

**Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership
Steering Committee Meeting**

**Conference Call
10:00am - 12:00pm CDT
March 16th, 2020**

MEETING DETAILS



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87916911681>

Meeting ID: 879 1691 1681

Attendees:

Jaqi Christopher, Randee Smith, Dan Eklund, Jeremy Holtz, Mark Pfof, Shawn Graff, Carissa Freeh, Chris Weber, Chris Borden, Diane Gunderson, Jamie Nack, Jon Steigerwaldt, Katie O'Brien, Kristin Lambert, Tracy Beckman, Ted Koehler, Kent Van Horn

AGENDA

- Coordinator Report – Smith
 - 2020 Annual Report
 - Waiting for some more data. Hope to be finished by the spring meeting.
 - If you want to include highlights from your organization, pass it on to Randee.
 - Keynote Address
 - Chris Borden has been voted to write it. Has a good perspective, especially from private land management
 - Considering printing batch, but 2019 didn't get distributed. Randee can do a small batch at the office.
- Subcommittee Reports
 - Outreach
 - NACD grant – Beckman
 - Got a grant from NACD through NRCS to increase outreach.
 - Hired an ad firm to developed comprehensive ad campaign. Meeting with them tomorrow
 - Plan to do billboards, newspaper, radio and tv to get private forest landowners interested in habitat programs

- Have included testimony from landowners who have gone through programs
 - With Covid, was not able to get as many testimonies as they wanted, but have several quotes that will be included in the campaign
- Similar campaign to what has been done in the past but will be reaching more people with targeted messaging.
- Coordinating with My WI Woods to make sure the campaigns don't overlap too much – collaborative rather than competitive
- MWW/DNR Forestry upcoming outreach – Lambert
 - Collaborative effort to have foresters flag landowners that would be suitable for YF work and sending them to Randee.
 - Direct Mail Campaign – MWW with DNR sent out mailings last fall. Hit goal of 5% response rate – will have to do analysis to find exact response rate. Happy to have a good response rate because the timing of the mailings coincided with Covid, Thanksgiving and the elections, which could have had an effect.
 - Hope to do another direct mail this spring – late May or June. Will be post fire season so foresters have time for site visits.
 - For FY22 – Collaborating with UW Extension and WYFP to create comprehensive marketing plan for entire fiscal year across the organizations.
 - Will continue direct mailings, but will discuss other media like digital ads, billboard and radio like in 2019
 - 20,000 landowner goal – Contact 20,000 landowners in 5 years. On year 3 and going very successfully.
 - Woods Camp by American Forster Foundation – a marketing tool through Facebook where users are directed to Woods Camp website. They enter info about their property and have a conversation with a call agent to get a high-level overview of management. Call agents guide landowners towards private land programs, which includes YFP.
 - Contract with WoodsCamp continues through end of calendar year 2021. Ron Gropp is in charge of this.
 - Used as the “social media” arm of the marketing plan
- Personnel
 - Callie Bertsch changing position – ABC
 - Got a new job with MN NRCS as Chief Forester. “Losing a star in WI but gaining a partner in MN”
 - Kevin Shepard will take over Callie’s duties until a replacement can be hired. Waiting for RCPP renewal (hopefully April)

- Nominations for Executive Committee position – Holtz
 - The Executive Committee was formed to handle day to day details of the WYFP. There are 3 members with staggered 3-year terms, so every year there is one position is up for election.
 - Jeremy’s position is up for election this year. Anyone interested in running for his position should contact Randee
 - Jeremy is currently the Committee Facilitator (not chair) but new candidate does not necessarily have to take on that role. The executive committee can select facilitator amongst themselves.
- Funding/fund administration
 - Good Neighbor Authority project – Eklund
 - Over 70,000 acres of golden wing warbler and woodcock acres affected from 2006-present.
 - GNA is a program through the Farm Bill where the forest service works with DNR forestry to sell timber. Then DNR collect receipts from the timber sale and uses them to complete projects on the National Forest
 - Due to lots of bureaucracy, there is a long list of projects and a pile of receipts, but no one to do the projects. We now have the ability to bid out the work to general contractors
 - DNR will be looking for proposals from general contractors to complete this work in the near future. Details are not finalized yet. WYFP and its partners may be interested in this opportunity.
 - Kristin took on new roll at DNR (Supervisor!) and now in charge of GNA projects.
 - RGS and ABC have agreement for many projects and will likely be in partnership for GNA projects, but do not want to compete with local/private contractors.
 - Market Prices for lumber
 - All of this is dependent on lumber prices/market. Even aspen market is slow and red pine is almost non-existent
 - Both WI Rapids and Duluth mills are down – where most of pulp wood went
 - Only real market for pulp now is fabric and siding which is not local manufacturing
 - Saw lumber is up, but most of the Northwoods lumber is not saw lumber quality
 - MN Sustainable Timber Harvest Analysis – plan to increase harvest on state wildlife properties which will result in 250,000 additional cords to MN market.
 - Most of the timber from NW WI goes to MN but that

