

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



December 5th, 2018 10:00am
Florence Natural Resource Center
5628 Forestry Dr.
Florence, WI 54121

Members Present (in person): Bill Rice (Dickinson CD), Scott Goodwin (Florence Co LCD), Aaron McCullough (WI DNR), Dick Peterson (Lake Township), Pam Schroeder (FCAL), Justin Bournoville (USFS), Greg Cleereman (Marinette Co)

Members Present (on phone): Tracy Beckman (Lumberjack RC&D) – *disconnected early*

Members Absent: Amanda Nelson (DCD), Amber Butterfield (WRISC), Jennifer Johnson (MI DNR)

Staff: Lindsay Peterson (WRISC Coordinator), Kyle Hafeman (WRISC Project Manager)

Guests: Gary Weber (Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes Association, SECOLA)

Meeting called to order at 10:01 AM by Bill Rice.

1. **Introductions** – Introductions were made as members that were present, on the phone, were acknowledged.
2. **Approval of Agenda** – L.Peterson asked that New Business, Item D be moved before New Business Item C. Motion to approve the agenda **as amended** was made by A.McCullough/D.Peterson. Motion Carried.
3. **Approval of Minutes** from the October 3, 2018 were presented. J.Bournoville/S.Goodwin moved to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.
4. **Grants & Treasurer's Report** – In A.Nelson's absence, L. Peterson presented a spreadsheet of updated grant funding as of 12/4/2018. This report reflected corrections to several accounting errors, including corrections to 3 grants as well as an update to the undesignated funds, which increased from the previously reported \$860 to \$1391 as of 11/16/18. S.Goodwin/D.Peterson moved to place the treasurer's report on file as presented. Motion carried.
5. **Action Teams** – L. Peterson presented a verbal update of Action Team activity that can now be followed on SLACK. Watch for increased activity on SLACK in January, once end of year reporting and data management has been caught up. Education outreach projects will be put on SLACK as well.
6. **Project Updates/Reports** –
 - L. Peterson provided a written report to all Board Members regarding organizational activity since 10/3/18. Events both completed and upcoming were reviewed.
 - L. Peterson, A. Butterfield, S. Goodwin, and T.Beckman attended the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC) held Oct. 15-18 and found it to be very informative and worthwhile.
 - L.Peterson was invited by the Dickinson Co Road Commission on Oct. 25 to do safety training concerning invasive species. There was special interest in Wild Parsnip. WRISC was able to provide maps and hope this opens the door to cooperative management of ROWs and relationships with other county road commissions.
 - L.Peterson and S. Goodwin spoke at the Blue Ox Trail Riders meeting on Oct. 25 about who WRISC is and what WRISC does. They provided resources and maps and emphasized that WRISC is not trying to close the ATV trails. The group was responsive and appreciative of the presentation. They will be invited to join as partners.
 - There is \$5000 remaining in the WI DNR WMA grant. Staff are in the process of finishing a draft of the management guide for property owners which will be presented at the February meeting.

- There is \$15,000 left in the WE Energies MEF Strike Team II grant and an extension is being requested.
- Full funding has been awarded for a new WE Energies MEF grant. This proposal focuses on developing volunteer opportunities, increasing funding for our Strike Team to 20 weeks and putting special project effort towards Purple Loosestrife. Bio control beetles will be raised, hopefully with the help of local high school students.
- Delays to the GLRI-EPA-ISC contract award and also delays due to equipment purchasing have led to a need to apply for an extension for the completion of this grant, mainly to accommodate the vDASH work.
- T. Beckman reported that a completed Pathways Educational Guide should be available at WRISC's February meeting.
- Play Clean Go billboards and radio ads were very successful in 2018 and effort will be made to purchase more billboard space in 2019 and expand to include Florence and Dickinson Counties.
- Kyle Hafeman was officially hired on as a project manager. He will be part- to full-time throughout the winter as funding allows.
- In response to a recommendation by the Board of Directors at the October meeting that surplus funds be used to improve the benefits for WRISC employees, L. Peterson and A. Butterfield both received a \$1/hour raise effective 2019 and L. Peterson received some additional vacation days. A. Nelson did not provide her report detailing the changes, so there may be remaining details unaddressed here.
- The WRISC Facebook page continues to grow and the post regarding Feral Swine sightings in Florence County was among the most popular. A discussion regarding the very real danger that these animals pose to the forest environment ensued. Hunting and elimination of these animals is encouraged.

7. Old Business –

a. **Partner Signatory Pages:**

- 4 more Partner Signatory Pages have been received and 4 remain outstanding. L. Peterson will follow up with the remaining partners after the holiday season. There are currently 56 WRISC partners. Both Blue Ox Trail Riders and NE WI Land Trust were suggested as potential partners to invite in 2019.

b. **Equipment Storage – Boatwash Units, DASH equipment:**

- Boatwash units are currently being repaired and storage tarps will be purchased with any remaining funds. The boatwash units are being stored in the WI DNR Fisheries cold storage garage in Florence County. A formal contract for this storage has still not been received by the WI DNR.

