Minutes from the Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership Steering Committee Meeting January, 20th 2016 9am-11 am CST Venue: Rhinelander WDNR Conf Rm 2 / Conference call


Agenda

9:00am Additions to agenda
  - None heard

9:05am Approve minutes from last SC meeting
  - Matt St. Pierre motion to approve
  - Eric Holm second

9:10am Update Terms of Reference
  - Changed to mention the MOU.
  - Section III -> Remove the position of chair and replace with “facilitator”. Move executive positions to 3-year terms so only have one election per year.
  - Motion to approve Dan Eklund
  - Eric Holm second
  - Jeremy Holtz is now the acting facilitator until discussion with the executive committee.

9:30am Update from ABC habitat coordinator – Callie Bertsch/Andrew Rothman
  - Andrew Rothman is the new ABC rep until Craig Thompson’s position is filled.
  - Callie and Andrew presented a PPT with their ABC update.
  - Andrew Rothman:
    ▪ Overview of ABC Staff
    ▪ Overview of two grants
      ▪ RCPP
      ▪ NFWF
  - Callie Bertsch:
    o RCPP update
      ▪ Goal 4 years 8,000 acres YF habitat in WI,MN,MI.
      ▪ Nora Kennedy new ABC forester out of Rhinelander.
• 19 contracts in 2015 resulting in 908.3 acres YF.
• 49 applications for 2016 which will result in 1136.7 acres YF.

  o NFWF
    • 3 public lands projects
      • 2 WI 1 MN
      • WDNR and school forest in WI
    • Continuing work with CPWs (12) to create management plans for landowners.
    • Really beneficial to getting aspen acres.

  o Partners
    • Continuing contact with Curt Rollman on transferring landowners from NRCS to Partners and vice versa.
    • Getting closer to a working database to track landowners through the YF process.
    • Monitoring discussion for both habitat acreage and species.
      • Two different monitoring efforts coming
      • Jeff Larkin is one and WMI (Amber Roth) is the other.
    • May be helpful to create a list of public lands where YF work has been done.
      • Would be good to show to private land owners.
      • Maybe have pictures from year to year growth to show landowners on how the habitat can change.
    • Scott Walter is thinking about a motorized county tour to see different management types.
    • The early establishment of contact with CPWs and DNR foresters has really helped moving RCPP to new counties.
    • Brochures and other outreach materials are made. Can talk to Callie or Curt if you want to see examples.
      • Partners can work together to pool funding for outreach.

9:45am Update on WYFP activities – Curt Rollman, Jeremy Holtz

  • Curt Rollman:
    • 124 landowners contacted through Lincoln/Langlade mailing.
      • 90 have had a follow up contact.
      • 41 resulted in site visits. Otherwise the landowner got general help or referred to PF, MFL, etc.
    • 7 alder shears planned through Partners.
      • Contracts being signed now.

  • Jeremy Holtz:
    • Jeremy is getting back on track after his surgery
      • CWD has hit in Oneida so that will take major time as well.
    • Tom Hauge has been mentioning the WYFP to Natural Resources board etc. as an accomplishment for the DNR for the year.
    • Jeremy is continuing to spread the word for the WYFP within the bureau.
    • Wisconsin Chapter of Society of American Foresters is looking to sign the MOU.
Continuing the work on the white paper.
  - Will be sent out in the future.

10:15am  Funding Subcommittee report – Dan Eklund (only slightly medicated!)
- Spending up last bit of SFI and drummer grant.
- Biggest challenge coming up is funding the new coordinator.
- Jeremy grants update
  - Wrote Drummer grant on behalf of partnership
  - Amber wrote SFI grant for research dollars to add dollars to existing monitoring
  - Plans to write SFI grant for operational funds

10:25am  Outreach Subcommittee report – Scott Walter
- Website has been updated by Chuck Fergus
  - Testimonials
  - FAQ
  - Habitats and management summary
  - Chuck has been great to work with.
- Partnership annual report
  - Would be nice to send out to keep people updated on progress.
    - Nothing too technically overbearing.
    - Landowner testimonials
    - Colorful graphs
      - Visually appealing
  - Distribute it to legislators and governmental officials in the areas where work is being done.
  - Scott will come with a draft of this by the next steering committee meeting.
    - Will be contacting people for information.
- Young Forest Communications Team
  - Young forest team that started in the northeast of US.
  - Goal to continue contact with land managers (including private landowners).
    - Spread the word on the benefits of young forest.
  - Jeremy and Scott are now members.

10:35am  Personnel update – Jeremy Holtz
- New coordinator role
  - WMI has offered to fund a new coordinator position.
    - Have offered $30,000 to fund the position.
    - Hopes other partners to provide funds as well.
    - The position would not be a WMI employee; they would be an independent contractor.
    - The position would report directly to the executive committee.
  - There may be RGS drummer and SFI grants available as well.
    - Need a partner to house the SFI grants.
A coordinator can be housed at the WDNR service center.
- Important to have a solid PD to compliment the other staff and the needs of the partnership.
  - The new position should mesh together with the current staff and keep everything moving well, not double up on duties.
  - How many hours per week? Will it need to be 40?
- Two Farm bill biologists with a focus on young forest are awaiting approval.
  - Funding would come from WDNR, NRCS, and RGS.
  - These positions could help increase coverage in the RCPP 21 counties.
  - If this goes through then staff in the young forest area would increase.
- Jeremy proposes to work with Callie and other funding partners (WMI, USFS, etc.) to solidify a PD and new coordinator roles for the next SC meeting. Contact Jeremy if other partners want to be a part of the discussion.

11:00am schedule next meeting, then adjourn
- Next meeting will be next April unless urgently needed before.
- Doodle poll will be coming with potential dates.
- Eric Holms motioned to adjourn.
- Scott Walter second.

Total Time: 2hrs 44minutes AND 22 SECONDS