

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



February 5th, 2020

10:00am

USDA Service Center
420 North Hooper St.
Kingsford, MI 49802

Members Present (in person): Bill Rice (Dickinson Conservation District), Aaron McCullough (WDNR-Marinette), Amber Butterfield (Dickinson CD Manager), Steve Kircher (Forest County Conservation Dept.), Scott Goodwin (Florence County LCD), Dick Peterson (Lake Township, Menominee Co)

Members Present (on phone): Greg Cleereman (Marinette County Land and Water Conservation Department), Charlene Peterson (Shakey Lakes Association)

Members Absent: Tracy Beckman (Lumberjack RC&D), Justin Bournoville (USFS)

Staff: Lindsay Peterson (Coordinator), Katherine Mentel (WRISC PM), Kyle Hafeman (WRISC PM)

Meeting called to order at 10:02 am by B.Rice.

1. **Introductions** – Introductions were made as members that were present and on the phone were acknowledged.
2. **Approval of Agenda** – Motion to approve the agenda **as presented** was made by D. Peterson/S.Goodwin. Motion carried.
3. **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from the December 4th, 2019 Meeting were presented. S. Goodwin/D. Peterson moved to accept the minutes **as presented**. Motion carried.
4. **Grants & Treasurer's Report** – A. Butterfield led a discussion of the grants report as of February 4th. A. Butterfield discussed that reporting was completed in December for grants. A. Butterfield reported that WRISC received the requested extension to the MISGP Grant, as well as to the NNIS and CBCW grants. She also reported that her and L. Peterson are paying close attention to the numbers to ensure costs can be covered by the DCD as the extended grants are closed. Moreover, A. Butterfield informed the board that WRISC received official agreements for two newly awarded grants: MISGP Core Funding and MEF Purple Loosestrife. A. Butterfield stated that both her and L. Peterson will begin working on subcontracts for the Purple Loosestrife. To wrap up, A. Butterfield expressed that the grants were going well overall. D. Peterson commented that the balance for the year looked good. B. Rice complimented A. Butterfield and L. Peterson for being conscientious about keeping the grants on track. In terms of the donation account, A. Butterfield explained that some inconsistencies with numbers were being looked at by A. Hruska. A Hruska stopped into the meeting and explained that the inconsistency was linked to a difference in cataloging funds in the past. The current donation fund is \$3036.85. A motion to place the grant and treasurer's reports on file **as presented** was made by A.McCullough/D.Peterson. Motion carried.
5. **Action Teams** –There was no update on Action Teams at this time.
6. **Project Updates/Reports** – L. Peterson worked through the Project Updates for the last several months.
 - a. Since the December 4th meeting, WRISC had the chance to attend many events and make connections. L. Peterson and K. Mentel attended the MISC Annual Meeting and L. Peterson spoke about Wild Parsnip in the U.P. L. Peterson also attended a strategic planning meeting to discuss the future of Phragmites treatment in the U.P. WRISC attended the Everything Outdoors Show in Marinette and was able to make some valuable connections. Furthermore, WRISC was present at the DCD Annual Meeting on January 25th and gave an update. In the near future, WRISC will attend the NMU Job Fair on February 12th and will also be attending the Great Northern RV, Boat, and Off-Road show in March and the booth space will be provided by Waterfront Sport and Marine. The Wisconsin Spring AIS meeting will be held at the end of April. The WRISC Annual Meeting is slated for June 5th.

