

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



June 2nd, 2021

10:00am

Conference Call Only

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

Members Absent: Justin Bournoville (USFS)

Guests: Nick Cassel (UPRC&D), Derek Thorn (Lumberjack RC&D and Forest Co.), Sherri Pethers (FCAL), Sarah Topp (Marquette County Land & Water Dept.), Ed Patrick (SECOLA)

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

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am by L. Peterson

1. **Introductions** – Introductions were made as members that were present, on the phone, were acknowledged. L. Peterson also noted where to access meeting documents on the WRISC website.

Board of Director Elections

1. **Review Online Voting Results**– L. Peterson led this portion of the meeting. Up for reelection were S. Goodwin, A. McCullough, S. Kircher, and D. Peterson. There were two open seats: one for a 1-year term and one for a 2-year term. Sarah Topp and Larry Summers will be filling the vacant positions. D. Peterson filled the 1-year term, as he hopes to retire from the WRISC BOD next year.
2. **Officially Elect Board Members**—Motion to officially accept voting results made by T. Beckman/D. Peterson.
Motion carried.

Election of Officers

1. **Nominations and Election for Chair**
 - a. B. Rice/S. Kircher nominated S. Goodwin for another term as WRISC Chair. S. Goodwin accepted nomination. Motion to approve S. Goodwin as WRISC chair made by B. Rice/A. McCullough. **Motion carried.**
2. **Nominations for Vice Chair were made.**
 - a. S. Goodwin/D. Peterson nominated A. McCullough for Vice Chair. A. McCullough accepted the nomination. Motion to elect A. McCullough as Vice Chair made by T. Beckman/D. Peterson. **Motion carried.**
3. **Nominations for Secretary were made.**
 - a. Currently, K. Mentel is helping to fill the position as Secretary. S. Topp is willing to be Secretary. T. Beckman/B. Rice nominated S. Topp to be WRISC Secretary. Motion to elect S. Topp as WRISC Secretary made by T. Beckman/B. Rice. **Motion carried.**
4. **L. Peterson confirmed that the new officers would now assume their duties within their new positions.**

Board of Directors Meeting (S. Goodwin led the remainder of the meeting)

1. **Approval of Agenda** – Motion to approve the agenda **as presented** was made by D. Peterson/ S. Kircher. **Motion carried.**
2. **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from the April 21st, 2021 meeting were presented. B. Rice/D. Peterson moved to accept the minutes **as presented.** **Motion carried.**
3. **Presentation of Partner Applications and Signing of New Partners/ MOU Update**

- a. L. Peterson led this portion of the meeting. WRISC did not send out new Partner applications in 2021, as the main focus was on resigning all current Partners onto the updated MOU. Currently, 47 MOU signatory pages have been received out of 74. WRISC is currently following up with Partners that still need to return their signatory pages. L. Peterson said we will likely be done resigning Partners before December. There is no signing of new partners at this time.

4. Grants/Treasurer's Report

- a. A. Butterfield led the grant and Treasurer's report. Currently, all grants are going smoothly. With Summer Crew starting up and Tree Sale, WRISC is able to maintain capacity for the summer. A. Butterfield was not able to get the budget in for the European Frogbit grant yet, so that will be on the next meeting's update. As far as the undesignated funds, WRISC sits at \$4,402.25. T. Beckman asked L. Peterson how many field crew were hired, which was 3 additional field crew. T. Beckman asked if all grants that were supposed to end in 2020 were extended. L. Peterson stated they were all extended due to COVID and that may lead to further extensions of 2021's projects due to workload.
- b. Motion to put the Treasurer's report on file was made by D. Peterson/S. Kircher. **Motion carried.**

5. Project Updates/Reports (L. Peterson led this portion of the meeting)

- a. Since the last BOD meeting, WRISC has had a school forest workday, conferences, Tree Sale, a CBCW Training in Florence CO, and GM Volunteer Pull Events. Tomorrow, WRISC has a Knapweed pull at Florence Co., and the coming week is full of events for PCG week. WRISC will also be attending the "Library in Bloom" event at the Menominee Co. Library on June 5th. WRISC's first Invasive Trade-Up Days will be the 18th and 19th of June, which is where people can bring in an invasive ornamental in exchange for a voucher to be used at participating greenhouses in the area.
- b. THE MISGP SMP grant was extended through the end of July. L. Peterson is currently spending down the last of the money, primarily on WRISC equipment and a children's museum exhibit.
- c. The WE Energies MEF grant was extended until the end of 2021 because the budget was behind due to COVID. Mostly, WRISC must catch up on events and outreach.
- d. The GLRI-EPA grant was extended until end of the year. Deliverables are on track, except for some vDASH work.
- e. One CBCW grant is ending this year, and one is starting this year. Due to lack of crew last year, WRISC is hoping to wrap up the CBCW19 grant. WRISC needs about 200 boat contacts before we can end the grant. Currently, none of the boat washes are working, but have all been pulled from storage. Two were not working at the end of last year.
- f. The HWA grant was extended until April 2022 so WRISC can meet outreach deliverables. Staff has met all the acreage deliverables but will likely do more in the coming winter to use more of the budget.
- g. The MISGP Phrag grant should be wrapped up by the end of the year. Most of the Phrag work this fall will be for this grant.
- h. The SOGL Phrag grant will be extended so WRISC can focus on spending down the MISGP Phrag grant money. However, WRISC will be doing retreatments on the sites done last year.
- i. The MEF Loose the Loosestrife grant is a partnered grant with L2L and WePic. Due to staffing shortages last year, not much work was done on this grant in 2020. This project will be back on track this year.
- j. The MISGP Core grant was delayed until January 2021. This is dedicated funding for CISMA operations, as well as dedicated funding for WP work.
- k. For the GLRI CWMA grant, WRISC will likely ask for an extension. Many of the deliverables for the grant involved in-person events, which WRISC was not able to do in 2020. These events included more school forest workdays and landowner workshops.
- l. The GLRI Pathways grant is delayed until the end of the field season. This grant will be a lot of outreach and filming for education. WRISC is looking to make many media products available on our website and social sites.

