

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



August 5th, 2020

10:00am

Conference Call Only

Members Present (on phone): Bill Rice (Dickinson Conservation District), Justin Bournoville (USFS), 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: none

Guests: Charlene Peterson (Shakey Lakes Assoc.)

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

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am by S. Goodwin

Board of Directors Meeting

1. Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve the agenda as amended, with the removal of item three (3) Presentation of Partner Applications and Signing of New Partners, was made by D. Peterson/J. Bournoville
Motion carried.

2. Approval of Minutes – Minutes from the June 3rd, 2020 Meeting were presented. J. Bournoville/D. Peterson moved to accept the minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

3. Grants & Treasurer's Report – A. Butterfield led the discussion for the grants and treasurer's reports. She stated that WRISC had completed grant reporting in July. Next, A. Butterfield highlighted which Michigan MISGP grants were still under a funding freeze, which included the WRISC Strategic Management Plan Project and UPRCD's Phragmites project at this time. The WRISC Core Funding project as well as Alger CD's HWA projects had been released and were set to resume. WRISC also received payment for the MISGP Strategic Management Plan project along with all other reimbursements requested from the last quarter. CBCW 19 is currently being spent down and spending on the MEF PL grant is behind due to staffing limitations among project partners. The WRISC undesignated fund stands at \$3,546.85. WRISC recently received a large donation from the Butternut-Franklin Lakes Association and L. Peterson expressed her gratitude to the BFLA on behalf of WRISC. Motion to put the grant/treasurer's report on file was made by D. Peterson/A. McCullough. **Motion carried.**

4. Project Updates/Reports

- a. L. Peterson led this portion of the meeting. She began the update by telling the board that since the last meeting, zero events have been held and WRISC has no upcoming events planned for the next two months due to COVID-19 restrictions and safety concerns.
 - i. The NAISMA and UMISC conferences are upcoming in October and November respectively and will be held online. L. Peterson is confirmed to be presenting at the NAISMA event and will be presenting on CISMA sustainability and WRISC's successes. L. Peterson said she is waiting to hear from UMISC about the abstracts WRISC submitted for that conference.
 - ii. Moving onto grants, L. Peterson started by telling the board that WRISC received a formal extension for the MISGP Strategic Management Plan Project before the funds were frozen. L. Peterson said WRISC should know about the status of this funding by the end of the month according to MISGP contacts. Good news is the WE Energies CCC project is on track for deliverables. WRISC is a bit under-budget for the Strike Team funding due to the decrease in staff for the summer. Because of COVID-19, L. Peterson stated that grantors have been very flexible with grant deliverables, specifically for education and outreach portions.

- iii. The MEF CCC and GLRI-EPA grants have been the main funding source for WRISC this summer. And after many years, the vDASH unit has made it out to the water and has gone through 6 trial runs. WRISC is still working to get the ORV out because we are waiting for a part. L. Peterson stated that we may still extend the EPA grant for a short period of time, since there are still funds left in the budget that are not predicted to be spent out completely by the end of year, especially with reduced staff numbers and hours throughout 2020.
 - iv. CBCW work is going well this summer and has been a large component of the staff's time this year. Due to COVID-19 changing some of the usual CBCW activity, WRISC filmed and posted a COVID-19 guidelines video on the new WRISC YouTube channel. Overall, CBCW work has been busy and the staff talks about seeing a high volume of boaters. Moreover, WRISC has partnered with WI SeaGrant for the remainder of the summer to cover some Lake Michigan shoreline landings in Marinette and Oconto counties. The agreement is that WI SeaGrant will give WRISC about \$4,000 to cover these landings. This amount of funding equates to about 200 hours of CBCW work.
 - v. Funding for the HWA grant has resumed. Because HWA is considered a priority in the state of Michigan, it was one of the first funding categories to be unfrozen. Teri Grout, from the Alger CD, is going to ask for an extension to the project to cover lost time for more outreach. The HWA grant will help fund staff in the winter when surveys are conducted.
 - vi. The MISGP Life After Phragmites funding is still frozen to our knowledge, but the SOGL grant is moving forward. L. Peterson has completed site visits for the cost-share program. While it has been easy to get sites for WI, getting new sites in MI is much slower. WRISC will be accepting applications right up until the start of treatments.
 - vii. As stated before, the MEF PLF grant is a bit behind. L. Peterson is going to have a check-in with the other groups to see how their river runs or other activities are progressing. The WE Energies group did their run and reported a noticeable reduction in plants on the lower river stretch and throughout Way Dam.
 - viii. The MISGP Core Funding project has resumed. Instead of reworking the entire grant timeline and work plan, L. Peterson is suggesting delaying starting this project until January 2021, as the grant is only a one-year project and we lost a full summer of work this season due to the funding freeze.
 - ix. The GLRI-CWMA grant has just started. This grant will have a lot of planning done this fall. Moreover, a big part of the grant was school forests, so WRISC will have to brainstorm on how to do the work safely with COVID-19 concerns.
 - x. The GLRI-Education grant WRISC was awarded will likely be delayed until this coming year to help offset potential funding gaps. A. Butterfield and L. Peterson will work with J. Bournoville to finalize operating plans.
 - xi. There is no update on the SOGL DNR grant WRISC is partnered on.
 - xii. WRISC was just notified that the WE Energies MEF Proposal for the Pathways Prevention project was awarded in full! The grant was funded at \$91,000 for two year (2021-2022).
- b. Staffing**— L. Peterson noted that the summer workforce still consisted of herself, K. Hafeman, and K. Mentel, who were doing a great job at keeping the field season running.
- c. Newsletter/Articles**— L. Peterson sent a letter to the Marinette area newspaper about the Phragmites cost-share program. L. Peterson will also be getting the WRISC newsletter out in a few weeks. Currently, WRISC is having problems sharing posts on Facebook, but we are still reaching a good number of people. - D. Peterson told L. Peterson he will let her know when/if he sees the Phragmites article in the newspaper. J. Bournoville mentioned that as it stands, he says USFS GLRI funding will probably not go away. J. Bournoville also asked what abstracts L. Peterson has sent for UMISC. The two abstracts were

