

# Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership Steering Committee Meeting- Conference Call

1:00pm - 3:00pm CDT

February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## MEETING DETAILS

Conference Room 1, DNR Service Center, 107 Sutliff Avenue, Rhinelander WI

### Attendees:

*Rhinelander Service Center:* Dan Eklund (USFWS), Gary VanVreede (USFWS), Callie Bertsch (ABC), Shawn Graff (ABC), Jeremy Holtz (WDNR), Ryan Jacques (WDNR), Gary Zimmer (WCFA), Kayla Noel – UP and Northern LP of Michigan (ABC)

*Conference Call Line:* Anna Buckardt (UMaine), Janet Brehm (WDNR), Eric Holm (WCFA), Kurt Waterstradt (USFWS), Katie Koch (USFWS), Scott Hygnstrom (UWSP), Chris Borden (NRCS), Bob Ellingson (WWF)

**Additions to the Agenda** - None

### Steering Committee changes since last meeting:

- Open executive committee member position: voting will take place at our next spring steering committee meeting (Late April to Early May)
  - o Scott Walter has moved on to another position
  - o Looking for another NGO partner to fill the position to avoid having three government agencies filling the executive committee
- RGS needs another Steering Committee representative – Who will replace Scott to represent RGS (does not have to be on the executive committee)
- Brain Spencer with WDNR Forestry retired: need another alternate representative
  - o Kristin Lambert – has helped fill Brian shoes since the retirement.
  - o Dianne Anderson – Feb 19<sup>th</sup> Start Date – New Forestry Outreach Specialist – She would be a great fit (according to Outreach Specialist position description) to represent the WDNR Forestry division. It is being discussed on how much she will be involved.

### MOU – any recent additions:

- Scott – Wisconsin Center for Wildlife (WCW) through UWSP
  - o Scott teaches wildlife habitat uses, wildlife diseases, wildlife techniques and contains Grad and Undergrad researchers
  - o Would be able to help in providing temporary staff and assistance for seasonal projects (is affiliated with multiple internship programs through UWSP)
  - o Treehaven – 6 week program (first half or second half of the summer) – between sophomore and junior year – hands on experience with wildlife, soils management, and forestry – leaves them half of the summer where they are not employed or in school – could be a useful pool of students to assist in summer surveys or work projects going on in the north woods.

## WYFP updates (Holtz):

- Provided update to Bob Nack for DNR Forestry Statewide Meeting – presentation on what we have done – highlighted accomplishment on acres, number of management plans, and contracts.
- USFWS Webless Grant- We fell short on some deliverables due to coordinator changing and other positions being added later – We are figuring out if there will be an extension until December 2018 to reach intended goals or leave as is.
- Ad in the Conservation Congress' spring hearing booklet (will be statewide April 9<sup>th</sup>)

**Creating wildlife habitat together**

**WYFP Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership**

Contact us to learn about the various opportunities and programs available for private landowners to plan and carry out habitat management.

Learn more at [www.youngforest.org/wi](http://www.youngforest.org/wi) or email [DNRYoungForest@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRYoungForest@wisconsin.gov)

## Coordinator Report (Wlodek):

- Next meeting; we are voting on new Executive member
- 4 projects getting done this year – 2 done and 2 to be completed
- 2 from 2016/2017 winter to finish up this year
- In the process of contacting each partner to get updates and figure out how to work more efficiently together for this upcoming year
- 22 landowners that need more assistance from last mailing
- 137 landowners completed
- 19 landowners in the process of being completed
- Monitoring work with Anna (UMaine) – Initially explored working within a citizen science type framework; instead we are now working towards the use of the online site called I-naturalist which is a blog type interface to provide a way for landowners to communicate what they are observing on their property (see more information below)

## Subcommittee Reports:

- Personnel (Holtz)
  - Considering hiring a summer intern to assist in day to day tasks within the WDNR
  - Side note – The WDNR staff around Lincoln, Langlade, Oneida, and Vilas Counties are dedicating more time to CWD due to Lincoln Co. positive from the 2017/2018 hunting season
  - It is up in the air on how much time Jeremy can allocate to the partnership for tasks and deliverables – so looking into alternatives like an intern, LTE, and coordinator. Other WDNR Wildlife Biologist PDs are being updated to include more time in young forest management.
  