- b. L. Peterson gave an update on WRISC's grants. The MISGP extension was approved and the grant will now wrap up in May. L. Peterson will begin spending money from the grant in the next couple weeks to keep on track with the May deadline. The MEF CCC grant is progressing well and Katherine M. has taken steps to wrap up the Volunteer Monitoring Program portion of the grant, which will be launched this summer. WRISC was also granted an extension for the GLRI-NNIS grant and it will now wrap up in April. There are still trail signs that will be ordered from that grant in the next few weeks. The EPA grant is still on track and not much has been spent out of it besides wages. A new generator for the ROV will be bought in the next few weeks using EPA funds. The budget for the CBCW grant for fiscal year 18 has been adjusted to account for maintenance that will need to be done. WRISC has also been looking at buying a smaller boat wash unit to alleviate reliance on trucks. No final decisions have been made on that. CBCW grant for fiscal year 19 will be starting this year. The contract for the fiscal year 20 CBCW grant has just been received. The Play Clean Go Grant is wrapping up and will end in April. Currently, WRISC is working with local videographers to film a WRISC PSA, which will most likely be done in summer due to filming restrictions. From Play Clean Go grant, WRISC will also be buying additional educational materials. HWA is moving along well. The WRISC crew has been out surveying in Menominee and is happy to report that they have not spotted any HWA. No work is being done with the Phragmites Cost Share Program at the moment, but L. Peterson did attend a planning meeting to talk about the upcoming year. L. Peterson predicts that if high water levels persist, shoreline Phragmites populations will again be in decline from previous years. L. Peterson is looking forward to talking with Darcy, from UPRC&D, to talk about what inland areas can be targeted to make up for less Phragmites acres and where the priority areas are. During the upcoming year, WRISC will be expanding the Phragmites Cost Share program to include Marinette County, and is expecting to treat 15 acres in both counties. Final approval has recently been given to WRISC for the Purple Loosestrife grant. In the next few weeks, L. Peterson and A. Butterfield will work together to create sub-awards for Iron and Marquette CISMAS. There will be a planning meeting at the end of the month to talk about the upcoming season. Raising Purple Loosestrife beetles has been a popular topic among landowners, and board members expressed their interest in learning more about raising them. L. Peterson expressed that there will possibly be a training event held this summer on Purple Loosestrife and raising beetles. In other news, WRISC was awarded the MISGP Core Funding Grant, which is \$70,000. Most of the funding will go toward staffing, but \$10,000 is set aside specifically for Wild Parsnip. WRISC was not awarded the CD3 Watercraft grant, but may expand the project and apply again in the future. WRISC has more projects in the works and has recently sent a proposal for the GLRI-CWMA grant, requesting \$40,000 to expand off-road surveys and work with school forest groups. WRISC also submitted a proposal for the Forest Service Pathways Education funding, requested about \$23,000 over a few years. This funding will be similar to WRISC's current Play Clean Go grant and can help enhance WRISC outreach efforts and promote the WRISC PSA. WRISC is also looking to submit two separate proposal to the SOGL grant application. One will be targeting invasive species management and restoration on the Menominee River islands. The other proposal will focus on inland lake monitoring and terrestrial management. In the last few days, WRISC has also been asked to partner on a Wisconsin DNR grant. The goal of this grant is to create a buffer zone around treated state land. WRISC can help by monitoring and treating adjacent private land. There will be an MEF grant due in March, but L. Peterson expressed that it is not a current priority and will start working on it after she wraps up her current grant proposals. The MEF grant will most likely entail similar Strike Team components, but L. Peterson stated that she is looking to expand from past projects and add more into the proposal.
- c. L. Peterson has finished the job descriptions for summer hiring and is looking to hire 3-5 people, given board approval.
- d. L. Peterson stated that the annual newsletter will be finished within the next week, which will then be posted online and emailed out.
- e. WRISC has been working on rebuilding and updating the new website, which will be launched in May.

7. Old Business:

- a. **Partner Signatory Pages & New Partner Invites:** L. Peterson stated that K. Mentel has been working on the new partner invites and will be sending out the list to the board members to look at. WRISC is

making an effort to target certain groups, such as schools, ATV and Sno-clubs, libraries, garden and landscape centers, and many other outdoor businesses and clubs. WRISC is hoping to have everything sent out by the end of the month.

- b. **Annual Meeting Planning:** L. Peterson spoke about the Annual Meeting planning, stating that the location has not been determined and she was still looking into suggested locations. As for the schedule of the meeting, L. Peterson stated that she felt the meeting should be interactive, meaning a portion of the meeting would be for the annual WRISC update and then there would be an outside demo portion. During the outside portion, stations would be set up and people would rotate around to learn about becoming a certified pesticide applicator, how to do plant ID, aquatic monitoring, and more. G. Cleereman did state that he reached out to Camp Daniel and they did not have any availability on June 5th. Again, L. Peterson expressed that options were still being considered and the WRISC team will be contacting different places to check for availability.
- c. **MOU Updates/Renewal:** L. Peterson gave a quick update about the MOU renewal. After speaking with J. Bournoville and Tina Smith, L. Peterson was told that the MOU is not up for renewal this year. The MOU must be renewed every five years, based on when the last Partner signatory page is signed. However, WRISC did look at the MOU and found only one or two minor issues that would warrant changing. As of now, WRISC will wait until the next year to resend the MOU signatory pages with partner letters.
- d. **vDASH Policy Update:** L. Peterson gave a quick update about the vDASH policy and stated that she held a meeting with a couple board members to discuss lake prioritization. Due to other grant needs, L. Peterson has not had much time to work on the policy, but stated that K. Hafeman has been doing research for it and they hope to meet and discuss more soon.

