Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership
Partnership Meeting Minutes
9:00am - 3:00pm CDT
November 7th, 2018
Wisconsin DNR, 107 Sutliff Avenue, Rhinelander, WI

MEETING DETAILS
Attendees: Ryan Jacques (ABC), Shawn Graff (ABC), Mark Pfost (USFWS Partners Program), Ted Koehler (USFWS Partners program), Randee Smith (WYFP coordinator), Dan Eklund (USDA-CNNF), Matthew St. Pierre (USFS), Eric Holm (WCFA), Gary Zimmer (WCFA), Bob Ellingson (WWF), Jon Steigerwaldt (RGS), Diane Anderson (WDNR forestry), Kristin Lambert (WDNR forestry), Jim Warren (WDNR forestry), Eric Allness (NRCS), Tom Krapf (NRCS), Chris Borden (NRCS), Andy Hart (NRCS), Tracy Beckman (Lumberjack RC&D), Jeremy Holtz (WDNR wildlife), Kent Van Horn (WDNR wildlife), Tom Carlson (WDNR wildlife), Janet Brehm (WDNR wildlife), Carissa Freeh (WDNR wildlife), Dan Hoff (USDA/RGS Forest Wildlife Specialist- Lena), Jared Elm (USDA/RGS Forest Wildlife Specialist- Spooner), Shawn Hagen (Forestland group)

Conference Line: Katie Koch (USFWS), Jamie Nack (UW extension), Chris Roelandt (graduate student- Unv. of MI Flint), Anna Buckardt (graduate student- Unv. of Maine)

Not represented: WMI, WBCI, SAF

Additions to Agenda – None

Steering Committee changes since last meeting
• RGS new Wildlife Biologist Jon Steigerwaldt covering WI, MN, IA, and IL

MOU – recent additions
• Lumberjack RC&D was added on 9-12-2018
  o NRCS and DNR helped fund the coordinator position for the next 3 years and worked with Lumberjack to switch the position from an independent contractor to a Lumberjack employee – Lumberjack will help with organizational development and apply for future funding – Lumberjack covers 9 counties that don’t all overlap with WYFP, so this partnership will be helpful to Lumberjack to expand as well
  o Thank you to all our partners for keeping this partnership together and helping it grow and become stable!

WYFP updates – Holtz
• Previous RGS Drummer Grant being used for outreach efforts through media and targeted messages – benefits to habitat, wildlife – “healthy forest, abundant wildlife”
  o Let Jeremy know if there are any messages you want to go out to the public
New outreach person in wildlife program, so they can help create messages

Need to get rid of old money – was saved for when Jeremy was coordinating and to use for contracting foresters to assist

Yesterday executive committee met with DNR forestry to talk about outreach and media – potential there to take a step forward and expand beyond just mailings

Coordinator Report – Smith (see Appendix A.)

- WYFP presented at DNR Forestry Training
- 2018 cold contact mailing results
  - Already mailed in Price 2 times before the 2018 mailing
  - 70 acres minimum was chosen because a landowner is bound to have some sort of young forest potential and we needed a cut off in order to handle capacity
  - Suggestion to send another letter and our annual report/summary to landowners who we haven’t had a discussion with yet, but responded to our mailing
- Upcoming forestry workshop – Saturday, December 8th, 2018 at Kemp Natural Resources Station from 9am to 3pm
  - Will send out PDF version for everyone to distribute

Subcommittee Reports

- Personnel – Holtz
  - Ryan Jacques, former DNR LTE, now at ABC since August in Nora Kennedy’s former position, but end of Dec. will be switching to a new position in Green Bay
  - Callie Bertsch will be out until January 14th on maternity leave – ABC will cover gap (when Ryan leaves and before Callie starts again) with other foresters
  - Carissa Freeh new LTE working with wildlife biologist Janet Brehm – helping with wildlife biologist work and WYFP – have grants through webless grant and USFS good neighbor authority for position

- Outreach – Smith
  - Facebook
    - Purpose: advertise events and educate about young forest – eventually once we build up a base of people, we can try to recruit
    - Discussed with outreach committee – create a closed group (members have to be approved) and have questions they answer (interest in wildlife habitat or young forest, any affiliation with WYFP)
    - Try and post weekly at least – young forest related news/research, events, and young forest related news from our partners
- **WYFP on partners websites**
  - Last time most information was put on partners websites was when it was still the Young Forest Initiative
  - Need to verify with more partners about what may be barriers to adding a paragraph specifically for WYFP that is uniform across all partners
  - Some may only be able to add news articles and not a specific page