market will soon be flooded with the MN DNR's new plan

- LP mills are running full out but slower than normal due to supply issues from Texas. Was ideal winter for loggers, but the mills are not there to support hardwood market. Market needs to change – either suppliers need to go out of business to support fewer, stronger suppliers, or the Rapids mill needs to come back online even at reduced capacity. There is probably enough wood decked right now to keep mills busy until June.
 - Forest economist with DNR are keeping a close eye on this issue. WYFP can invite them to speak at the next meeting if there is interest.
 - RCPP – Graff
 - Have a couple more months to finish up current RCPP.
 - Currently working on agreement for RCPP2. Pat Weber is contact
 - Will be extension of old one
 - Applied for new RCPP but didn't get it. Resubmitted for a renewal.
 - Renewal included expanded counties for Golden Wings and jack pine was added in WI and the UP for Kirtland's.
 - Will now be able to provide monitoring of sites
 - University of Pennsylvania will be working to place acoustic monitors on landowners' properties to record number of species
 - Looking for 5 years of data pre and post treatment
 - Will focus on private landowner volunteers but also considering public land. Potential to put on private lands managed through DNR and Partners programs
 - Monitoring is funded private grants and NFWF
 - With new RCPP, WI will be Lead State - Matt Otto is contact
 - Will not affect any way the partners do business but simplifies ABC/NRCS paperwork. MN was lead state before.
 - Will have finalized agreement with NRCS soon and will hopefully have everything solidified by April
- Open floor for updates
- Research
 - Jeff Larkin – surveys in pollinator habitat in WI
 - Amber – will have new master's student looking at adult survival of GWWA. Installing 2 automated stations to detect tagged GWWA through Motus

towers. Project will be based out of Rhinelander. Currently trying to expand Motus network in Midwest with 48 new stations.

- Chris – GIS Imagery is now being shot in 4-5 bands with 2 infrared bands which makes it much more detailed. Can use Digital Elevation Models (DEM) model to assess elevation and help inform alder shearing. Also looking for areas with monotypic black ash – to try to plan understory planting before EAB comes through. Some black ash stands are too wet, so use DEM to see where to plant. With increased detail, comes increased data and storage needs.
 - Has the layers and is willing to share, send him a 4-6T hard drive for the files.
- RGS – Currently 35 drummer fund projects open in state at \$220,000. Reorg last year and will be making a call for drummer fund projects to start in June-July.
- Jamie Nack– Coverts was canceled because of Covid but planning on hosting this year at Kemp Research Station Aug 12-15. Also, hosting Coverts Reunion this year as a separate event. Jamie is coordinating – contact for information on workshop.
- Mark Pfost – several projects in Rusk Co. Losing biologist around state. Ted will be taking over projects. 2 Kirtland's were found down in Jackson Co last year, so looking to set up projects down there this year.
- Ted – “I have the money, if you have the time.” Trying to do YF projects in conjunction with landowners that are doing other projects. Iron River National Fish Hatchery – looking to do burn on a couple hundred acres on that property this year.
- Chris –USFWS is working on a great project to plant trees in reed canary grass at Wittlesey Nat Wildlife Refuge. Project has been huge success with very good tree retention. Deer damage was much less than anticipated. Planted white pine, white spruce, white cedar, tamarack with the goal of shading out the reed canary. Mike Manerick led the project – now retired, but still active in projects. Great example of how to successfully manage reed canary.
- Chris – NRCS will be hiring many positions this year, so keep an eye out for openings. The NRCS forester position is still vacant and will hopefully be posted soon. Currently, there are 2 positions being advertised for a Grazing Specialist and a GIS Specialist.
- RGS - WCFA submitted letter to DNR secretary urging DNR to fill critical vacancies in fish, wildlife, parks, and forestry departments. BHA and RGS will be doing something similar.
- Kent – Wildlife program is at 30% vacancy. Very limited permission to fill vacancies. Will be hiring 2 supervisor positions soon. Forest Wildlife Specialist is still on the list, but priority is to fill current vacancies, rather than create new positions. LTEs are currently being hired.

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: Eric Holm

ABC: Shawn Graff and Pat Weber

RGS: Jon Steigerwaldt and Dan Hoff

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

NWTF: N/A

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

Chuck Fergus (website)

Amber Roth

Diane Gunderson

Tracy Beckman

Pat Weber

Monitoring/Research:

Kent Van Horn

Amber Roth

Randee Smith