- Outreach (Wlodek)
  - Annual accomplishment report – hope is to get it out mid-March to the Partnership – management plans number and total acres in addition to previously reported numbers
    - We do not have a good way to determine number of aspen acres managed
    - Will provide information on how we take in new landowners and describe their potential options for funding
    - Section displaying highlights from our different partners – Such as: staff changes, important/exciting news, grants/funding opportunities...
  
  - Next mailing – Price county (might also include parts of Oneida Co. depending on numbers within the Price Co.).
    - We are open to other areas to focus a mailing – please provide any suggestions to Randee W.
    - Reducing our mailing to two letters
      - 1<sup>st</sup> – general partnership information and hunting focus
      - 2<sup>nd</sup> – Geared towards recreational uses and birding
  
  - Brochures - They are printed and ready to be distributed
    - Contact Randee to get some to distribute
  
- Funding/fund administration (Eklund)
  - Seasonal NPR to ask for donation – good responses for the partnership
  - Coordinator position funding
    - WDNR Forestry – committed to aid in funding to get us to the end of July
    - Framework Options:
      - Continue with private contractor type framework with WDNR housing the position while partners add to the pool of money to get position paid for.
      - Lumberjack RC&D framework – They provide the assistance in managing the money transfers and provide office space and employee needs – Randee is working on finding out more information about this type of position framework.
    - NRCS – May have some dollars to add to the cause, further discussion needed
  
  - **Partners, please continue to look for dollars for the function of the Partnership – Start to look more long term instead of working on an annual operation.**

- DNR PR funds – Federal money provided to the state that has a match requirement – Potentially a NGO could apply for these funds that could then be allocated towards the partnership – young forest management is a priority in the northern section of Wisconsin.
  - Partnership can also pursue the RCPP and the RGS drummer grant
- Koch – Ideas on alternative funding opportunities
  - NGO major donor endowment framework to try and get more funds added to the pot of young forest work in the northern area. Some stakeholders could have a heavy interest in keeping the partnership going (private forestry companies, timber companies...)
- Monitoring/Research (Buckardt)
  - Finishing up research papers on Golden Winged Warbler (GWWA) movement
    - Analyzing Geolocator data from tagged Wisconsin birds– should have update within the next two months
    - Vermont/Michigan/New York Data – looking to see how those birds are behaving and moving to help understand how the Wisconsin birds are moving
  - I-naturalist – strictly monitoring woodcock via the state protocol woodcock survey is not in the realm of what we can handle – I-Naturalist is a good alternative to engage landowners:
    - Within the app/webpage a young forest group is created that is specific to the Northern Midwest
    - Landowners would be able to provide information on when their management was complete and who they did the management through
  - Website changes
    - Update tabs that are more specific to monitoring and the I-Naturalist group
      - For Landowners tab – describes how they can get involved with the partnership
        - Subtabs with the current ‘landowner testimonials’ and ‘video’
        - Subtab called Family Fun – give resources such as group projects/scavenger hunts/activities one could do on their property with friends or family
      - Monitoring tab (or an alternative name along those lines that does not deter private landowners such as ‘how you can help’ or ‘get involved’) – describes importance of monitoring and gives updates from Anna and Jeff Larkins crew
        - Subtab describing I-naturalist
        - Subtab with resources to identifying plants/animals that landowners can use for I-naturalist
      - OTHER UPDATES – provide new testimonials for the website, if any.