- **Funding/fund administration**
  - **SFI IC Grant Proposal – Smith** – $19k requested, $12k designated to pay for landowner management plans, and $5,500 for administration, new outreach materials, and mailings
    - Received $6k and was told not to use the money for management plans
      - SFI committee supports what WYFP is trying to do, but thought there were enough cooperating foresters that WYFP should be able to find some to do pro-bono work for writing plans and/or getting funding from other sources – if we have issues, they might be able to provide funding through their reserved funds
  - **RGS Drummer Grant – Smith** – $14k requested for general administration, mailings, and workshops – majority would go towards paying for stewardship plans for landowners who have good young forest potential
  - **RCPP Proposal – Shawn Graff**
    - RCPP 1 is in its 4th year out of 5 – out of money that goes to landowners, but still have money for staff – requested an extension so they can keep working if there is a gap between the end of RCPP 1 and the start of RCPP 2
    - NRCS office in DC is gearing up for the Farm Bill, may have a good chance by the end of the year for it to pass
    - Need to change up program in order to reapply – can keep woodcock and golden-winged warbler, but need to expand priority species – ABC is already involved in the delisting for the Kirtland’s warbler and extending range of jack pine, so adding them will help keep them delisted, adding cerulean warbler habitat as well
    - In process of lining up partners – leverage partner support $2 in match for $1 NRCS is putting up (not grant program) so can use federal match: NFWF, USFS
    - Sent prospectus off to MN partners and need to update with their comments
    - Will need to add more foresters to staff, look to RGS for assistance and where to place

- **Concern brought up: do we need to adjust MOU to expand the scope?** – Our
scope isn’t be driven by the RCPP – we want to expand habitat types and species because it is about the structure of young forest, not necessarily the species type – can make expansion more formalized if the partnership would like

➢ Monitoring/research

  o New project – Christopher Roelandt (Appendix B- Using Body-condition of the American Woodcock as an Indicator of Habitat Quality)
    ▪ Capture upon arrival
    ▪ Comparing to each other in sample, not a standard
  o Update from Anna Buckardt
    ▪ GWWA males from Wisconsin went to Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, and Nicaragua
    ▪ Great Lakes area goes to Central America – Eastern birds go mostly to South America, but some in Vermont split and went half to central America and other half to South America
    ▪ Publishing – first priority is woodcock and habitat, working with Jeff Larkin and crew to publish early next spring – geolocators will come afterwards, hopefully soon after graduation which is May 2019 – citizen science paper was just accepted
    ▪ Add graphs etc. onto website once information is peer reviewed and can be shared with the public

Emerging EQIP opportunities – Dan Hoff filling in for Andy Hart

  • Dan Hoff- Lena, Jared Elm- Spooner – work with NRCS and programs: EQIP, RCPP, CSP
  • Patch clear cutting for even commercial use
  • 647 aspen and alder shearing ESH practice – adding edge feathering 50 ft strip into forest block (would need a plan)
  • Planting site prep – including deer barriers now, commercial – fixing trails landings
  • New practices for emerald ash borer – on the border of noncommercial – have funding to get rid of the wood before the ash borer destroys trees so the cut is neutral for the landowner (no money loss)
  • Woody residue treatment HRD
  • WWOA had a conference a month ago, Dan did talk on young forest
  • DMAP – brush management and ESH work can now be funded through NRCS with a DMAP plan
  • A lot of funding for management plans in NRCS
  • Caroline Ward and Dan Hoff want to do a targeted mailing to level 1 or 2 DMAP to get them into NRCS for plan, but on hold for now
  • NRCS won’t plant for commercial use, but for transition from ag to forest or within forest if lacking species diversity
Partner updates – each rep fills us in

- **ABC** – 59 active contracts; with Ryan leaving, they have plans to make a quick turn around
  - Supplementing RCPP with NFWF dollars, public lands in WI and UP, applied for another round more education and boots on the ground
  - Jeff Larkin and Ben Jones (RGS) – wood innovation grant just announced – how to fold species into a program to work with industry partners to help manage for these species

- **WCFA**- getting a few no bid sales on the timber sales – Byron mill upgrading, so good for a pulp standpoint – Missouri caught their grouse they needed (100), had 2/3 juvenile to 1/3 adults, Price county forest had about 70 of the 100

