

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



October 5th, 2022

10:00am

Menominee Annex Building
S904 Highway 41
Stephenson, MI 49887
*Conference Call-In option

Members Present: Bill Rice (Dickinson Conservation District, on phone), Steve Kircher (Forest County Conservation Dept., on phone), Jerry Piche (Menominee CO BOD), Amber Butterfield (Dickinson Conservation District, on phone), Larry Sommer (Lumberjack RC&D, on phone), J. Bournoville (USFS)

Members Absent: Tracy Beckman (Lumberjack RC&D), Aaron McCullough (WDNR-Marquette), Scott Goodwin (Florence County LCD), Sheri Denowski (Marquette Co)

Guests: Charlene and Dick Peterson

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

Meeting called to order at 10:02 am by L. Peterson. L. Peterson ran the meeting in the absence of Chair & Vice Chair

Board of Directors Meeting

1. **Approval of Agenda** – Motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by J. Piche/L. Sommer. **Motion carried.**
2. **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from the August 3rd, 2022, meeting was presented. J. Piche/B. Rice moved to accept the minutes as presented. **Motion carried.** *J. Bournoville abstained from voting as he was not present at the last meeting.
3. **Grants & Treasurer's Report** – A. Butterfield led this portion of the meeting. Grants are running smoothly, and we are currently in the middle of reporting. Since the last financial update, WRISC received a \$2,000 donation from Butternut Franklin Lakes and a \$240 donation from a landowner. From the undesignated funds, WRISC has spent \$950 for the UMISC conference registration. Some of this charge will be reallocated to grants following reporting. The undesignated fund sits at \$9,762.56. Motion to put the grant report on file made by J. Piche/L. Sommer. **Motion carried.**
4. **Project Updates/Reports**
 - a. **Events:** Since the last BOD meeting, WRISC held a Phragmites planning meeting with UW-Marquette and the Pine Beach Club. Crew also helped with an EFB workday in Peshtigo, where over 1000 lbs. of EFB were pulled. As for other events, L. Peterson presented at the North Central WI Land and Water tour in Florence County, staff held a booth at the DCD open house at the end of August, and L. Peterson attended the virtual UP Cisma quarterly meeting in September. L. Peterson is now participating on the MISC ad hoc response team which is responding to the letter sent by all the CISMAs to the state and the MISGP program. So far, there has only been a response from the state. There has been an incredibly high turnover rate in Cisma Coordinators in MI. The UP coordinators are the longest standing, so they are helping to provide guidance.
 - i. J. Piche asked what the biggest problems were relating to turnover. L. Peterson said that one of the biggest problems is the lack of training and guidance. It's treated as an entry level job, has low pay, but the work is higher level. Also, there are problems, especially downstate, with fiduciary agents and working relationships between organizations.

- b. Additional events included the Marinette Environmental Days last week and the Menominee Environmental Day and Cowboy Lake workday this week. WRISC may also try to work on another Bay College work day and another IM workday at the beginning of November.
- c. WRISC staff, plus S. Goodwin & T. Beckman, will be attending the UMISC conference at the end of October. L. Peterson will be presenting on the second day
- d. Grants Report
 - i. The MEF Pathways grant will be wrapping up in December. Some of the wrap-up deliverables include the lake surveys being done by T. Norris. This grant is on track.
 - ii. The MEF Loose the Loosetrife grant went a lot better this year. Some of the headwater's work didn't get fully done due to Lake to Lake's staffing issues. This grant will be extended due to the first year being sidelined by COVID.
 - iii. The GLRI BW20 grant went great this summer and boater contacts are back to pre-covid levels. This grant will end this year, but we may develop a survey to assess the quality of the program with some of the leftover funding. Another BW grant will start after.
 - iv. The GLRI CWMA grant is wrapping up at the end of the year. This was originally extended due to COVID setbacks, but it is back on track.
 - v. The GLRI Path grant is going well. WRISC got some billboards up this year and has some scheduled already for the spring. The outreach campaign WRISC did with our commercial on TV6 was super impressive. Over 2 million people were reached and the click through rate was triple the national average.
 - vi. The MISGP 20 grant was extended through the end of this year. We had issues with MDOT and the counties in terms of the permitting process for the ROW areas. WRISC still did a lot of County ROW and private property work. WRISC will use the leftover funds for some youth-focused educational material.
 - vii. The MISGP 22 grant will end in April. This will help fund basic coordinator and PM work. It has also funded our subscription to the Non-profit learning lab.
 - viii. THE UPRC&D Phrag project only has one site left, which will be taken care of after the BOD meeting. Otherwise, the only items left to complete are some mapping and permit reports. This grant will end in December.
 - ix. The WI DNR Buffer project is slowly starting. Staff will be out next week to do some surveys, and communication on this project has gotten better. Next year, WRISC will put a more concentrated effort on this project.
 - x. The EFB grant ends in April. WRISC completed many surveys, and unfortunately, we did find some new infestations along the Menominee shoreline. All EFB was removed when found. We are going to pursue follow up funds to continue treatment and survey, which could come from EGLE or the MISGP.
 - xi. The UP-wide Phrag project is focused on the Lake Superior Watershed. WRISC has a very small portion of this watershed but has completed a few days of surveys.
 - xii. WRISC was awarded additional GLRI Educational and CWMA grant funds, which will start early next year.
 - xiii. WRISC is working on another MISGP proposal that is due in November.
 - xiv. No EDRR grant is needed at this time.
- e. **Staffing:** All seasonal crew are gone, and T. Norris is on as a PM.
- f. **Outreach:** To summarize our outreach, WRISC has written some newspaper articles, completed the TV6 outreach campaign, and is going to do some website updates in the winter. K. Mentel is also keeping social media numbers up and growing.
- g. **Questions/Comments:** none