8. New Business:

- a. **Summer Hiring:** L. Peterson handed out job descriptions to board members and indicated that they were very similar to the job descriptions for previous years. L. Peterson explained that WRISC is hiring for two different positions, Strike Team and CBCW watercraft inspector. Based on the budget, A. Butterfield and L. Peterson worked out they can hire one full-time watercraft inspector or two part-time inspectors, preference given to the full-time position. For Strike Team, L. Peterson stated that she would like to hire at least two people, but maybe three, depending on the applicants' start and end dates. L. Peterson intends to post the job descriptions on February 10th and close them March 1st. Interviews will be done as qualified candidates submit applications. L. Peterson told board members that they are welcome to participate on interviews, and she will keep them updated via email when interviews are scheduled. After the meeting, L. Peterson will be sending out an email to previous summer staff, who get the first dibs on applying, but are not guaranteed the position. A. Butterfield expressed that the DCD was actively pursuing leads to purchase a new truck before the start of field season.
- b. **Annual Work Plan:** L. Peterson stated that work plan will be finished for the April Meeting, which will outline the goals and objectives WRISC will work to meet in the coming year.
- c. **UMISC – Save the Date, Abstracts:** L. Peterson stated that UMISC is scheduled for October and she is planning to attend with WRISC Project Managers. L. Peterson also asked board members if they thought it would be a good idea to submit an abstract to present at UMISC. The vDASH was raised as a possible topic to present on. All board members were on board with presenting at UMISC and everyone will be considering ideas to submit.

9. Round Robin

- a. **Greg Cleereman (Marinette County LWCD):** G. Cleereman reported that Marinette Co. LWCD is currently working on reimbursements for their five invasive species and lake grants. They are also updating their Land & Water Resource Management Plan which will have an invasive species

component. Moreover, the Marinette Co. LWCD will be making a presentation about the chemical enclosures that are being used to treat Eurasian Watermilfoil.

- b. **Scott Goodwin (Florence Co LCD):** S. Goodwin stated that the Florence Co LCD was approved for their CBCW grant and will be covering seven landings. S. Goodwin is also waiting to hear back on a grant to know how many people he can hire for summer. Looking into the future, S. Goodwin is keeping an eye on how funding sources are changing and what that will mean for the Florence Co LCD. S. Goodwin spoke with Katherine Higley about boat washes and different options for WRISC. S. Goodwin also brought in his drone software to show progress on spotting Wild Parsnip in Tipler, WI.
 - c. **Dick Peterson:** D. Peterson stated that he attended an emergency presentation which addressed the effects of high-water levels on the Great Lakes and local water bodies. D. Peterson reported that Shakey Lakes still has high water levels, and they are now considering how to raise the boat landing. D. Peterson said that there was a fishing tournament scheduled for Free Fishing Weekend, and they were keeping an eye on ice thickness.
 - d. **Aaron McCullough (WI DNR):** A. McCullough did not have much to report related to DNR work. However, A. McCullough did report he was contact by a private group who would be running an event called Ultimate Women in the Outdoors at Camp Bird in August. A. McCullough thought WRISC would be a good addition to the event and would send contact information to L. Peterson.
 - e. **Steve Kircher (Forest Co LCD):** S. Kircher stated that he attended an FCAL meeting and said that he proposed WRISC be invited to the next Environmental Day in Crandon to have a station on the lake to showcase the vDASH. S. Kircher also said that he could invite WRISC to Forest Co. and help organize a demonstration day for local lake associations.
 - f. **Bill Rice (Dickinson CD):** B. Rice stated that the DCD is going for a county-wide millage on March 10th and they are currently campaigning for this effort.
 - g. **Charlene Peterson (Shakey Lakes):** Suggested that 4-H and agricultural groups may be a good volunteer resource for raising beetles for purple loosestrife.
10. **Other Business:** The next WRISC Board Meeting will be held April 1st, 2020 in Marinette County.
11. **Future Agenda Items:** No future agenda items were discussed at this time, although L. Peterson informed the Board that she will be on vacation March 20th-29th and will have April Board Meeting documents out before her departure.
12. **Adjourn.** Motion by A.McCullough/D.Peterson to adjourn at 11:14am. Motion carried.

***Minutes compiled and submitted by Katherine Mentel, Scott Goodwin, & Lindsay Peterson
Minutes Approved on April 1st, 2020***