

**Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership  
Steering Committee Meeting  
Conference Call  
8:30am - 11:30am CDT  
May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021**



**MEETING DETAILS**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83307674110>

Meeting ID: 833 0767 4110

**Attendance:**

Randee Smith, Jen Simoni, Kristin Lambert, Chris Borden, Dan Eklund, Diane Gunderson, Jamie Nack, Jeremy Holtz, Jaqi Christopher, Jon Steigerwaldt, Mark Pfost, Sam Clair, Chris Weber, Kent Van Horn

**AGENDA**

- Additions to Agenda
- MOU – recent additions: N/A
- Steering Committee changes since last meeting
  - WCFA: Gary Zimmer retired, Eric Holm retired from Price County; Sam Clair new rep
  - WBCP: no rep since Gary retired
  - WWF: George Meyer retired, still have rep
  - ABC: Pat Weber replaced Callie Bertsch
  - RGS: Dan Hoff transitioned from Forest Wildlife Specialist with RGS/NRCS/DNR to soil con with NRCS in Oconto/Marinette area and still helping with forestland in NRCS
  - Chuck Fergus no longer in outreach committee - through WMI and worked on previous website
  - Last call for executive committee nominations
- WYFP Executive Committee election – Eklund
  - Jeremy's position is up for vote
  - Call for executive committee nominations – Jeremy is only candidate
  - Dan makes motion to make vote unanimous. Jon Seconds. Vote: Jeremy Wins!
- Private Forest Landowner Database walk-through PowerPoint– Lambert/Simoni
  - Division of Forestry and Aldo Leopold Foundation built database to track landowner interactions. Based of Driftless Forest Network database.
  - Goals: track progress for the 20,000 landowner goal, landowner engagement, understand effectiveness of outreach, have electronic records multiple people can access
  - Database has landowner profile with info on property and landowner interests. Can track activities and management recommendations
  - Can be used to track outreach activities and which landowners responded to which ad campaigns
  - Very useful for YFP to track progress of landowners enrolling in programs
  - Parcel Data will always be a year behind due to how tax data is released, will be looking into updating the whole system
  - Ultimate goal is to merge this database with WisFIRS, but will likely not happen for a

while.

- Coordinator Report – Smith
  - 2020 annual report
    - Not quite done yet, waiting for some pictures and some data, then will be sending out to outreach committee for review.
    - Not as much happened in 2020 as in previous years, but still good info
  - Elements of Wildlife Habitat workshop
    - UWSP workshop for cooperating foresters to earn Wildlife Habitat Certification. In person training with about 10 participants. Toured young forest parcels and RGS Demonstration area. Still working on interpretive signs for demo area.
  - Learning in Retirement Ruffed Grouse presentation
    - Through Nicolet College. Great outreach with public
- Subcommittee Reports
  - Outreach – Smith
    - Lumberjack NACD grant
      - Goal is to get landowners to apply for NRCS through digital ads. Doing Google responses and display ads along with Facebook ads. 3 month campaign starting in July.
    - MWW/DNR mailings
      1. To site visit complete landowners- list is being worked on and will include those across the state who have already received a forester site visit.
      2. New mailing – small direct mail campaign (a couple thousand people) campaign has been postponed due to different logistical issues. Going with Facebook ad instead and try to target specific counties. Trying to implement new model with smaller campaigns more often throughout the year, rather than one large one.
    - UW Extension in NW – might have opportunities to collaborate with WYFP on MFL landowners
      - Want to create a workshop for MFL landowners who are reaching out to integrated foresters with questions about sales.
  - Funding/fund administration
    - GNA project bid – Eklund
      - Lumberjack applied for GNA contractor, did not win bid as they were one of the highest, but will be able to learn a lot from this year in order to apply for next year
    - NRCS signed next 3 year contract for coordinator position with Lumberjack– Smith
      - Starts Aug 1. DNR will be working on their half of the agreement to start this year
  - Research Updates – Amber Roth
    - The University of Maine has a new Golden-winged Warbler adult survival study as a component for a new integrated population model funded by the US Fish & Wildlife Service to inform the ESA review process which will begin later this year.
    - My MS student, Emily Filiberti, has been deploying NanoTags on Golden-winged Warblers in Oneida County for the past 2 weeks. She has tagged 20 females and 15 males and is now focused on color-banding control birds (15 so far). She has exceeded our goal for this field season, so any new marked birds are considered gravy. On Friday, Emily and a group of collaborators, will be installing 2 Motus stations to track our Golden-wings as well as other animals similarly tagged by other researchers. One station will be at the US Forest Service Rhinelander Experimental Station at the West Unit and the other station will be at the UW's Lelah Starks Elite Foundation Seed Potato Farm. Emily will be back in Wisconsin in 2022 and 2023 to deploy more tags and search for previously tagged warblers.

