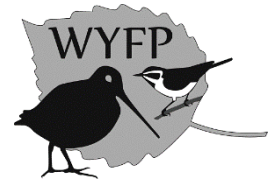


**Minutes from the  
Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership  
Full Partnership Meeting  
September, 21st 2015  
8am-12pm CST  
Venue: Ladysmith WDNR Conf Rm / Lync Meeting**



Members Present: Dan Eklund, Pat Ruble, Gary Zimmer, Scott Walter, Michael John Jaeger, Craig Thompson, Shawn Hagan, Matt Otto, Andy Hart, Steve Bertjens, Scott Stipetich, Callie Bertsch, Nora Kennedy, Gary Van Vreede, Kurt Waterstradt, Amber Roth, Eric Holm, Jeremy Holtz, Curt Rollman, Chris Borden, Brain Spencer, Tom Hauge. **\*Attendees via Lync meeting may have been missed due to technical difficulties\***

Agenda

8:10 am Call to order

8:15 am Introductions

8:20 am Accomplishments/Updates

- Winter 2014/15
  - Jeremy Holtz and Callie Berstch visited many cooperators; DNR Forestry, DNR Wildlife, NRCS offices.
  - Also facilitated alder mowing projects
- Spring 2015
  - Hired Curt Rollman; DNR LTE.
    - Sent mailing to ~750 landowners in Lincoln/Langlade county.
    - Worked with DNR forestry on 30 stewardship plans.
    - Contacted ~130 landowners.
    - Visited ~30 landowners properties.
- Jeremy Holtz
  - Many presentations on behalf of the WYFP. AFWA, MN/WI TWS, SFI IC, Coverts workshop etc.
  - Seeds to Sky promotional video
  - Other outreach materials: brochure, folders, dvd printing.
    - Funds from RGS, USFWS, SFI
- Callie Berstch (Coordinator)
  - Contacted 133 landowners.
  - 33 site visits coordinated.
  - 82 acres of young forest created with 597.5 acres planned in future signups.

- 70 applications in first round of RCPP with 20 pre-approved
  - Many presentations: MN/WI TWS, ABC staff retreat, PF workshops, WBCI, Local media outlets, etc.
  - Held CPW training for 19 CPWs
  - Many successes and happy landowners.
- Change in coordinator
  - Callie will now focus on RCPP and NFWF tasks.
  - Callie and Curt/Jeremy will work together; referring landowners to appropriate partners etc.
- Kurt Waterstradt (USFWS)
  - USFWS Partners
    - 3 biologists, small budget but good projects get done.
- Craig Thompson (ABC)
  - ABC fully staffed in regards to RCPP
  - 3 new foresters; Nora Kennedy hired in Rhinelander.
  - Great initial RCPP sign-up
  - Applying for more grants
- Scott Stipetich (PF)
  - Pheasants Forever chapters are interested in YFI.
  - PF biologists interested in getting out on site visits.
- NRCS
  - Site visits result in more than just YF workload; other practices get utilized as well (tree planting etc.)

10:00 am Partnership needs & opportunities for partner involvement

- Jeremy Holtz White paper
  - Outline for increasing coverage -> priority areas NW and NE.
  - Curt and Jeremy can only currently work in 6 county core area.
  - Need to consider where the infrastructure will come from to support WYFP expansion.
  - Sent white paper to executive committee for review.
  - Will be available at next SC meeting.
- State wildlife action plan (SWAP)
  - Has specific old growth and young forest language. The WYFP should be ready for increased conversations regarding the SWAP language.
- Driftless Forest Initiative
  - Doing similar work to WYFP.
  - Has an interesting forest advocate program.
    - Mywisconsinwoods.com has good examples for WYFP.

- MOU
  - Added Louisiana Pacific and Wisconsin Wildlife Federation since last year.
  - Total to 13
- Steering Committee Changes
  - Amber Roth leaving for Maine.
    - Scott Walter elected as her replacement.
  - Jeremy Holtz potentially stepping down as chair in upcoming months.
  - Personnel Subcommittee
    - Suspended; lack of personnel
  - Outreach Subcommittee
    - Scott Walter new chair
    - Griffen Groups
      - NRCS staff can not access
      - Alternatives?
    - Website
      - News section, put in RGS article?
      - Landowner testimonials are coming soon.
  - Financial Subcommittee
    - Spent SFI grant
    - RCPP and NFWF in ABC hands
    - Always can use more grant dollars
    - Partners should explore new funding options.
      - Cabelas? Paper mills?
    - Funding may become more difficult in future.
- New coordinator and workload
  - Where to house?
    - Lumberjack RCND?
    - DNR LTE? Would need to re-write current position.
  - Increased workload
    - Farm bill biologists?
    - FY 16 funding from WDNR?
  - Coordination should be only duty of new coordinator
  - Coordinator discussion @ next steering committee meeting
    - Partners be prepared with ideas.
    - Send funding ideas/avenues to Jeremy.
  - Outreach
    - Hold off on outreach until WYFP has a coordinator and caught up with backlog.

- RCPP Discussion
  - Partners expressed concern with direction of ABC and RCPP.
  - ABC still a part of the partnership and RCPP will continue accomplishing good habitat work.
  - ABC willing to explore funding for new coordinator.
- Future of Partnership meetings
  - Good to have one per year.
  - Partnership meeting will be held next year.
    - Park Falls?

Adjourn 11:22 PM