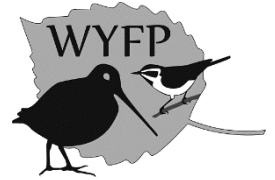


**Minutes from the
Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership
Steering Committee Meeting
September, 8th 2015
10am-12pm CST**



Venue: Rhinelander WDNR Conf Rm 2 / Conference call / Lync Meeting

Members Present: Jeremy Holtz, Dan Eklund, Curtis Rollman, Gary Zimmer, Callie Berstch, Scott Walters, Matt St. Pierre, Chris Borden, Amber Roth

Agenda

10:00 am Additions to agenda

- Financial Update

10:05 am Approve minutes from last SC meeting

- Dan Eklund moved to approve minutes
 - Scott Walters seconded
 - Steering Committee carried

10:10 am Executive Committee Vice-chairperson Election

- Scott Walters nominated through email.
- No other nominations heard.
- Dan Eklund moved to elect Scott Walters as Vice-chairperson.
 - Gary Zimmer seconded
 - Steering Committee carried
- Term until elections in April

10:30 am Personnel Subcommittee Report—update on Habitat Coordinator position

- ABC will no longer house the WYFP coordinator
- Callie Berstch's position will now be focused on RCPP
 - Callie will continue working with landowners and young forest. Not a lot will change from the WYFP perspective.
 - Will work with new ABC forester (starting Sept 14th)
- NRCS will continue to house Callie's position and the new ABC forester
 - NRCS is open to requests to house a "new" WYFP coordinator
- Gary Zimmer asked how to record accomplishments going forward
 - ABC and NRCS will continue moving forward on the RCPP with the match from the partners.

- RCPP and NFWF status' are yet to be determined after the change of the WYFP coordinator.
- Financial report from grants
 - Financial specifics have not been communicated to the financial chair.
- Some partners now have concerns on their match not being used for the partnership.
 - It is up to each partner to determine what to do now with their match.
 - If match is pulled the project may cease to exist and end the good work of “on the ground” habitat.
- Dan Eklund moved for Scott Walter to meet with Craig Thompson to discuss relationship going forward.
 - Gary Zimmer seconded
 - Steering Committee carried
- Partners need to give the steering committee their contributed match totals for the Scott Walters and Craig Thompson meeting.
- Forest Service gave match to help progress the young forest idea.
 - They may reconsider their match if that goal is no longer being accomplished.
- Steering committee thoughts on a new coordinator
 - Morph DNR LTE position into the new WYFP coordinator?
 - Roughly \$50,000 per year
 - New WMI representative as the new WYFP coordinator?
- Post-October 1st coordination
 - Jeremy Holtz and Curt Rollman will take over the coordination duties in the interim.
- A database is needed for all the landowners working in the partnership!
 - Curt Rollman and Jeremy Holtz are working through Jeremy’s first 3 years of work.
 - Curt Rollman and Callie Berstch are working through the last year of work.
 - The database should be as real time as possible to see where landowners are in the process.
 - Need to see if they “fall out” of one funding source so they can be steered for other funding sources.
 - Need to see when they need the next “round” of work.

10:50 am Outreach Subcommittee Report

- Folder, DVD, and brochure are all complete.
 - Thanks to all partners who made it happen!
 - USFWS, RGS, and SFI funds
- The goal of the folder/brochure is to help convince landowners that are on the fence about timber management.
- Landowner testimonials are coming for the website.
 - Chuck Fergus will be interviewing landowners in late September.
 - Very happy landowners out there!
- Amber Roth printing more GWWA BMPs.

- Steering committee exploring options on a woodcock informational packet or brochure.
 - Minnesota has a good example to follow.
 - Discussion to continue in outreach subcommittee.
- Amber Roth will be outreach chair until SFI grants are done.
- Outreach for the 21 counties can come from the RCPP.
- Outreach for the 6 counties can come from the DNR.
- Gary Zimmer moved to make Scott Walter outreach subcommittee chair.
 - Dan Eklund seconded
 - Steering committee carried
- Curt Rollman and Jeremy Holtz will take over the partnership communication after Amber Roth leaves.
 - September 30th
- Personnel subcommittee not time effective with only one “employee” in the partnership.
 - Dan Eklund moved to suspend the personnel subcommittee.
 - Amber Roth seconded
 - Steering committee carried

11:00 am Partnership meeting agenda and logistics for Sept 21

- Will be a lync meeting
 - Lync difficulties during today’s steering committee meeting.
 - Lync will need some streamlining before the meeting.
- Informal mixer the night before the meeting.
 - Lodging at the Americinn (honors government rate)
- Monday Tentative agenda
 - Accomplishment reporting
 - Progress and successes
 - Discussion on plan for coordinator going forward
 - Discussion on other resource needs for the partnership
 - White paper discussions
 - Afternoon field tour
 - 2 properties selected
 - Aspen and alder represented well.
 - Varying funding sources and contractors.

Noon Adjourn

- Jeremy moved to adjourn @ 11:54
 - Dan Eklund seconded
 - Steering committee carried