

WRISC Project Update

Submitted by WRISC Coordinator, Lindsay Peterson
BOD Meeting 6-3-2020
TELECONFERENCE ONLY



Recent Events

- Several Cancelled Events

Upcoming Events

- Not currently planning or seeking events

Grants:

Red = Ending / Recently Closed; **Orange** = Pending Proposal; **Green** = New / Recently Awarded;
Blue = Existing Award; **Purple** = OTHER/MISC.

MISGP FY2016: WRISC Strategic Management Plan Project – FROZEN

Formal extension was awarded until May of 2020. The revised budget allocated approximately \$18,000 towards the Children's Museum in Iron Mountain and for WRISC to contribute several exhibits. The rest is being utilized for WRISC equipment and wages at this time. The State requested all money be spent or the remaining amount will be subtracted from our current core funding award from MISGP.

WE Energies MEF Expanding Community, Capacity, and Collaboration for Invasive Control

This project 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).

The volunteer platform is ready to be launched and this will be promoted heavily for the coming year. This fund allows for treatment of priority species throughout the entire watershed/WRISC area and is valuable funding for our Strike Team. Staff have begun some field work for the season.

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

Extension approved – December 30, 2020

The vDASH will be utilized on Barrens Lake in the Spread Eagle Barrens as once the permit is approved and that will serve as our full test run of the unit. As far as other deliverables are concerned, there is some more trail surveying to be done next season but treatment acreage is on track. The ROV will also be utilized to conduct inland lake surveys now that a generator has been purchased.

GLRI – Boat Wash

[WRISC Boatwash FY19: WRISC Boatwash Program](#)

Awarded! \$36,000; Contract signed August 20, 2019

Deliverables: 3,000 boater contacts

Received contract documents for budget and project work plan. Will begin pulling money from this grant in 2020. Restrictions on the CBCW programs are lifting soon and we have received guidance

on how to carefully conduct watercraft inspections. We may produce an online training video for lake groups and others wanting to be trained on new guidance.

[WRISC Boatwash FY20: WRISC Boatwash](#)

Awarded! \$39,000;

Deliverables: 3,000 boater contacts

Have submitted Operating and Financial Plans

[WI SeaGrant CBCW Assistance](#)

Agreed to assist WI SeaGrant on several landings in/near our area for up to 200hrs or about \$4,000.

UP Multi-CISMA HWA Survey Project (MISGP, Administered by Alger CD) – RESUMED!

Conducted several HWA surveys on private properties in Menominee CO. No HWA has been detected thus far. With the spring season fast upon us, it is unlikely we will conduct any more surveys this season. More will occur this coming Fall/Winter 2020. When speaking with Alger CD, they were hoping to get the project extended through next spring to allow for match and educational outreach deliverables/commitments to be met. No other updates at this time.

Life After Phragmites: Wetland Restoration & Landowner Stewardship (MISGP, Administered by UP RC&D) - FROZEN

This project is a very similar continuation to what we've already been doing in MI for Phragmites. Again, most UP CISMAs are partnered on this project for their respective management areas. The goal is to continue implementing the successful Cost Share program. WRISC will be responsible for about 15 acres of cost share phragmites treatment each year of the project as well as various outreach efforts. An initial planning meeting for 2020 season took place and some sites were identified for treatment. The Subaward was also adjusted to reflect actual expenses so far and some predicted reduction in the coming year.

Life After Phragmites: Wetland Restoration & Landowner Stewardship in Michigan's UP and Northeastern Wisconsin – (SOGL Fund; Administered by UP RC&D)

WRISC has partnered on this project proposal with UP RC&D, WI DNR, and other area stakeholders. UP RC&D has discussed project adjustments with SOGL grantors and we are moving forward with this project for 2020. Cost share site visit mailings have been sent out to over 100 targeted sites throughout WRISC's counties. There has been low response rate so far on this project. WRISC has conducted some site visits and will likely meet the WI acreage deliverable of 7.5 acres, but may struggle with the MI acreage of 15 acres. We are still accepting sign-ups for the program right up until treatment in September.

Lose the Loosestrife: Purple Loosestrife Management along the Michigamme River

- Joint project with WePIC, Lake 2 Lake CISMA, WRISC, and respective CDs.
- \$253,465 over 5 years

This project will help fund efforts to remove and manage purple loosestrife infestations along approximately 26 miles of the Michigamme River from the dam in Republic to the Way Dam reservoir. Project planning meetings took place in March and sub-awards were sent to project partners. COVID-19 has disrupted planning for this project, but we are hoping to get this back on track and work going in July/August. Groups are preparing for or have scheduled river runs.

MISGP Core Funding: Seeking Sustainability through CISMA Balance – RESUMED! For 2021

- AWARDED! \$70,000; Match: \$36,500; Total Request: \$106,500

WRISC seeks to balance operational capacity by dedicating staff to each focused CISMA aspect, like daily operation, outreach, and management of terrestrial and aquatic invasives. Secure staffing and specific goals will allow WRISC to adapt to meet the needs of and provide relevant services to our local communities.

