

**Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership
Steering Committee Meeting
12:30pm - 3:30pm CDT
May 20th, 2020**



MEETING DETAILS

Participants

Tracy Beckman – Lumberjack, Randee Smith – WYFP Coordinator, Jeremy Holtz – DNR Wildlife, Rikki Ratsch – DNR Wildlife, Chris Weber – LP, Pat Weber – ABC, Mark Pfof – USFWS, Gary Zimmer – WBCP, Amber Roth – U of Maine, Dan Eklund – USFS, Diane Gunderson – Trees for Tomorrow, Callie Bertsch – ABC, Katie Koch – USFWS, Janet Brehm – DNR Wildlife, Jamie Nack – UW Extensions, Kristen Lambert – DNR Forestry, Shawn Graff – ABC, Kent Van Horn – DNR Wildlife, Chris Borden – NRCS, Erick Holm – WCFA

Not represented: Forestland Group, WWF, SAF

AGENDA

- Introductions
- MOU – recent additions – N/A
- Steering Committee changes since last meeting
 - Dan Eklund re-elected for another term in the Executive Committee
- WYFP updates
- Coordinator Report – Smith (Appendix A)
 - 2019 annual report complete
 - Invited to be a speaker at the Tree Farm Committee field day
- Subcommittee Reports
 - Outreach – Smith (Appendix A)
 - Coordination with DNR Forestry and MWW – have access to database and submitted proposed plan on how this collaboration can work
 - Personnel
 - Jaqi – Working on the Northern Legion State Forest until September
 - ABC staff MOU with RGS – Shawn Graff
 - RGS entered into a Master Stewardship Agreement with the Forest Service – agreement allows them to work more closely with forest service on federal lands with projects – ABC can work under their agreement. Northern MN ABC staff can help with RGS to mark timber for forest service.

- Funding/fund administration
 - Not much floating right now for grants because people don't know what to expect with Covid. Generally, after events like this, there will be opportunities that come out of it.
 - RCPP II – Shawn Graff
 - Applied for second round of RCPP and it was not accepted. It scored extremely well, but at the national office it didn't. The pool applied to was the state and multi state pool, where money was reduced. It was supposed to be \$150 million but was actually \$82 million (\$153 million in projects applied). Projects ending in 2020 were also given priority, but the current RCPP doesn't end till 2021.
 - July is the next round for application. Funding will be doubled since it is for 2020/2021. Renewal applications have a lot of limiting factors and ABC will be looking into it.
 - They are running out of technical service dollars, so will be switching Callie and some other staff to NRCS partnership agreements. Their focus will still be ESH but can look at other forest management. This change should keep the whole team together.
- Monitoring/research – Amber Roth
 - Update on 2 new Golden-winged Warbler projects planned for Oneida County. One proposal is pending final approval and the other is about to be submitted.
 - Hoping to get USFWS funding. There is a range of needs including range-wide modeling, habitat modeling, and climate change information to reform the species review.
 - Should know something by this fall about funding. Let Amber know if there is any other need for research as she is good writing proposals and can help.
 - Biggest gap is what is happening with adult females and their survival. Telemetry work. There will be 2-3 different study sites throughout range of GWWA and breeding grounds, one being in Oneida county. The technology: Modis network – an automated receiving station for any animal that is tagged and can detect them from a 10 km zone. The tag will attach the same way as a geolocator. By placing these on the female GWWA, we can learn more. Amber is looking for a home for the stations, preferably ones that have electricity and wifi. DNR Service Station was suggested.
 - Chris Roelandt – Defense thesis Thursday May 21st at 12pm
 - There are 2 plasma metabolites that have shown effective in assessing habitat quality. Chris found a small negative relationship between one of the plasma metabolite concentrations with coniferous forests and developed landcover types at a 50 m buffer around singing grounds, which indicates body condition of woodcock declines or is poorer when these landcover types

increase. Even with this finding, the method of using buffered areas to collect habitat variables surrounding singing-grounds was not as effective in relating habitat variables to body condition as expected.

- The effectiveness of using a small handheld meter to measure plasma metabolite concentrations in a field setting was tested. The handheld meter was found to be precise with its results, but it did not produce accurate results in comparison with results in the laboratory setting.