- **Tom Carlson** – new to position in August as wildlife biologist – northeast sands planning BMP for grouse and woodcock on those properties – identify areas on county forest (Florence and Forest) about doing those practices – 2-3 feral swine in a 3 square mile area found in Florence 3 weeks ago, getting the word out to get genetics to find where they came from

- **USFWS Partners program** – Ted Koehler – don’t know new budget yet, Gary Mark and Ted work together to allocate money in the north, have a few projects with WYFP – Mark Pfost – under orders not to spend new money, have old dollars to be spent before agreement runs out

- **Lumberjack** – community conservation grant program, Oct. 1st each year – can apply up to $10k, may be possible funding for WYFP – decided funding for 2019 already

- **DNR Forestry** – have a 20k woodland owners goal, seeking unengaged (see Appendix C) – metric is property visits, 3k prop visits a year – acknowledge work others are doing: 1k walk throughs with wildlife biologists, cooperating foresters, WYFP will count – interacting with other partners around the state, treefarm committee, DFN, My Lake Superior Northwoods

- **RGS** – RGS Drummer Grant has $30k and then restricted accounts from donors – trying to get more large donors to help select projects for 2017 – inventory interns winter to next summer, DNR for game openings, trails in Ashland and Bayfield – know something by the end of the month to know where funds are coming from – February RFP for 2018 dollars – grouse: lowest grouse numbers for national hunt, lowest recruitment numbers

- **NRCS** – finished fiscal year, WI record year, 35 million in obligations across all pools – looking at new ventures and new species – Nov 16th first batching date – Dan and Jared each have 9 management plans applicants and others to finish – forest habitat types and soil correlation , new guide came out for wetland forest habitat type classification system for northern WI – PDF should have recommendations for black ash, DNR has something similar that just went through comment period – lidar is more readily available across northern WI

- **WWF** – will give George a heads up about expanding the MOU document and will be thrilled to hear – opportunity to go to different programs with children who are learning gun safety – case of rounds available to be donated, *let Bob Ellingson know if you need any*

- **Forestland group** – working with state, enhancing regeneration, silviculture guidance
• **USFS** – Chequamegon Nicolet 2nd in nation for timber production – lots of sales in jeopardy for no bid – 9k of aspen, Lakewood Laona add 12k, greenwoods on process in Washburn 400 acre clearcuts, 2nd round through 10 year cycle for grouse management areas 12/14 – Taylor county underplanting in black ash – working with DNR forestry to get into good neighbor authority – maybe add more funding to WYFP from good neighbor authority – how to get other bureaus involved – opportunities for noncommercial aspen harvest

• **Jamie Nack** – appreciate partnership with coverts – Aug. 15-18 in 2019 at Kemp – DMAP: additional contacts will hopefully get landowners involved

• **DNR wildlife** – filling biologists and technicians positions, public lands specialist has replacement on Monday, outreach specialist as well – need to continue to be engaged with people to benefit wildlife – Pittman Roberts funding: hunting infrastructure, access on state forests, 600k to state forest, and some to state wildlife areas – migratory birds: harvest strategy for woodcock update – grouse have been a huge workload lately: Missouri approached last Feb. and great partnerships helped it go well, 100 birds/year for 3 years – grouse season change to Dec 31st – developing plan with MN and MI grouse health monitoring plan – hunters sending in samples, at 2/3 of target, kits are good for following year if not used – Farm Bill: have lobbyist in DC on wildlife parts of farm bill – Mark Witecha tracks that

• **Jeremy Holtz** – time reduced for WYFP – added ag damage and Oneida co forest to wildlife biologist responsibilities

• **Janet Brehm**- 11/8 issuing extra tags for CWD testing – found 2nd CWD positive from special March hunt that only at 10 tests from site

1:00pm Visit young forest site

• MFL site with large blocks of 8 year old aspen – 3 separate shearing patches all under 10 acres with NRCS (top pic: was cut this year; bottom pic: was cut last year)
Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership Leadership

Executive Committee Members:
Jeremy Holtz, Facilitator
Dan Eklund
Vacant position