AWARDED! USFS-GLRI-CWMA: Enhancing Ecosystems of the MRW through Invasive Species Detection, Education, & Control

Request: \$40,000 Match: \$30,800

WRISC proposes efforts to inventory high-traffic recreational areas, mainly off-road trails & public accesses, & determine current distributions of & control several priority IS, like Buckthorn, Eurasian Watermilfoil, etc, which threaten recreational opportunities. WRISC seeks to empower local communities to engage in IS management by offering trainings to landowners & workdays for students. Efforts effectively build on WRISC's momentum throughout the area, allowing for continued benefit to the Menominee River Watershed & its natural communities. This project is just getting underway.

AWARDED! USFS Template 7a: Pathway Education: Pathway Publicity - Raising Awareness through Media Outreach

Request: \$23,000

The goal of this outreach campaign will be to raise awareness of pathways and prevention of invasive species in a "call to action" effort. This project has not started yet and we may delay efforts until next year so they are more effective, as outreach is difficult at this time.

Sustain Our Great Lakes (SOGL) Category 5 Proposal: WDNR Natural Area Buffer Project - Partnered

WDNR seeks to utilize CISMA partnerships to enhance the State's IS management efforts on state lands, by connecting with adjacent private landowners and mirroring state management on private lands to serve as a buffer. May involve funds for monitoring and some control. Have received no updates on the status of this project.

WE Energies MEF 2020

Invited to submit Full Proposal, due June 15th 2020

- Submitted proposal requesting approximately \$91,000 to fund strike team efforts but also implement inland lake monitoring for AIS and provide integrated management. Project would

also target private landscapes and offer invasive trade-in events and restoration efforts/education.

Misc.

Staffing: With funding freezes and cancellation of Dickinson CD’s Tree Sale, WRISC decided there was too much uncertainty to hire new staff this year and instead is focused on maintaining current team members. Current team members (K.Hafeman and K.Mentel) are doing amazing at keeping the field season going and have been integral in the survival of WRISC through these uncertain times!

Newsletters/Articles: An article was sent to the Eagle Herald to promote the Phragmites cost share program but there has been no confirmation that this has been published. WRISC will be beginning work on a summer newsletter shortly.

Website/Facebook/Instagram: The WRISC website has been completely rebuilt and the new version is now live! Please check it out and share the website. If there are any broken links, or issues noticed on the page, please let us know. The new website is still young and there may be some issues still.

Instagram has received a few updates including vDASH updates and currently has **199 followers**. Facebook received some updates despite the shutdown, but hasn’t been particularly active lately. The page has seen good reach and engagement when posts are made though! The WRISC Facebook page continues to grow, having gone from **347 likes** (at the last meeting) to **357 likes** at the end of July. Total reach for our Facebook page for the past two months has been alright, but dropped off in July due to shutdowns and lack of updates. Overall, page activity reached a total of **4,051 people**. While the page generally sees great reach whenever something is posted, a list of posts from the last period, with reach and engagement numbers, is included:

Published	Post	Type	Targeting	Reach	Engagement	Promote
07/21/2020 10:47 AM	Kayaks and other non-motorized watercraft can spread aquatic	Video	Global	63	1 3	Boost Post
07/17/2020 10:40 AM	Hey All! You may have noticed, but we have revamped our entire	Text	Global	76	5 8	Boost Post
07/17/2020 9:40 AM	Today is now officially Conservation District Day in Michigan! In honor of	Text	Global	73	5 10	Boost Post
07/10/2020 11:17 AM	This week, after 3 years and several thousand dollars later, WRISC finally	Text	Global	190	25 18	Boost Post
06/30/2020 7:57 PM	Quite disheartening to hear Emerald Ash Borer had reached the Ottawa	Text	Global	104	9 6	Boost Post
06/29/2020 3:24 PM	"The most important message from volunteers this year is for boaters	Text	Global	74	4 3	Boost Post
06/26/2020 10:15 AM	Jump in, the water's fine! The WRISC team enjoyed a few practice	Text	Global	192	51 23	Boost Post
06/16/2020 3:16 PM	With the warm weather recently and beautiful days ahead, we know	Text	Global	219	16 36	Boost Post
06/13/2020 8:13 PM		Text	Global	65	4 4	Boost Post
06/12/2020 9:47 AM	#RecreateResponsibly and #PlayCleanGo! #PlayCleanGoWeek	Text	Global	71	0 4	Boost Post
06/10/2020 11:30 AM	Did you catch our recent article in @TheDailyNews promoting	Text	Global	82	1 3	Boost Post
06/09/2020 12:45 PM	Invasive species cost the US \$138 billion per year in environmental	Text	Global	104	2 4	Boost Post
06/09/2020 10:47 AM		Text	Global	56	5 5	Boost Post
06/08/2020 1:45 PM	Gardening is a great way to spend time outdoors while staying in your	Text	Global	87	1 3	Boost Post
06/07/2020 2:00 PM	There are 50,000 invasive species in the US - but there are millions of	Text	Global	175	2 9	Boost Post