- If anyone has questions, email [amber.roth@maine.edu](mailto:amber.roth@maine.edu)
  - Jeff Larkin Grad Student – Pollinator Habitat Study
    - Specifically looking for Monarchs on alder shearing sites.
- Partner updates – each rep fills us in
  - ABC - RCPP update – Pat Weber
    - American Bird Conservancy (ABC) was awarded a five-year extension of their Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) with NRCS. This extension builds on the results of the current RCPP program and further strengthen our partnerships in the region. It will provide \$5 million in new funding and create more than 6,000 additional acres of essential breeding habitat for Golden-winged Warblers and other early-successional forest birds in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. The RCPP renewal is expanded to also develop 670 acres of breeding habitat for Kirtland’s Warblers in Wisconsin and Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.
  - DNR Wildlife – Jeremy Holtz
    - Starting to fill vacancies. Started with supervisors and will trickle down to other positions. DNR is adjusting covid guidance regularly, but will likely be headed back to office and able to do in person meetings soon.
  - Forest Service – Dan Eklund
    - Try to move timber sales, aspen and red pine are easier to move. 125 timber sales going right now, about half are hardwoods, other half are pine or aspen or mixed. Sheared 400-500ac alder this winter. Summer habitat work is starting – brushing, opening work with seasonal crew. Would like to do field tour at Mocqua Barrens to see pine barrens young forest system once covid restrictions lift.
  - USFWS Partners – Mark Pfost
    - 2-3 projects completed last winter, another one coming up. St Croix position won’t be filled until Fall. Gary will be leaving soon and Mark only has 1 year left. Turkey Foundation has new regional biologist. Been getting more referrals from Rusk Co Conservation folks. Should consider adding county conservationist to the Young Forest calls.
  - DNR Forestry – Kristin Lambert
    - Gov Evers Trillion Trees initiative - DNR forestry has a goal to plant a portion of these. State budget has proposed increase to WFLGP funds, so will be exciting to see that come through.
  - County Forest Association – Sam Clair
    - Sam Clair is new rep out of Burnette Co. WCFA is looking to get involved with carbon credits for forest land.
  - Ruffed Grouse Society – Jon Steigerwaldt
    - Next week will be advertising Dan Hoff’s Position and moving it out of Antigo. Advertising MN State Coordinator to help with grant management.
  - LP – Chris Weber
    - WI Rapids Mill Fire will complicate any potential sale, so will slow down any potential to get mill up and running. Long term trend on hardwood pulp market: might still be market for pulp, but paper has been on a downward trend for years now and don’t see that coming back up, especially coated paper like the rapids mill makes.
    - Carbon Credits are a new trend in the industry and not sure now it will affect cutting. Young aspen sequesters more carbon than old, maybe good research opportunity.
  - MWW – Jen Simoni
    - Keeping busy working on outreach with YFP and DNR
  - Trees for Tomorrow – Diane Gunderson
    - Forest Fest on campus focuses on forest products, wildlife issues, invasive,

crafters, etc. get about 1500 people attending. Looking to do next event July of 2022 and looking for any partners willing to help grow the event.

- Sustainable Living Institute – geared towards 18yo and older. Each monthly topic has to do with sustainability. Next one is on Invasive species. Looking for partners to present as part of the series. Can partner on existing programs or create new ones.
- Developing curriculum about benefits of fire for managing habitat
- Master Naturalist Program – Not exactly sure what program will look like this year. Jon was scheduled to speak on ruffed grouse and fire at last years meeting (cancelled) and is willing to do again this year

# Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership Leadership

## Executive Committee Members:

Jeremy Holtz, Facilitator

Dan Eklund

Jon Steigerwaldt

## Steering Committee Members (and alternates):

**USFS:** Dan Eklund and Matthew St. Pierre

**NRCS:** Chris Borden

**USFWS:** Mark Pfof and Ted Koehler

**WDNR Wildlife:** Kent Van Horn  
and Jeremy Holtz

**WDNR Forestry:** Kristin Lambert

**WCFA:** Sam Clair

**ABC:** Shawn Graff and Pat Weber

**RGS:** Jon Steigerwaldt

**Forestland Group:** Shawn Hagan

**WBCP:** N/A

**WWF:** Bob Ellingson

**SAF:** Tom Hittle

**Lumberjack RC&D:** Tracy Beckman  
And Paul Mueller

**LP:** Chris Weber

**PF:** Carissa Freeh

**MWW and ALF:** Jen Simoni

## Subcommittee Members:

### Personnel/workgroup:

Jeremy Holtz, Chair

Dan Eklund

Jon Steigerwaldt

Randee Smith

Jacquelyn Christopher

Pat Weber

Janet Brehm

Dan Hoff

Jared Elm

### Fundraising:

Dan Eklund, Chair

Jeremy Holtz

Jon Steigerwaldt

Randee Smith

### Outreach:

Randee Smith, Chair

Jamie Nack

Amber Roth

Diane Gunderson

Tracy Beckman

Pat Weber

### Monitoring/Research:

Kent Van Horn

Amber Roth

Randee Smith