5. Old Business

- a. **DASH Subcommittee:** S. Goodwin brought this up at the last meeting. L. Peterson asked if anyone else was interested in assisting with the policy writing as it is important to get done before next summer. S. Goodwin will likely be on the committee and A. Butterfield offered to help. L. Peterson will reach out later.

6. New Business

- a. None

7. Round Robin

- a. D. Peterson from Lake Township said he's happy to be back at a WRISC meeting and impressed to see the work being completed. Shakey Lakes had a dry June and July and rain in August. D. Peterson reported that the Menominee County parks had record profits in 2022. The online booking system really helped. They also raised staff wages to attract returning employees, which was key to the successful season. D. Peterson suggested this would be a good idea for WRISC to look at. L. Peterson agreed and said she would like to talk about wage increases at the December Meeting.
 - b. B. Rice reported the DCD had a reorganization meeting last week and instated a new board chair, Kurt Lehman.
 - c. A. Butterfield is prepping for the upcoming tree sale.
 - d. J. Bournoville said the USFS had a busy season, and they are now into data and grant reporting. The Florence Ranger District was supportive of converting a seasonal member into a permanent seasonal member. The district will now have 2 permanent seasonal staff.
 - e. L. Sommer has a Lumberjack Meeting next week. They just hired a new inventory forester. Next meeting, they will discuss the grant committee and address concerns with the grant program. The grant cycle was moved to January instead of earlier to accommodate the lag in updated data. FCAL's annual meeting is October 22nd. About 265 members were invited but they expect about 80 people to be present. During the meeting, they will have a guest speaker and will also honor area students who entered the essay contest.
 - f. S. Kircher said WRISC was at the FCAL environmental days at Lake Metonga. Recently, WRISC also helped with a Phragmites infestation near Laona. Derek Thorn and Kayla Littleton were present. Derek also treated a small patch of Purple Loosestrife. Getting calls about another purple flower.
 - g. J. Piche had no updates at the time.
8. **Other Business:** L. Peterson said there is a grant opportunity for Menominee County. The grant is focused on coastal resiliency and is due early December. If WRISC writes a proposal, it would include focused work along the Menominee County shoreline. L. Peterson will be getting ahold of Jason Carivou to gauge the county's interest and potential support. The next Menominee County BOD meeting will be October 11th at 5:00PM. A grant like this would help open different opportunities for WRISC. L. Peterson will also send out the MI Cisma letter to the BOD.
9. **Future Agenda Items:** No items were discussed at this time. Next meeting will be December 7th, 2022, at the Dickinson Conservation District office in Kingsford, MI.
10. **Adjourn.** Motion by L. Sommer/J. Bournoville to adjourn at 10:54 AM. **Motion carried.**

Minutes compiled and submitted by Katherine Mentel & Lindsay Peterson

Minutes approved, December 7th, 2022. Motion made by J. Piche / L. Sommer. Motion Carried

Additionally, L. Peterson presented D. Peterson with his WRISC Board Participation award that unfortunately hadn't come in time for the Annual Meeting in June. This award honored and thanked D. Peterson for his commitment and years of service to WRISC. Thank you!

(The award is a framed wooden laser cut out of Shakey Lakes with an inscription thanking Dick for his service)

