

Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership –Steering Committee Meeting July 30, 2014, 10 am to noon, by Conference Call.

Persons on call included: Amber Roth (Upper Great Lakes YF Initiative), Jeremy Holtz (Chr. WDNR), Andrew Rothman (ABC), Dan Eklund (USFS), Kurt Waterstradt (USFWS), Pat Ruble (WMI), Eric Holm (WCFA), Gary Zimmer (RGS), Michael Stinebrink (NRCS) Steve Bertjens(NRCS), Carol Nielson (WDNR), Adrian Wydeven (WDNR), and Callie Bertsch (WYFP Habitat Coordinator).

A. Approval of Last Steering Committee Notes.

The group approved notes on the last meeting held on June 14, 2014.

B. Introduction of Habitat Coordinator Callie Bertsch.

Callie Bertsch was introduced to the group. Jeremy will take her around to meet members of the partnership. Callie will develop a decision tree to determine direction on work projects (see enclosed). Andrew will introduce Callie to ABC workers in MN & PA and she will attend a week long training course with ABC.

C. WYFP accomplishment goals, by Adrian & Andrew

Some general goal concepts developed by Adrian are listed below. Andrew used these and other metrics for setting goals for Callie.

Goal ideas along line of acres impacted,

- 100 acres direct treatments such as shearing/ grinding of alders
- 1000 acres planned for timber sales, openings management or restorations, burning , and shrub management
- 250 landowner contacts
- 20,000 acres with management influenced (250 landowners * 80 acres in average in woods).

Goals statements for Callie's work as developed by Andrew for ABC

Deliverable	Unit	Quantity
Have direct contact (via phone, email, or in person) with private landowners; enter information into database.	Landowners contacted	250
Facilitate private landowners to enroll in NRCS programs resulting in an application. (Direct landowners to NRCS office and assist through process)	EQIP applications	75

Coordinate and facilitate property field visits by recognized professional resource manager. (Coordinate with landowner and resource professional / service provider)	Field Visits	122
Provide conservation technical assistance NRCS planning steps 1 to 6 to private land owners to facilitate development of stewardship/ management plan. Enter plans into toolkit	Plans in Toolkit	43
Facilitate finalizing and signing of NRCS contracts. Assist NRCS with ranking and contract assembly	Contracts	10

D. Grant Proposals by Andrew & Amber.

Andrew discussed work on RCPP proposal. The proposal would be for \$5 ½ million. Goals would include impacting 9600 acres of private lands. Plans would include hiring more foresters especially for preparing stewardship plans. Funds would also support Callie and foresters in MN. The project would make from \$250-\$300 K available for landowners that are not eligible for NRCS funds. The proposal passed the first cut and will be more fully developed for fall submission.

Amber discussed a WISFI proposal for \$30K to be distributed 1/3 to habitat coordinator, 1/3 website development, and 1/3 for other outreach.

The Griffin Groups website will list the grant proposals but does not need to include detailed financial information.

E. Updates on July 11 NRCS application deadlines by Michael

Michael indicated 30-31 applications had come in and 6-7 were being considered for Friday deadline. Others would be considered for October 1 deadline. Each average about \$3K of work especially alder management. Steve expects total to be little less than 30 because some will not be eligible or need stewardship or MFL plans in place by September 30. Michael and Steve will provide updates on NRCS guidelines.

Extensive discussion was held on when MFL and Stewardship plans were needed. In general alder/shrub management and open lands management do not require these plans, but any tree plantings and forest manipulations requires one of the forestry plans.

Carol indicated that the new format for writing MFL plans should speeds things up but won't be available for next 2 months.

F. Update on WYFP Website.

Amber discussed work on WYFP web site. Jeremy indicated the existing DNR YF site will be dismantled. Amber anticipated the web site would cost about \$3K. Andrew indicated the web site should be equally representative of all partners and content should focus on outreach material.

G. Update of MOU signatures and finalize press release- Kurt & Gary

Kurt indicated 7 partners had signed MOU and was being circulated. Adrian indicated a version had been sent to Secretary Stepp in DNR but was not sure it included the other signatures.

Gary said the press release is just waiting for signatures to be completed and will finalize the version through FS and DNR.

H. Better Use of Griffin Group

Amber discussed better use of the Griffin group. She discussed putting grant proposals and subcommittee work on the site. Others indicated they mostly had not actively used the site and seemed like a bit of a chore to use it. Amber indicated perhaps we use it as more of an archives site where we store our documents, and have an easy place to find documents.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Leadership Operating Framework

The group discussed a leadership operating framework sent around by Dan. Everyone seemed to agree the framework sent by Dan was a good approach to for guiding leadership in the YFP. Jeremy referred to these as sort of the “rules of the pool”. Amber indicated she would share with whole partnership and place on Griffin site.

B. Subcommittee Formation

Jeremy indicated he saw the need for at least 3 subcommittees, but the group decided to hold discussion on these for the next meeting.

C. Next meetings

Amber indicated she would do a Doodle survey for next steering committee and try for early September. The next partnership meeting would be held in late September or early October.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1) Andrew & Callie: Send out Callie's contact info.
- 2) Callie: Create an electronic file version of the decision tree and distribute it for review by the SC.
- 3) All: Send Callie names and contact info for folks who can help her with specific landowner technical assistance tasks. Introduce yourself to her if you haven't already.
- 4) Callie & Michael: Create a WYFP business card and letterhead template and distribute for review by the SC.
- 5) Adrian & Andrew: Combine WYFP accomplishment goals for Year 1 and add to meeting minutes.
- 6) Amber & Andrew: Post Partnership-backed proposals and/or proposal info on Griffin Groups. Andrew will look into internal restrictions for posting proposal info.

- 7) Michael & Steve: Produce clarifying language regarding next EQIP/YFI sign-ups and the plan specifics needed
- 8) All: see Amber's email on website design and send comments to her by Friday, Aug 1. Also, send her photos for use on the website (see my email for photo needs).
- 9) Those who haven't signed MOU: sign it or be prepared to sign it quickly when it comes to you. Keep Kurt posted on who has the MOU.
- 10) Amber: Revise Leadership Operating Framework and distribute to SC; put final version on Griffin Groups. Send comments to Amber by Friday, Aug 1.
- 11) All: Would you like to be on a subcommittee (Outreach, Fundraising, Personnel)? Let Jeremy know by Friday, Aug 29.
- 12) Amber: Send out polls to determine dates/times for next SC meeting and full Partnership meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:12 pm (CDT).