Steering Committee Members (and alternates):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Members</th>
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<tr>
<td>USFS</td>
<td>Dan Eklund and Matthew St. Pierre</td>
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<td>NRCS</td>
<td>Chris Borden and Tom Krapf</td>
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<td>USFWS</td>
<td>Kurt Waterstradt and Gary VanVreede</td>
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<td>WDNR Wildlife</td>
<td>Kent VanHorn and Jeremy Holtz</td>
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<td>Kristin Lambert and Diane Anderson</td>
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<td>Forestland Group</td>
<td>Shawn Hagan</td>
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<td>Michael John Jaeger and Davin Lopez</td>
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<td>Bob Ellingson and George Meyer</td>
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<td>SAF</td>
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<td>Lumberjack RC&amp;D</td>
<td>Tracy Beckman</td>
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new members always welcome

Subcommittee Members:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personnel/workgroup</th>
<th>Fundraising:</th>
<th>Outreach:</th>
<th>Monitoring/Research:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeremy Holtz, Chair</td>
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<td>Diane Anderson</td>
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Coordinator Update WYFP Partnership Meeting
November 7th, 2018

Website

- Coordinator last name and contact information updated throughout website and downloadable materials.
  - If you come across any locations with previous contact information, please let Randee know. WiYoungForest@gmail.com 715-966-5160
- Callie Bertsch (ABC) radio interview was placed on homepage
- News articles added since last meeting: iNaturalist workshop, Jon Steigerwaldt as new RGS Biologist, Lumberjack RC&D becoming WYFP partner --> www.youngforest.org/wisconsin/news

DNR New Forester Training

- Invited to present about WYFP at the training
  - Invited to come back every year for their trainings
- Around 30 new foresters were present
- Sat in during other presentations and learned about other programs out there, similar to WYFP

2018 Mailing

Minimum 70 acres; Got rid of MFL less than 160 (N/A for DMAP) and over 160 did a quick check of aerial view to see if they have YF potential.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Letters Sent</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Undeliverable</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Response Rate</th>
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<td>Price and Oneida</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>41</td>
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<td>breakdown by county</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1691</td>
<td>Price</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>2.14</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>309</td>
<td>Oneida</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.63</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total 2018</td>
<td>3948</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>1.62</td>
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Appendix A
2018 Mailing Summary

- 15 additional landowners not from mailing. They found us through 1. website/internet search 2. forester or 3. other referral
- Only having 15 landowners come to us on their own proves our mailings are important!
Database Update

25 site visits
103 landowners incomplete

- New in 2018 - 46 landowners left to be completed
  - 16 are in “idle” - they have received information regarding a management plan or programs and I’m waiting to hear back from them. I usually give a follow up call to check in and see if they have any questions.
  - 16 I have not had a discussion with, but have attempted to call multiple times (a few were only through email, since they did not provide a phone number)
  - 4 to Partners program for alder shearing for an estimated 29.5 acres
  - 10 have been referred to NRCS, ABC, someone for site visit, wildlife biologist, or forester

- From previous years - 57 landowners left to be completed
  - 17 are in “idle” - they have received information and I’m waiting to hear back from them.
  - 20 I have not had a discussion with, but have attempted to call multiple times
  - 2 potential to Partners program for alder shearing for an estimated 14 acres
  - 18 have been referred to NRCS, ABC, someone for site visit, wildlife biologist, or forester

62 completed in 2018 (30 from new mailing)

- 7 completed habitat work
- NRCS - 24 (13 applicants; 4- RCPP, 9-EQIP)
- DMAP - 7 (3 applicants)
- DNR forester - 3
- DNR wildlife biologist- 1
- WFLGP - 1
- MFL - 2
- 2 future projects
- 19 remove from list (already doing work, will contact me if they move forward, not suitable habitat, no interest)
Using Body-condition of the American Woodcock as an Indicator of Habitat Quality
Authors: Christopher Roelandt (MS Student)*, Jill Witt, PhD.*, Amber Roth, PhD.**
* University of Michigan-Flint, ** University of Maine

Introduction
Quality habitat is a key component in wildlife management. Management of habitat can require a great deal of resources and be costly to agencies and organizations where funding is limited. Creating and improving techniques and protocols by which land and wildlife managers can assess habitat quality will help to more efficiently direct funds to advance wildlife management goals. One such technique is the use of plasma metabolite which can tell investigators the ability of an individual to refuel using a habitat. We propose to use this technique in assessing the quality of various habitat types.