- m. The SOGL DNR Buffer project was awarded and WRISC is partnered on it. WRISC will be doing outreach and control for buffer areas around two separate state natural areas. WRISC is waiting on sub-agreements before any work begins on this grant.
- n. The MEF Pathways grant just started in January. Targets private landscapes. This is where the Invasive Trade-Up Days and restoration work will come into play.
- o. WRISC is a sub-awardee on a European Frogbit grant through the UPRC&D. Staff will be attending a training at the end of June for this grant, and then survey work will commence after.
- p. WRISC was invited to submit a full proposal for a SOGL Menominee River Inventory project. WRISC also submitted proposals for another CBCW grant and a GLRI Education grant. WRISC is also partnering on two other proposals. One is a EPA UPRC&D project to expand Phragmites work throughout the whole U.P. and the other is a WI EDRR Grant to target Yellow Floating Heart and Graceful Cattail in Marinette Co.
- q. For Staffing, WRISC has three Strike Team members in addition to K. Hafeman and K. Mentel. WRISC has been unable to hire for CBCW inspectors, so WRISC will be rotating Strike Team to work boat wash. L. Peterson said WRISC will still hire for it if anyone has someone interested.
- r. WRISC has published different blogs and newspaper articles. The commercial will be featured during PCG week. Social media has been great and has reached a record number of people.
- s. T. Beckman asked how much the boat washes will cost to repair. A couple are thought to just have easy fixes, but one has a bad heating coil, one needs an engine replacement, and one will not hold pressure. The issue with the boat washes is the nearest certified Northstar mechanic is in Appleton, and the cost can be a lot. L. Peterson said she needs to figure out the budget for repairs. Most likely, WRISC will get one operating. Overall, WRISC cannot afford to operate and keep fixing 4 boat washes. The newest boat wash was purchased in 2016. Another issue is not always having indoor storage. The last couple of years, WRISC has been able to store two units at Shakey Lakes, which has helped. T. Beckman mentioned that it may be a good idea to connect with the Forest Service and understand their priorities for the CBCW program moving forward. L. Peterson candidly spoke about the struggle CBCW has been the last couple years, especially with WRISC with not being able to hire for CBCW. One of WRISC's biggest issues is equipment management and storage. At any given time, WRISC usually has at most two boat washes in operation. In the past, some have been loaned out, but four units is simply too many.
- t. S. Goodwin asked if WRISC needed him to assist at the events in Florence Co. The second event will be some Stream Monitoring training on the Oxbow River. It will be a casual float on the river where we help identify invasives and how to decontaminate kayaks. The target audience are the silent paddlers. S. Goodwin also asked if L. Peterson has settled on a lake for DASH work. L. Peterson has some lakes lined up but has not been able to finish up permitting for the DASH yet. L. Peterson is hoping to get it out the 3rd or 4th week in June.

6. Old Business

- a. **Annual Meeting Video Presentation-** At the last meeting, the decision was to make a video compilation in place of the Annual Meeting. WRISC is working on the videos and the annual WRISC update. The video should be done at the end of the month, which will be shared on the website, social media, YouTube, and linked in a partner email.

