also sell three of them to buy a new one. Motion to put the grant report on file made by A. McCullough/ D. Peterson. *Motion carried.*
4. **Project Updates/Reports**
 - a. **Events:** Since the last BOD meeting, WRISC attended the MISC Annual Conference, which was an all-virtual event. L. Peterson was able to attend a professional seminar with other CISMA coordinators throughout the state of MI. As for upcoming events, WRISC is hosting a Landowner Invasive Species Training event on Friday at Bay College. In March, WRISC will attend the Marinette Home and Garden Show, and in April, L. Peterson will be presenting at the Sustainable Forestry Conference at Keyes Peak and the WI Lakes and Rivers Convention.
 - b. **Projects:** WRISC had many projects close-out in December, which has helped trim down the project list to a more manageable number. L. Peterson is happy to report the MISGP SMP16 grant is one of the projects that closed.
 - i. The WE Energies – Expanding Communities Grant – closed out in December, and L. Peterson is working on the final report.
 - ii. The WE Energies Pathways Prevention grant is still ongoing until December 2022. As it is the last full season for this grant, WRISC will be focused on completing lake surveys and hosting another trade-in event.
 - iii. The GLRI-EPA grant closed out in December and all deliverables were met, so L. Peterson is just completing the final reporting.

- iv. As previously mentioned, WRISC has closed out the CBCW19 grant, but has two other CBCW grants in the wing ready to begin. There was a little money left in the CBCW19 grant, but all the deliverables were met.
 - v. The GLRI-CWMA grant expires in April so WRISC will be asking for an extension. Many of the deliverables included landowner trainings and school forest workdays that were not able to happen due to Covid.
 - vi. The USFS Pathways Education grant is for educational promotional items, such as billboards and field videos.
 - vii. The MISGP Core funding grant was underspent due to staffing changes. L. Peterson is working with WRISC's technical contact to rework the project and move the funding into 2022.
 - viii. WRISC's HWA project was extended to April 2022. The deliverables were met and K. Mentel and L. Peterson will complete a few last surveys. Because WRISC has less shoreline to survey than some of the other groups, we reallocated some of our money to them.
 - ix. The LAP MISGP grant was extended to the end of 2021 and is now closed out. Final reporting is being completed now.
 - x. The LAP SOGL grant was also extended and will be the focus for WRISC this year. This grant takes place in WRISC's WI counties.
 - xi. The Loose the Loosetrife project is heading into year three. WRISC will be connecting with WePic and Lake to Lake CISMAs soon to plan for the 2022 season. Deliverables for this grant are on track. There is quite a bit of money left in this grant so there may need to be an extra year added.
 - xii. The SOGL DNR Buffer project was awarded, but the agreement was very delayed in 2021. WRISC will begin working on this grant in 2022.
 - xiii. WRISC is also partnered on the MISGP EFB grant through the UPRC&D and was able to complete surveys in 2021. There will be a training held in Marinette at known EFB sites. This will be a dual training for MI and WI personnel.
 - xiv. WRISC is also partnered through the UPRC&D on an EPA UP-Wide Phragmites grant. WRISC is expecting to get the sub-award agreement soon and the grant will be extended another year as it was delayed. The focus of this grant is the Lake Superior Watershed, so WRISC will be focused on work in northern Dickinson County.
 - xv. WRISC was awarded another GLRI Pathways Education Grant and a GLRI-CWMA grant. These will be starting around June.
 - xvi. The WI EDRR grant is on hold as the YFH & GC infestations had no regrowth last year.
 - xvii. WRISC also submitted another MISGP Core grant and the WRISC technical contact for MISGP said it is likely WRISC will be awarded the grant.
 - xviii. For upcoming grant proposals, WRISC will be submitting pre-proposals for the We Energies MEF 2022 grant cycle and the SOGL 2022 grant cycles. Based on feedback from the project submitted to SOGL in 2021, L. Peterson said we will try adding more to our previous project and resubmitting it.
- c. **Staffing:** Job postings for seasonal watercraft inspectors and Strike Team were posted at the new year. WRISC is looking to hire for six positions, two full-time watercraft inspectors and four Strike Team members. Jobs will be filled as good applicants are found. L. Peterson also mentioned that if any of the seasonal crew members did well during the summer, they would be considered for a long-term project manager position.
- d. **Social Media:** Looking at newsletters and articles, there has not been much besides a job posting an event for the Landowner Invasive Species training. WRISC has been working with TV6 to clean up our ad campaign. The WRISC social media has still been growing and K. Mentel works to keep it updated.