about the pathways book and partnership with other CISMAs, and the other one was about the Volunteer Monitoring Program and how the online portal works. T. Beckman said she would be very surprised if UMISC did not select the submitted abstracts. J. Bournoville also asked why some MISGP grants resumed and others did not. L. Peterson explained that the state was prioritizing funding, and HWA and Wild Parsnip, which is a main component of the Core Funding project, were classified as high priority targets.

6. Old Business

- a. **Partner Signatory Pages**—L. Peterson stated that WRISC has not received any signatory pages yet. Initial emails for the pages had been sent, but we are going to do a mailing too.

7. New Business

- a. **Annual Work Plan Updates**—L. Peterson led this discussion. As of right now, WRISC does not have a formal work plan but L. Peterson wanted to provide the board with detailed updates on how the season is progressing. Wild Parsnip treatments are wrapped up for the year. The focus for Wild Parsnip was on private areas and public parks, the main exclusion being road rights-of-way. The WRISC crew noticed improvement at many sites from the Escort treatments the previous year. With the MISGP Core funding, WRISC will really be able to target Wild Parsnip next year. Next up are Purple Loosestrife treatments. WRISC will treat PL until Knotweed is ready to be treated. The decision for knotweed this year was to only do retreatments, due to the high volume of knotweed permissions we got last year, and ensuring second year treatment is crucial in knotweed management. Knotweed treatments will probably begin mid-late August. Phragmites treatments will hopefully begin around the second week of September, and then continue until the weather allows. WRISC is unsure what school workdays will look like. Lastly, WRISC is planning to schedule at least one more vDASH effort. In addition to the activities listed above, WRISC crew will continue with CBCW work as weather allows and general surveying efforts.

8. Round Robin

- a. **S. Goodwin (Florence Co LCD)**: Discussed wrapping up their seven-landing CBCW program. He also said the county hired a new AIS coordinator. As for projects, S. Goodwin said they went ahead with a 30-lake monitoring project, which covered many boundary waters. They did not find any new invasive species. S. Goodwin has also been flying the drone over the WP fields in Tipler, WI to test identifying WP using spectral camera imagery. He thinks it will be a good way to find WP in fields for early detection measures.
- b. **D. Peterson (Menominee Co.)**: Told the board that Shakey Lakes has been remarkably busy all summer. Revenue lost at the beginning of the season due to COVID-19 has been more than made up. The water is still high but is slowly going down. However, demand for camping has never been this high.
- c. **S. Kircher (Forest Co. LWCD)**: Mentioned there was a hogweed scare in the county, but it turned out to be cow parsnip. He also has not noticed much PL yet, but sadly, Silver Lake has milfoil. The Lake Association is thinking of forming a Lake District because they have used up most of their AIS funding. Suggested a vDASH demo. Forest Co. Lakes would likely be well received. Almost all the lakes have been fighting high water issues.
- d. **T. Beckman (Lumberjack RCD)**: Lumberjack RC&D held a simultaneously in-person and zoom meeting, and does not recommend anyone use this format. They also approved funding for about \$70,000. People can apply for up to \$10,000 each. They also partnered with the Oneida County 4-H program for project "Go Outside and Look". L. Peterson will pass along program information to the rest of the board as it applies statewide in WI.
- e. **A. McCullough (WI DNR)**: WDNR-Marinette found zebra mussels in Gilas Lake. Also, there was the first sighting of Japanese stilt-grass in LaCrosse. Currently, WDNR is working on knapweed control. They were allowed back into the field pretty late season.

- f. **J. Bournoville (USFS):** Discussed hiring issues he had early on this summer but was ultimately able to hire one staff. However, he said they got a lot done with only two people. They treated the first known infestation of yellow archangel in the forest.
 - g. No other updates were given.
9. **Other Business:** The next WRISC board meeting will be October 7th, 2020. The meeting will most likely be virtual due to COVID-19 concerns.
10. **Future Agenda Items:** S. Goodwin would like to discuss setting WRISC up on the Amazon Smile program. L. Peterson also wants to talk about setting up cost-share and contract work for non-priority work and as a way to increase CISMA sustainability.
11. **Adjourn.** Motion by D. Peterson/J. Bournoville to adjourn at 11:02AM. ***Motion carried.***

Minutes compiled and submitted by Katherine Mentel & Lindsay Peterson

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