Objectives
The overall goal of this project will be to assess habitat quality of woodcock with the use of plasma metabolites, leading to the development of a simple protocol by which habitat of the woodcock can be assessed. To achieve this goal, we will complete the following objectives:

1. Validate the use of blood plasma metabolites as an indicator of body-condition of woodcock
2. Validate and design a protocol in which a handheld meter can be used to measure a plasma metabolite, triglyceride, to assess habitat quality of woodcock
3. Use the developed protocol to assess and compare the habitat quality of two commonly managed forest types (alder and aspen) for woodcock conservation

Research Overview

Study Sites
- Young-forest sites within Oneida, Marathon, and Langlade counties of WI
- Aspen & alder dominated sites

Capture and Handling
- 40 male woodcock
- Captured via mist nets during evening displays
- Federal band, VHF transmitters, and a small blood sample collected
- After 4-6 weeks recaptured, second blood sample collected, and transmitters removed

Blood Sample/ Plasma Analysis
- Plasma metabolites to be analyzed include:
  - Free-glycerol (GLYC), Triglyceride (TRIG), & B-OH-butyrate (BUTY)
- Shown to be effective in evaluating body-condition response to habitat in other species

  Cardiochek®PA handheld meter
- Create simple protocol for in the field assessment of body-condition

Telemetry and Habitat Use
- Allow for an accurate assessment of potential differences in habitat

Expected Outcomes
The proposed project will impact the way by which land and wildlife managers are able to assess habitat quality for woodcock. Following the completion of this project, we will have created a simple protocol that, with some very basic training, can be utilized by land managers and conservation groups to assess habitat improvement projects of woodcock. Further, using this newly developed protocol, we will compare the quality of two commonly managed habitat types, aspen and alder, for woodcock to replenish fat stores. The comparison between these two commonly managed habitat types and the development of this new protocol will help to improve the understanding of how we develop and manage critical habitat of the American woodcock.

Contact Information
Christopher Roelandt email: croeland@umflint.edu phone:(810)358-9867
You can follow the project along on Facebook @peentingwithchris and on Instagram @peenting_with_chris
Appendix C

Connecting With 20,000 Woodland Owners

Our Goal
Stakeholders in the forestry community are vital to our ambitious goal to connect 20,000 non-MFL woodland owners with a resource professional to move 1 million acres toward sustainable forestry in Wisconsin over the next five years.

Our Belief
As forestry professionals, we know the importance of a healthy root structure, and the roots necessary to grow forest stewardship in Wisconsin are private landowners, DNR forestry, and our partners and industry stakeholders. They create the anchor for healthy growth and progress toward our 20,000 landowner, million-acre goal resulting in sustainable forested lands in Wisconsin.

Healthy Roots
- Landowners contribute private woodlands and conduct/complete forest stewardship actions
- Foresters provide expertise and technical assistance
- Partners supply additional expertise and resources

Progress
Together we experience growth and achievements

Success
Together we accomplish our goal!

Our Plan
Connecting Landowners with Natural Resource Professionals
Every private woodland in Wisconsin represents a unique combination of land use history, future potential, and landowner goals. Fundamentally, landowners want to learn more about their woods, and want to feel good about their ownership. That is why landowners need and value professional opinions specific to their land. Landowners are much more likely to complete stewardship actions having walked their woodland with a natural resource professional.

This personal connection and trusting relationship is foundational to advancing stewardship actions, including sustainable timber harvesting.

Do you educate landowners about forest management?
We want to connect your landowners to a natural resource professional!

This publication made possible through a grant from the USDA Forest Service. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.
Connecting with 20,000 Woodland Owners

Our Model

The forestry community is very strong in Wisconsin, and includes those who initially get landowners engaged, to those who first meet with a landowner on their property, and those who assist landowners with on-the-ground management ultimately moving raw forest products to the forest industry. The task at hand builds off of this solid foundation to increase woodland owner engagement and promote more sustainable forest management in Wisconsin.

Unengaged landowners are often unaware of their possibilities and depend on predictable steps to reach big actions like stewardship plans and timber harvests. It begins with coordinated efforts by forestry partners and stakeholders. Like every woodland, each forestry organization bring a unique combination of expertise, passion and commitment to landowner goals. All of us working together can educate landowners, and guide them toward action and movement on the landowner engagement continuum.

Our Metric

A Property Visit

With A Landowner

Do you meet with landowners on their wooded property?

We want to acknowledge and applaud your work by counting it toward our goal!

Our Shared Success

The Entire Forestry Community

Benefits from Greater Woodland Owner Engagement.

Aside from successes like more memberships, greater workshop attendance, more property visits, more management plans developed and forested land sustainably harvested, your involvement in this effort provides the ability to illustrate and applaud how the important work you do plays a critical role in achieving an impressive outcome.