5. Old Business

- a. **MOU Update:** L. Peterson confirmed that WRISC is only missing six MOUs, but some of those organizations were disbanded. If they do not get them back by the end of February, then they will not be considered a partner for the time being. Two big ones WRISC is missing is Dickinson County and the Bureau of Land Management. The current number of partners is 66.
- b. **Hiring:** There are six positions posted across different websites. L. Peterson encouraged board members to spread the word to qualified candidates.

6. New Business

- a. **2022 Annual Meeting:** L. Peterson asked the BOD whether they supported hosting an Annual Meeting for 2022. The event is essentially planned out and was going to be at Camp Daniel in the Crivitz area. The event would be outside and consist of hands-on training demos and show off some of the WRISC equipment, like the vDASH unit. S. Goodwin said WRISC should start the planning process. L. Sommers agreed. L. Peterson said WRISC will reach out to the camp and see what their availability is.
- b. **UMISC:** This event is being hosted in Green Bay, WI, in October. L. Peterson and K. Mentel will be attending the event and a call for abstracts was put out. A. McCullough mentioned that EFB would be a good topic since the event is being held near known infestations. L. Peterson encouraged Board Members to attend.
- c. **Survey and Treatment Suggestions/Needs:** WRISC is working on field plans for the 2022 season. L. Peterson asked the BOD if they had specific treatment suggestions or survey needs in their counties that WRISC could help on. S. Goodwin said there is a new Emerald Ash Borer site that needs to be looked at in Florence Co.

7. Round Robin

- a. *Steve Kircher (Forest County):* S. Kircher mentioned that in Forest Co. there is a potential Phragmites siting near a lumber yard in Laona. Forest Co. is into the 2nd Annual Plant sale. They have expanded the sale to include native shrubs and trees. Wild Parsnip was also found along some county roads.
- b. *Larry Sommer (Town of Lincoln, Forest Co.):* L. Sommer mentioned that the Potawatomi Community is looking to take over management of the town roads. This may affect WRISC's ability to treat along the ROW in town of Lincoln.
- c. *Amanda Pyke (USFS):* A. Pyke is filling in for J. Bournoville. She said the USFS is working on updating their invasive species inventory list. They added some new species to the early detection list including houndstongue and yellow archangel. They have also started planning for the 2022 field season and have filled their full-time positions.
- d. *Amber Butterfield (Dickinson Conservation District):* A. Butterfield said the DCD has welcomed their new forester, Joshua Isaac, who previously worked for the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture. The DCD is in the middle of their annual tree sale and has also released a Conservation Needs Assessment. The DCD is also looking to fill Ann Hruska's position, as she is looking to retire.
- e. *Aaron McCullough (WI DNR):* A. McCullough mentioned that there is some Phragmites mowing being done along the shore of Green Bay. CWD sampling took place. Looking to expand knapweed management in the Athelstane Barrens.
- f. *Dick Peterson (Lake Township, Menominee CO):* D. Peterson mentioned that the water levels in Menominee Co. have continued to recede. The County Road Commission is hiring an outside contractor to evaluate the draw-down dam near the Shakey Lakes Chain. There have been problems with the dam affecting the levels at Shakey Lakes. D. Peterson has talked to loggers cutting down Hemlock about HWA.

- g.** *Bill Rice (Dickinson CD):* No comments
 - h.** *Scott Goodwin (Florence County):* S. Goodwin said Florence County presented the Land & Water Plan to DATCP and now it just needs to be adopted by the county board. Florence County is looking to hire an AIS coordinator and 6-7 employees for the summer CBCW program. The Spread-Eagle Chain Lake Association is looking to remodel the boat landing, including adding a landing, adding green space, increasing parking spaces, etc. S. Goodwin said WRISC could be included in some of the restoration work the association wants to be done at the landing.
- 8. Other Business:** The next WRISC board meeting will be April 13th, 2022, at 10:00AM. The meeting will be held in Marinette County at a location TBD, and there will also be a call-in option.
 - 9. Future Agenda Items:** S. Goodwin said there should be a final decision on the Annual Meeting, including a date.
 - 10. Adjourn.** Motion by S. Kircher/L. Sommer to adjourn at 10:57 AM. ***Motion carried.***

Minutes compiled and submitted by Katherine Mentel & Lindsay Peterson

Minutes approved April 13th, 2022. Motion made by S.Kircher, A.McCullough. Motion carried.