- DASH unit is being stored at Red Line Sport & Marine in Norway, MI. WRISC has access during the store's working hours to continue constructing the DASH unit. Again, thanks to S. Goodwin for his efforts on this project!

- New scuba gear has been received and is being stored in the WRISC office. Scuba training for 6 people is being planned for this winter so there will be divers trained to assist with the DASH units in spring. L. Peterson and A. Butterfield will both be certified.

8. New Business –

- a. **Florence County Boatwash Use:** It was requested that Florence County LCD be permitted to use a WRISC owned boatwash unit and station it at the Lake Emily boat landing for the 2019 season. P. Schroeder/J. Bournoville made a motion to approve the request by Florence County to use a boatwash. Motion carried. S. Goodwin abstained from the vote.

- b. **2019 Board of Director's Meeting Schedule:** A draft of the 2019 meeting schedule for the Board of Directors was provided. The schedule follows the usual format for county rotation and locations are the

same as 2018 (make note of the April meeting location in Wausaukee). Currently, only the February 2019 meeting is confirmed as it is still a bit early to reserve most spaces for the next year. All meetings start at 10AM except for the Annual Meeting.

- c. **Annual Meeting Planning:** A discussion regarding the 2019 Annual Meeting resulted in the following ideas:
- 1) Move the date to Friday, June 7 to see if it will improve attendance. This will require a bylaw update.
 - 2) Forego an afternoon training effort in exchange for doing larger trainings earlier in year.
 - 3) Highlight partner projects
 - 4) Offer speaker updates on both aquatic and terrestrial IS affecting the WRISC counties. L. Peterson encourages suggestions on specific speakers or topics.
 - 5) What IS threats are on the horizon?
 - 6) Eat your invasives! Offer food and recipes made from IS.
 - 7) S. Goodwin talk about new methods of detection using aerial drone
 - 8) Offer a display of new WRISC equipment
- d. **Summer Hiring:** WRISC will be posting seasonal job positions in February for at least two positions:
- 1) A full-time staffer for boatwash operation (could be younger hire)
 - 2) At least one (possibly 2) team member split time between boatwash and strike team.
- There is a potential for 2 returning employees and they would get preference.
- e. **Partnership Request – Discussion:** Discussion was held regarding industrial partnership requests.

9. Round Robin

- **S. Goodwin (Florence Co)** Florence Co is applying for a 2 year lake monitoring grant and a CBCW grant. There are reports of feral swine in Florence Co. Two have been shot and others seen on wild life cameras. Testing the meat helps to determine the animal's origin and health so FC is requesting a sample of meat from any feral pig harvested. This is an aggressive IS threat facing Florence Co and there is a need to increase public awareness. There have been new AIS detected in Sea Lion Lake (Zebra Mussels), Lake Emily (Zebra Mussels) and Frog Lake (Eurasian Watermilfoil).
- **Gary Webber (SECOLA)** SECOLA supports the CBCW program in Florence County. Eurasian Milfoil is spreading in Middle Lake.
- **Aaron McCullough (WI DNR)** Check stations are being set up to test harvested deer for CWD. The deer management program that involves mapping for CWD has the potential to qualify for IS funding. There is a new GIS report compiling all IS that has the potential for sharing. Glossy Buckthorn found near the Peshtigo River on the Forest County Line is being treated chemically.
- **Dick Peterson (Lake Township)** Menominee County completed a select cut at 4 county parks. A lot of Spruce Bud Worm was detected. Work has been completed on the culvert replacements. River downstream from Chalk Hills and White Rapids appear to have increased water levels of 1 foot. The Shakey Lakes Park has a need for 50 Amp power camp sites as demand has fallen off for powerless sites. A movie entitled "Aquarian" has been released. Part of the movie was filmed in Menominee County on Shakey Lakes in Feb. of 2016.

- **Pam Schroeder (FCAL)** FCAL held their annual meeting, during which new officers were named. Otherwise quiet this time of year.
- **Greg Cleereman (Marinette County)** Marinette County has received a grant to install a 20ft. deep curtain to surround milfoil during chemical treatment to increase efficacy by minimizing drift and dilution of chemical. They plan to test this on Thunder Lake.
- **Justin Bournoville (USFS)** USFS has detected a huge increase in Garden Valerian, Wild Chervil and Yellow Archangel. The latter is believed to stem from people's garden waste. Yearly reporting is also in the works.
- **Bill Rice (Dickinson Conservation District)** The millage proposal to increase funding for the Dickinson CD failed by less than 200 votes. All current operating revenue stems from tree sales and grants. Still seeking to hire an FAP forester.

10. Other Business: The next WRISC Board Meeting will be held February 6th, 2019 in Kingsford (420 N. Hooper St.)

11. Future Agenda Items: Annual Meeting planning

12. Adjourn. Motion by D.Peterson/A.McCullough to adjourn at 12:06 PM. Motion carried.

Minutes compiled by P.Schroeder, L.Peterson.