



**Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership  
Meeting Minutes  
Steering Committee Meeting  
May, 10th 2016  
9am-12 pm CST**

**Venue: Rhinelander WDNR Conf Rm 2 / Conference call**

Attendees: Andrew Rothman, Brian Spencer, Tom Hittle, Amber Roth, Ryan Brady, Eric Ellis, Shawn Hagan, Michael Jon Jaeger, Kurt Waterstradt, Chris Borden, Dan Eklund, Bart Tegen, Anna Buckardt, Meadow Kouffeld, Shawn Graff, Scott Walter, Callie Bertsch, Gary Zimmer

**Agenda**

- 9:00am Additions to agenda
- 9:05am Approve minutes from last SC meeting
- Gary Zimmer motion to approve.
  - Scott Walter second.
- 9:10am New Guests and MOU Update – Jeremy Holtz
- SAF, WBCI
  - Bart Tegen, Pongee is interested in being involved with educational outreach.
- 9:15am Update Monitoring – Amber Roth/Anna Buckardt
- Two monitoring grants Webless and SFI implementation committee grant.
    - Focusing on GWWA BMPs and landowner citizen science program to monitor AMWO.
    - SFI grant came in mid-cycle, great to pull through on the timing.
      - Keep this grant in mind for future projects.
    - Anna's project has 3 years of field seasons.
      - 36 total sites
      - 3 categories of sites – Pre-management, post-management, and control. Pre and post management are on private lands. Control sites on public.
    - Geolocators for GWWA – deployed in the Oneida/Lincoln/Langlade area.
      - Monitor their migratory path.

- Geolocators in UP and Vermont, as well, from different collaborators.
- Jeff Larkin and Amanda Rodewald survey data collaboration. They are working in other states (MN and PA).

9:30am Update from ABC habitat coordinator – Callie Bertsch/Andrew Rothman

- 1400 acres of young forest habitat.
- Have all the RCPP money for the length of the contract. High priority landowners should get funded.
  - After 3 years money can get moved between states, depending on RCPP success in each state.
- NFWF grant
  - 12 Forest management plans written by CPWs.
  - 3 public lands projects.
- ABC and DNR NFWF grant never happened due to DNR budgeting complications. ABC has an extension with that grant and looking for places to use the funds.
- NRCS Forester wants to expand EQIP funding in the state
- New ABC Great Lakes Director
  - Shawn Groth; 13 years as Executive Director with Ozakauke Washington Land Trust.
  - Will be on WYFP SC committee.

10:00am Outreach Subcommittee report – Scott Walter

- 2015 WYFP Annual Report update.
  - Needs a list of things to mention in the report
    - ABC/NRCS acreage totals.
      - RCPP update.
      - Callie Berstch will get this ready.
    - Map with acres completed in Northern Wisconsin
      - NRCS may have staff to do this.
    - USFWS Partners acreage totals.
    - Todd Berg testimonial.
    - AMWO migration and success in Wisconsin.

- Thank you portion to entities that provided funding.
      - Personalized letter to partners with the annual report enclosed
      - Jeremy Holtz will draft the thank you portion.
    - Mention of County forests and their habitat numbers.
- Goal is to make it informational but concise. Mix the “report” aspect with general “neat” information.
- Scott Walter will bring this to the outreach committee for future work.
  - Email Scott with any other ideas for the report.
- Future outreach/promotion options, including more broad-based promotion of YF values to the public.
  - Idea to use a targeted landowner approach but make it a message for the public at large.
    - I.E. A billboard on a major public highway to the north to tap into the absentee landowners.
    - Collaborate with Driftless Forestry Network (Tricia Knoot), Corporate partners? American Forest Foundation?
  - Scott Walter will start emailing DFN and other contacts to keep this ball rolling.

10:30am Update on WYFP activities – Jeremy Holtz (Spark Plug)

- Speaking engagements
  - WBCI Meeting, UWSP seminar, Public Forest Resource Group, TELE workshop (Curt attended).
  - Will speak at SAF National Convention in Madison, WI.
- DNR leadership has identified WYFP as a medium to high priority for staff (big deal from DNR perspective).
- Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) has expressed interest in working with WYFP going forward. Very similar goals.
  - DMAP has discussions on making their stewardship plans NRCS compatible.
- This all leads to a larger discussion on all the private land programs in the state. Where to collaborate?
  - Driftless? Great Lakes Initiative? DMAP? Etc.

10:45am Personnel update – Jeremy Holtz

- WYFP Coordinator update
  - Funded as an independent contractor through WMI and NFWF funding.
  - New coordinator: Randee Wlodek
    - Michigan Tech graduate, worked for Amber Roth.
    - Currently working on Jeff Larkin's surveying crew.
  - A flow chart of the coordinators landowner process will be distributed.
- The personnel subcommittee will re-start due to this hiring.
  - Curt, Randee, with the possibility of Callie and Nora.
- Scott Walter met with DNR and NRCS to discuss more staff in the northwoods.
  - Discussions are very positive for farm bill biologists.
  - Two positions to be hired.
    - Ashland to Medford area.
    - Marinette to Oconto area.
  - Great potential to expand the WYFP outside the core 6 county area.
- 

11:15am Funding Subcommittee report – Dan Eklund

- Looking for funding to keep the WYFP coordinator position long term and more stable position.
  - Call for partners to look at possibilities.

11:40am EQIP Practices Discussion

- Great handout available to give to landowners on EQIP practices.
  - This handout is being revised.
  - Scott Walter asked for input if people want revisions to the hand out.

11:45am Schedule next meeting, then adjourn.

- Next meeting will be determined as the summer and workload progresses.
- Adjourn: 11:48 AM