

**Minutes from the
Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership
Steering Committee Meeting
March 25, 2015
9am-3pm CST
Venue: Rhinelander WDNR Conf Rm 1 / Conference call**

Members Present: Dan Eklund, Matthew St. Piere, Gary Zimmer, Shawn Hagen, Curt Rollman, Tom Krapf, Chris Borden, Michael Stinebrink, Amber Roth, Jeremy Holtz, Yoyi Steele, Pat Ruble, Andrew Rothman, Gary VanVreede, Eric Holm, Scott Walters, Jeff Larkin

A. Agenda

- Andrew Rothman requested goals and objectives addition to the 12:45 PM portion
- Agenda approved

B. Approval of Minutes

- Gary Zimmer motioned to approve the minutes; Second Shawn Hagen; Consensus reached. Amber will put them on Griffin Groups

C. Elections

- Dan Eklund was the incumbent “first” Vice Chair of the Steering Committee; Dan Eklund was re-elected on consensus.
- Amber Roth was the incumbent “second” Vice Chair of the Steering Committee; Amber Roth was re-elected on consensus.
- Discussion from Gary Zimmer to increase the term of these positions to two years, but that would require a change to the tenants.

D. MOU update (Amber Roth)

- Amber Roth received no new information from Kurt Waterstradt on the MOU.
- Yoyi Steele will follow up on WBCI’s end and will add the MOU to the agenda for the WBCI steering committee meeting.

E. Executive Committee Issues (Jeremy Holtz)

- Jeremy Holtz posed the question to the committee on how to handle requests for details on the MOU and the partnership. Duluth and Indianapolis have requested the MOU and details from Jeremy. Committee agrees that sharing information is important; whatever creates more habitat.
- Scott Walters is the new wildlife representative to the Committee.
- Replacement requested for a forestry representative. Scott Walters will look into it.
- Chris Borden is the new NRCS rep.
- Discussion turned to how many “reps” each organization can have. It was stated there is no limit.
- Gary Zimmer will be the RGS rep until May 31st. Gary’s replacement will be hired in the coming weeks, it assumed the replacement will be the RGS committee rep.

- ABC has hired Craig Thomas, he starts next month. He will become the main ABC committee rep. Craig Thomas will oversee ABC staff in the Great Lakes.

F. Outreach Subcommittee (Amber Roth)

- Amber Roth showed the youngforest.org/wi website. “News” tab was the most recent update. Request for future news items to be forwarded to Amber Roth for inclusion on the website.
- Logo discussion. No consensus reached on a logo. The group decided on the ‘gray’ logo if a graphics designer can make a few changes, i.e. perch for golden wing and details on the woodcock. Andrew Rothman will forward to ABC’s graphic designer depending on designer’s work load.
- Video is done. Brought initial viewers to TEARS! The video is open for use by all in the partnership. Jeremy Holtz asked Scott Walters to look into getting new youtube keywords implemented.
- Next project for the outreach committee is the brochure

G. Finance Subcommittee (Dan)

- Applied for WI SFI grant and obtained \$10,000. WMI is the grant holder. This grant is going towards outreach costs.
- \$10 k from the RGS drummer fund. To help with various tasks associated with operations and the new WDNR LTE position.
- NFWF and ABC partnership. \$399,000 available for MN and WI. To support coordinator and forester in Wisconsin. \$25,000 for implementation, \$30,000 for plans, \$3600 for communication and outreach.
- RCPP. 4 million for WI MN and MI for 3 years. Deliverables 2900 acres in Wisconsin. Provides funding for a forester and LTE to assist with the “militia”. The total number of acres under the FA will be 8000 acres distributed over the 3 states. 3000 WI 3500 MN 1500 MI.
- USFS \$ for FY 15. Currently looking at options for the money.
- Webless Grant (USFWS) with Michigan Tech. Funds for creation of student/citizen monitoring project.
- Dan Eklund will create an excel to track the budget once some of these upcoming grants/funding sources gets finalized. Amber Roth suggested having a spreadsheet for deliverables as well.

H. Personnel Subcommittee (Jeremy Holtz)

- No meeting yet; becoming necessary now with increase of staff. Discussion on getting all “new” staff on same page, unified training?

I. Update on conservation delivery

- Tom Krapf expressed interest in NRCS becoming familiar with site visit protocol; when to contact a forester and when not?
- Discussion on landscape level habitat tactics, meeting new deliverables, and expanding focus aspen stands.

- Tom Krapf discussed some potential changes to NRCS payments; more flexible by acreage etc.
 - Jeremy Holtz started the discussion on how to assess goals and objectives. Dan Eklund suggested a working day meeting after RCPP rolls out.
 - Discussion on RCPP ranking; how general or how focused? Andrew Rothman stated that ABC is having an upcoming meeting to discuss rankings.
 - Jeremy Holtz asked for a consensus form the group to create goals for a future conference call. Amber Roth will start a document on Griffin Groups and committee members can add their ideas in regards to goals and objectives. If technical issues persist with Griffin Groups Andrew Rothman can upload for individuals.
- J. LSRP overlap with WYFP (Amber Roth)
- Discussion on the coordination of the two programs. Tom Krapf stated that, although similar, logistically it is difficult to fully match up the two programs, but cooperation would be ideal.
- K. Monitoring focal species (Jeff Larkin/Amber Roth)
- Jeff Larkin started discussion on monitoring of focal species. No monitoring expected to be done in Wisconsin this year. Monitoring success has been achieved in many other states, cooperation with landowners has been great. Chris Borden and Michael Stinebrink both stated monitoring on private lands in Wisconsin would be easily achievable. It might be helpful to ask the monitoring question up front to the landowner.
 - Jeremy Holtz asked if a subcommittee is necessary for monitoring. Discussion resulted in no creation of a subcommittee.
- L. Next Meetings (Jeremy)
- Full partnership meeting in the summer with associated group site visits will be scheduled in July.
 - Steering committee meeting in June via conference call, IF determined necessary going forward, with a focus on planning for the full partnership meeting.

Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn Gary Zimmer; Amber Roth second.