7. New Business

- a. **Selling Boat Wash-** L. Peterson offered it may be a good idea to try to sell one of the boat washes. T. Beckman asked who might want to buy the boat wash and if we would need to fix them first. T. Beckman asked if the CBCW grants have repair money in them, which they have some. Sherri Pethers asked how much they cost new/used? Brand new, each unit is around \$8,000. Currently, WRISC has an agreement to store two units at the Shakey Lakes Campground in return for a couple days of CBCW work at the lake. Most grants do not cover storage needs. WRISC has a lot of equipment, and most of it

remains outside all year. L. Peterson is open to talking through ideas to expand the physical capacity of WRISC. N. Cassel asked if L. Peterson has thought about reaching out to other CISMA's to see if they would want to buy the boatwash units, perhaps with their undesignated funds. L. Peterson could put it out there on the mailing lists to gauge interest. Some CISMA's have watershed councils that might be able to purchase boat washes. S. Goodwin asked which ones L. Peterson thought about selling, which would be the older units. D. Peterson said it makes sense to sell one and even use some of the funds to help fund repairs, especially seeing as WRISC does not have the staff to operate that many at once. S. Goodwin said it would be smart to start looking at a way to fund a new boat wash purchase, and then sell the others off as they can be replaced. D. Thorn offered the suggestion that WRISC may be able to sell two old ones and purchase one new one for a total of 3 units.

- i. The BOD authorized L. Peterson to post the sale of one unit and see what the response is. Due to the invasive species work they were intended for, S. Goodwin said the first choice of buyers should be other CISMA's, so the invasive species work could continue. Overall, the consensus is to sell one unit first, targeting CISMAS. Also, WRISC will not sell the one that needs an engine repair first. And a special meeting may need to be called to discuss repair costs.
 - ii. L. Peterson presented **a motion to sell one of the older boat washes that needs minor repairs, with the intent that WRISC will go through the process to get a quote for repairs, and try to sell to CISMAS/Partner's first, and may need a special meeting to discuss the cost of repairs.** Support for the motion made by T. Beckman/D. Peterson. ***Motion carried.***
- b. Annual Work Plan Updates-** L. Peterson stated the updated work plan can be found on the WRISC website. L. Peterson updates it once a month and it will be posted online before each meeting.
- c. Strategic Management Plan Review-** L. Peterson said it is time to review and update the WRISC Strategic Management Plan (SMP). L. Peterson is putting together a Google Forms survey to get feedback from Partners. All the feedback will be put into an assessment document and at the next BOD meeting, the BOD will need to begin a review of the plan. T. Beckman asked about action teams and L. Peterson stated they were disbanded unless needed. T. Beckman offered to be on an action team/small sub-committee to review and go through the SMP. L. Peterson said they can make a committee if people want to be on it. S. Goodwin/ S. Kircher/ S. Topp all offered to be on the sub-committee. L. Peterson will set up a sub-committee meeting to review the SMP.

8. Round Robin

- a. T. Beckman said D. Thorn is the new FLOW (Forest, Langlade, Oconto County Waters) AIS Coordinator. Alex, from TIP, is still looking for a summer technician. Overall, field season is up and running and they are busy.
- b. K. Mentel said she will be going on maternity leave in a few weeks.
- c. A. Butterfield said the DCD is doing well and is in the middle of their Wildflower Sale.
- d. D. Thorn did not have any updates, but is excited to start in his position.
- e. E. Patrick, from SECOLA, had technical issues and could not give an update.
- f. S. Kircher recently hired a new summer technician. They have about 4 or 5 projects on the books and are working on shoreline restoration projects and nutrient management.
- g. N. Cassel said L. Peterson covered most of the updates he had. They are going strong with the Phragmites work and are looking to expand the work to different areas. The Frogbit surveys will be starting this summer as well.
- h. S. Topp just started in January at Marinette County Land & Water Dept.. They just hired two LTE and will be doing inventories at the boat landings in Marinette County. Next week, they will be starting herbicide treatments on some Eurasian Watermilfoil on different lakes. They will be using a curtain system for the herbicide treatments.

- i. B. Rice said A. Butterfield and L. Peterson covered what he had.
 - j. D. Peterson said Menominee Co. had a record number of camping reservations in May. And it is also looking good for June. The boat launch at Shakey Lakes is complete. They are also looking at holding the fair in mid-July. They are also working on a handicap-friendly kayak launch at Mason Park on the Menominee River, which is about a \$40,000 project. There was approved funding to move camping reservations to an electronic system.
 - k. L. Peterson mentioned that S. Pethers may be interested in a BOD position next year.
 - l. S. Goodwin said they have 7 CBCW staff and Shawna returned as the AIS Coordinator. L. Peterson and S. Goodwin have been working on a monitoring project with Japanese Knotweed and Wild Parsnip from the University of Minnesota. Their big conservation projects are a few culvert replacements, 3 shoreline restorations, and erosion control project in Long Lake.
9. **Other Business:** The next WRISC board meeting will be August 4th, 2021 @10:00AM CST at the County Courthouse in Crandon, WI, with the option to still call-in. There may be a special meeting before that time to approve a boat wash sale.
10. **Future Agenda Items:** No additional future agenda items were discussed at this time.
11. **Adjourn.** Motion by D. Peterson/S. Kircher to adjourn at 11:40AM. **Motion carried.**

Minutes compiled and submitted by Katherine Mentel & Lindsay Peterson

Motion to approve minutes of June 2, 2021 made by S Kircher / L Sommer, motion carried. August 6, 2021