

WRISC Project Update

Submitted by WRISC Coordinator, Lindsay Peterson
BOD Meeting 6-6-2018
Florence, WI



Since the Last Meeting

- Clean Boats, Clean Waters Training – May 23, 2018
- Garlic Mustard Pull – Crandon Rifle Range – May 25, 2018
- IM Middle School PBL Fish Event – May 30, 2018
- 30 Days Wild event – June 5, 2018 and July 10, 2018

Upcoming Events

- Garlic Mustard Workday – Forest County – June 15, 2018
- Landing Blitz (MI & WI) – Week/Weekend of July 4, 2018
- Menominee County Fair – July 20-22, 2018
- Menominee Waterfront Festival – August 2-5, 2018
- Marinette County Fair – August 23-26, 2018
- Dickinson County Fair – August 30 – September 3, 2018
- Forest County Fair – September 7-9, 2018
- Several more upcoming workdays, dates are still being confirmed

Grants:

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

WI DNR WMA Grant (2016-June 2018)

Reports have been completed and distributed to landowners. Landowner workshops are being conducted (including herbicide workshop). Grant will be wrapped up in June.

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

These funds pay for Coordinator ½ time and supply Project Manager and summer crew wages. This grant involves the re-write of the Strategic Management Plan. The project also highlights monitoring in riverine settings as well as expanded cooperation with industrial and civic partners.

Currently awaiting reimbursement for this grant. Staff have started pulling more wages from this fund. Goals are on track as we are in Year 2 of 3 for this project.

WE Energies MEF Strike Team II (2017-2018)

This grant funds Coordinator hours ½ time and funds summer crew wages. This grant focuses on invasive species management across the WRISC area as well as incorporating more professional partners in these management efforts. We are working on developing treatment plans for sites for this summer. Goals are on track for this grant, as we are in Year 2 of 2 for this project.

WE Energies MEF Expanding Community, Capacity, and Collaboration for Invasive Control: PRE-PROPOSAL

Full Proposal Due: June 15, 2018

We have been invited to submit a full proposal for this project.

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).

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

Project targets a new user group for WRISC – ATV/ORV groups. We hope to produce targeted outreach/education materials, survey and map ORV trails and control woody invasives in these areas. We surveyed 60 miles of off-road trails in fall 2017 under this grant and plan to do more in 2018. Treatment locations are being planned for this project to ensure deliverables are met.

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

Grant is similar to the USFS-CWMA GLRI proposal, but expanded. With this grant, we hope to do similar work with ATV/ORV trails, but also maintain some aquatic work as well, such as boat landing and road/stream crossing surveys for both terrestrial and aquatic invasives.

Purchasing of equipment has begun! Including: ORV and trailer, Underwater ROV for surveying, and a versatile DASH unit (vDASH). Pump equipment is still being secured, but the DASH is under construction, ORV and underwater ROV have been received.

GLRI – Boat Wash

All boat wash units are the way to storage and efforts have wrapped up for the season. The newest unit was in Green Bay for repairs after several issues were encountered this season.

[FY16 \(17-PA...\)](#)

These funds will continue to fund WRISC crews throughout the summer of 2018 at launches throughout the management area. Deliverables are approximately 50% met for this project as we enter the second year of the 2 year project.

[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.

This grant will also fund a sub-award to Florence County to continue to target priority landings in that county and allow WRISC more consistent coverage through the remaining counties.

Lumberjack RC&D – WRISC, WHIP, TIP Pathways Educational Guide

Sub-award to partner with neighboring CISMAs to develop an educational guide for various user groups highlighting invasive species pathways. Grant has been extended to December 2018. The group met in January to discuss progress and are getting close to a draft version. When this is prepared, it will be brought before each CISMA's board or steering committee for review and input.

WRISC Invasive Species Pathways Education, Play Clean Go

Awarded! \$25,000 (\$21,850 after overhead) **Contract Signed**

Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition will launch Play Clean Go and Work Clean Go ad campaign targeting boating, fishing, ORV, hiking, and forestry pathways to aquatic and terrestrial invasive species spread. Utilize billboards, radio, TV, web, and print media across five county WRISC management area in the Lake Michigan Watershed. WRISC lies within the main tourism corridor between large cities such as Chicago and Milwaukee and the north woods. Billboards are going up for over the July 4th holiday!

Misc.

Staffing: Three staff have been hired for the 2018 season. Kyle, Kim, and Katherine have been working hard and are shaping up to be a really great crew!

Newsletters/Articles: A Summer kick-off newsletter has been produced. It introduces new crew and Partners, layout WRISC's summer plans, offer volunteer opportunities and more! As priority invasives start blooming or becoming noticeable, WRISC staff will work to release newspaper articles to draw people's attention to what's currently in season and easy to spot.

Website/Facebook/Instagram: The WRISC website has continued to receive regular updates for events and meetings, and project opportunities for landowners. We have redesigned portions of the website and updated a lot of information on the site. If there are any broken links or if anything looks odd or outdated, please don't hesitate to let us know!

The WRISC website had **537 page views** in the last 60 days. Many of these visitors were new to page as well!

Facebook has continued to receive regular updates of invasive articles, links, pictures, etc, especially now that field season has started and more is going on. The WRISC Facebook page continues to grow, having gone from 253 likes (at the last BOD meeting) to **265 likes** at the end of May. Total reach for our Facebook page for the past two months was really good, where page activity **reached a total of 1,995** people and our **average reach was about 50**. This is largely due to some targeted outreach efforts and the promotion of several events, like the annual meeting, through our Facebook page. The page sees great reach whenever something is posted.

We have also started an Instagram page to post more photos and to reach a different audience, expanding our outreach. So far the page has been quite the hit, and we have surpassed 50 followers in less than a month's time!

