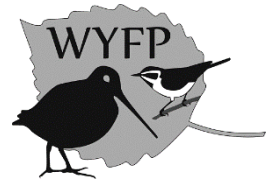


**Minutes from the
Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership
Steering Committee Meeting
January, 20th 2016
9am-11 am CST**



Venue: Rhinelander WDNR Conf Rm 2 / Conference call

Members Present: Gary Zimmer, Callie Bertsch, Jeremy Holtz, Curt Rollman, Matt St. Pierre, Dan Eklund, Andrew Rothman, Pat Ruble, Gary Van Vreede, Shawn Hagen, Chris Borden , Eric Holm, Scott Walter.

Agenda

9:00am Additions to agenda

- None heard

9:05am Approve minutes from last SC meeting

- Matt St. Pierre motion to approve
- Eric Holm second

9:10am Update Terms of Reference

- Changed to mention the MOU.
- Section III -> Remove the position of chair and replace with "facilitator". Move executive positions to 3-year terms so only have one election per year.
- Motion to approve Dan Eklund
- Eric Holm second
- Jeremy Holtz is now the acting facilitator until discussion with the executive committee.
- Jeremy Holtz term up 2017. Dan Eklund 2018 and Scott Walter 2019.

9:30am Update from ABC habitat coordinator – Callie Bertsch/Andrew Rothman

- Andrew Rothman is the new ABC rep until Craig Thompson's position is filled.
- Callie and Andrew presented a PPT with their ABC update.
- Andrew Rothman:
 - Overview of ABC Staff
 - Overview of two grants
 - RCPP
 - NFWF
- Callie Bertsch:
 - RCPP update
 - Goal 4 years 8,000 acres YF habitat in WI,MN,MI.
 - Nora Kennedy new ABC forester out of Rhinelander.

- 19 contracts in 2015 resulting in 908.3 acres YF.
 - 49 applications for 2016 which will result in 1136.7 acres YF.
- NFWF
 - 3 public lands projects
 - 2 WI 1 MN
 - WDNR and school forest in WI
 - Continuing work with CPWs (12) to create management plans for landowners.
 - Really beneficial to getting aspen acres.
- Partners
 - Continuing contact with Curt Rollman on transferring landowners from NRCS to Partners and vice versa.
- Getting closer to a working database to track landowners through the YF process.
- Monitoring discussion for both habitat acreage and species.
 - Two different monitoring efforts coming
 - Jeff Larkin is one and WMI (Amber Roth) is the other.
- May be helpful to create a list of public lands where YF work has been done.
 - Would be good to show to private land owners.
 - Maybe have pictures from year to year growth to show landowners on how the habitat can change.
- Scott Walter is thinking about a motorized county tour to see different management types.
- The early establishment of contact with CPWs and DNR foresters has really helped moving RCPP to new counties.
- Brochures and other outreach materials are made. Can talk to Callie or Curt if you want to see examples.
 - Partners can work together to pool funding for outreach.

9:45am Update on WYFP activities – Curt Rollman, Jeremy Holtz

- Curt Rollman:
 - 124 landowners contacted through Lincoln/Langlade mailing.
 - 90 have had a follow up contact.
 - 41 resulted in site visits. Otherwise the landowner got general help or referred to PF, MFL, etc.
 - 7 alder shears planned through Partners.
 - Contracts being signed now.
- Jeremy Holtz:
 - Jeremy is getting back on track after his surgery
 - CWD has hit in Oneida so that will take major time as well.
 - Tom Hauge has been mentioning the WYFP to Natural Resources board etc. as an accomplishment for the DNR for the year.
 - Jeremy is continuing to spread the word for the WYFP within the bureau.
 - Wisconsin Chapter of Society of American Foresters is looking to sign the MOU.

- Continuing the work on the white paper.
 - Will be sent out in the future.

10:15am Funding Subcommittee report – Dan Eklund (only slightly medicated!)

- Spending up last bit of SFI and drummer grant.
- Biggest challenge coming up is funding the new coordinator.
- Jeremy grants update
 - Wrote Drummer grant on behalf of partnership
 - Amber wrote SFI grant for research dollars to add dollars to existing monitoring
 - Plans to write SFI grant for operational funds

10:25am Outreach Subcommittee report – Scott Walter

- Website has been updated by Chuck Fergus
 - Testimonials
 - FAQ
 - Habitats and management summary
 - Chuck has been great to work with.
- Partnership annual report
 - Would be nice to send out to keep people updated on progress.
 - Nothing too technically overbearing.
 - Landowner testimonials
 - Colorful graphs
 - Visually appealing
 - Distribute it to legislators and governmental officials in the areas where work is being done.
 - Scott will come with a draft of this by the next steering committee meeting.
 - Will be contacting people for information.
- Young Forest Communications Team
 - Young forest team that started in the northeast of US.
 - Goal to continue contact with land managers (including private landowners).
 - Spread the word on the benefits of young forest.
 - Jeremy and Scott are now members.

10:35am Personnel update – Jeremy Holtz

- New coordinator role
 - WMI has offered to fund a new coordinator position.
 - Have offered \$30,000 to fund the position.
 - Hopes other partners to provide funds as well.
 - The position would not be a WMI employee; they would be an independent contractor.
 - The position would report directly to the executive committee.
 - There may be RGS drummer and SFI grants available as well.
 - Need a partner to house the SFI grants.

- A coordinator can be housed at the WDNR service center.
- Important to have a solid PD to compliment the other staff and the needs of the partnership.
 - The new position should mesh together with the current staff and keep everything moving well, not double up on duties.
 - How many hours per week? Will it need to be 40?
- Two Farm bill biologists with a focus on young forest are awaiting approval.
 - Funding would come from WDNR, NRCS, and RGS.
 - These positions could help increase coverage in the RCPP 21 counties.
 - If this goes through then staff in the young forest area would increase.
- Jeremy proposes to work with Callie and other funding partners (WMI, USFS, etc.) to solidify a PD and new coordinator roles for the next SC meeting. Contact Jeremy if other partners want to be a part of the discussion.

11:00am schedule next meeting, then adjourn

- Next meeting will be next April unless urgently needed before.
- Doodle poll will be coming with potential dates.
- Eric Holms motioned to adjourn.
- Scott Walter second.

Total Time: 2hrs 44minutes AND 22 SECONDS