## Partner updates:

- Janet Brehm – Lincoln/Langlade County Biologist (WDNR)
  - o Has two technicians that assist in young forest work - Tom Carlson and Eric Borchert
  - o Continuing to contact landowners to get work done on MFL and non-MFL lands while funneling them through Partners (Reena-USFWS) or NRCS (Nora/Callie-ABC). Obtaining new landowners via Randee, through site visits for other wildlife related activities, and cold contacts
  - o She has a potential landowner (cougar siting site) with a lot of potential alder
  - o 1 property from last year still needs to be sheared. Additional property has good upland alder – waiting for parties to agree on contract. Eric B. – has two that he is working on getting ready to shear. Janet/Tom – have multiple sites that they are going to consider shearing next winter (updates on excel that will be sent to Randee). Have multiple site visits planned to check alder (will be added to spreadsheet).
- Shawn Graff (ABC) – NFWF Grant for 2018
  - o money for 4 small workshops/meetings
    - Would like to get a workshop done within the next month if possible depending on the weather/planning; if not then shoot for December for wet site shearing
    - It is possible to do a summer workshop if we have the right site with upland alder
  - o \$30,000 for on the ground restoration – like a demonstration project similar to Ackley
    - This pot of money is available if there are projects that are good for the partnership and unable to secure funding (such as a landowner not following through because they cannot afford to pay 50% of the projects cost)
  - o Has funds for Jeff Larkin (Cornell Lab of Ornithology) to monitor Minnesota/Wisconsin for young forest species as well as for the Cornell Lab to update GWWB BMPs
- Callie Bertsch (ABC)
  - o About 90 sites active this year (about 30 certified and 60 with active contracts) – Nora has been out in the field practically every day setting up sites/meeting with contractors/certifying sites
  - o Two biologists have been hired (Ladysmith and Leena)
- Kurt Waterstradt (USFWS)
  - o WYFP – is considered as a valuable partnership
  - o Money still available through the 2016 RGS agreement – looking to allocate it towards the partnership
  - o Landowner/DNR/Partners Match – not all counties are 100% cost share
- Gary Zimmer (WCFA)
  - o County forests – 7 different counties working
  - o Drummer grant – highlight grouse management areas on county forest
    - GEM Grants - Contains webpage promoting 12 of these areas – maps, signage, resources on lodging, and accessibility
  - o Submitted application to 2018 drummer grant for follow up
    - Extend to more counties
    - Create more management areas on county forests
  - o **(Ryan/Randee)** – acquire numbers from WisFRS on number of acres of aspen harvested within the grouse management areas.
-

- Dan Eklund (USFS)
  - o On scope to harvest 2,000 to 3,000 acres
  - o Has had a few sales go no bid
  - o Counted birds for 3 years after management – saw a rise in woodcock numbers and a slight rise in GWWA numbers
- Chris Borden (NRCS)
  - o Will check in with Randee (outreach in Oneida?) and Michigan ABC
- Katie Koch (USFWS)
  - o Ashland workshop April 17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> – northern forests birds workshop North MN, WI and MI – On collaborate monitoring with large bird datasets looking at boreal species - will send out registration information and brochure to Randee to distribute to the group
  - o NRCS in Michigan – public forums (Wildlife and Forestry Forum) – bring in recognized speakers to drive home the point of forest management planning to private landowners and organizations – If Wisconsin residents are interested the information will be distributed

#### **Set next meeting**

- **Be on the lookout for Randee's request for dates/time for our next meeting**
- **Tentatively late April or early May**

#### **Adjourn**

## Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership Leadership

### **Executive Committee Members:**

Jeremy Holtz, Facilitator  
Dan Eklund  
Vacant position

### **Executive Committee Members:**

Jeremy Holtz, Facilitator  
Dan Eklund  
Vacant position

### **Steering Committee Members (and alternates):**

USFS: Dan Eklund and Matthew St. Pierre  
NRCS: Chris Borden and Tom Krapf  
USFWS: Kurt Waterstradt and Gary VanVreede  
WDNR Wildlife: Kent VanHorn (and Jeremy Holtz)  
WDNR Forestry: Kristin Lambert  
WCFA: Eric Holm and Gary Zimmer  
ABC: Callie Bertsch and Shawn Graff

RGS: N/A  
WMI: Mark Banker  
Forestland Group: Shawn Hagan  
WBCI: Michael John Jaeger and Davin Lopez  
WWOA: N/A  
WWF: Bob Ellingson and George Meyer  
SAF: Tom Hittle

new members always welcome

### **Subcommittee Members:**

#### **Personnel/workgroup:**

Jeremy Holtz, Chair  
Ranee Wlodek  
Ryan Jacques  
Dan Eklund  
Callie Bertsch  
Nora Kennedy  
Janet Brehm

#### **Fundraising:**

Dan Eklund, Chair  
Jeremy Holtz

#### **Outreach:**

Ranee Wlodek  
Jamie Nack  
Chuck Fergus (website)  
Gary Zimmer  
Callie Bertsch  
Amber Roth

#### **Monitoring/Research:**

Kent VanHorn  
Amber Roth  
Anna Buckhart  
Ranee Wlodek  
Ryan Jacques