Partner updates – each rep fills us in

- **USFS** – Dan Eklund – a lot of volume coming from blowdown, 50 some thousand acres. 140 million board feet. Looking to partner with groups.
- **NRCS** – Chris Borden – delayed so don't have total number on how many contracts were approved for last sign up. Two new staff through an agreement with the tribal council: a resource conservationist and engineering technician that will work on conservation planning and implementation on tribal lands. They will be out of the Rhinelander field office and similar to Jared Elm and Dan Hoff. There are 2 new practices important in riparian zones: understory planting in monotypic black ash stands and reforesting reed canary flat or other herbaceous areas that formed after a clearcut (both of interest from Trout Unlimited).
- **USFWS** – Marl Pfost – NWTF submitted grant but they don't have any money at the moment so will have to wait to find out. They are allowed to do water management for flooding, so have been working on that.
- **WDNR Wildlife** – Kent Van Horn – forest wildlife specialist position - fund with good neighbor funding but hit a snag last winter. There is a potential work around which was supposed to be presented in April and is now scheduled for June. There is some budget uncertainty. RUGR plan was approved by resource board. Completion of a sensitivity analysis will help guide decision moving forward. Chris could present to the group in the future on the analysis results. Wildlife staff have been re-assigned to many different things including covid related tasks, parks, etc.
- **WDNR Forestry** – Kristin Lambert – field foresters are not doing any face to face visits with landowners so they dialed back outreach to private landowners that would be occurring right now. It didn't feel right to promote property visits when we couldn't do it in a timely fashion. Working through processes in the DNR to figure out when to get staff back in the field. Some current essential work that is being done is timber sales that needed to get out and onto the market.
- **WCFA** – Eric Holm – slowed sales of wood products in the mills, Missouri came up to get grouse last year and did really good but cancelled it for this summer, each county had different operations for sales and what they decide is open
- **ABC** – Callie Bertsch (Appendix B) – Shawn Graff – looking for other partnership opportunities. There is stimulus packages going through legislature that Shawn has proposed several projects for, including: GWWA and AMWO management for Great Lakes region, \$10k for breeding range, and \$100 million for wildlife monitoring. This stimulus money will be looking for shovel ready initiatives. ABC

and NRCS should coordinate more about having a separate pool for young forest funds within NRCS similar to what was done before the RCPP. This will help move ESH landowners through instead of going into EQIP.

- **RGS** – Jon Steigerwaldt – Went through a reorganization due to financial troubles from covid interrupting fundraisers. Been in the planning stages for a year in a half to turn wildlife biologist position into forest conservation director role. Director role –seek out and engage in partnerships (traditional biologist role was to work with drummer fund and dole out funding for projects). They are really wanting to engage with partners and look at landscape level approaches. The drummer fund is leverage for partnerships to do more landscape level work but still able to do discrete projects.
- **WBCP** – Gary Zimmer – Federal breeding bird services are cancelled. Did hire a bird area coordinator. Birdathon is going on but will go over a longer period of time and can do at home.
- **LP** – Chris Weber – industry slowed down in April. With sales, they are hoping it can come back to decent production in the next few months. Industries vary with what they are doing from being closed to being stocked with wood. The hope is to keep wood moving. Industry is watching closely the plan with the northern long eared bat because it could put a damper on production.
- **PF** – Carissa Freeh – Scott Stipetich (former Farm Bill Biologist in Eau Claire) accepted the Precision Agriculture and Conservation position. It's a very exciting step to grow PF in Wisconsin! Application period is currently open for Scotts FBB position. Carissa has started an e-mail conversation with a DMAP landowner in northern Portage County that may end up having some young forest potential on the property. They are scheduled to have a timber harvest in an old aspen stand and want to keep managing the property for early successional habitat.
- **Katie Koch** – GWWA working group SC planning virtual retreat for mid-July to look at broader landscape and map out higher priority topics for the group in the next 5 years. Kayla Noll in MI is working with USFS landscape-scale restoration program for a MI forestry for birds tool kit. Include climate adaptations into the toolkit. Ryan Brady mentioned that there may be a subgroup in WI that would be interested in creating something similar.

Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership Leadership

Executive Committee Members:

Jeremy Holtz, Facilitator

Dan Eklund

Jon Steigerwaldt

Steering Committee Members (and alternates):

USFS: Dan Eklund and Matthew St. Pierre

NRCS: Chris Borden

USFWS: Mark Pfof and Ted Koehler

WDNR Wildlife: Kent Van Horn
and Jeremy Holtz

WDNR Forestry: Kristin Lambert

WCFA: Eric Holm and Gary Zimmer

ABC: Shawn Graff and Callie Bertsch

RGS: Jon Steigerwaldt and Dan Hoff

Forestland Group: Shawn Hagan

WBCP: Gary Zimmer

WWF: Bob Ellingson and George Meyer

SAF: Tom Hittle

Lumberjack RC&D: Tracy Beckman
And Paul Mueller

LP: Michael Filtz and Chris Weber

PF: Carissah Freeh

NWTF: N/A

Subcommittee Members:

Personnel/workgroup:

Jeremy Holtz, Chair

Dan Eklund

Jon Steigerwaldt

Randee Smith

Jacquelyn Christopher

Callie Bertsch

Pat Weber

Janet Brehm

Rikki Ratsch

Dan Hoff

Jared Elm

Fundraising:

Dan Eklund, Chair

Jeremy Holtz

Jon Steigerwaldt

Randee Smith

Outreach:

Randee Smith, Chair

Jamie Nack

Chuck Fergus (website)

Gary Zimmer

Callie Bertsch

Amber Roth

Diane Gunderson

Tracy Beckman

Pat Weber

Monitoring/Research:

Kent Van Horn

Amber Roth

Randee Smith

WYFP Coordinator Report

Steering Committee Zoom Meeting

May 20th, 2020

Covid cancellations

- Rotary club presentation
- Timber marking for hardwoods week-long workshop
- Natural Resources Foundation woodcock field trip and June GWWA trip
- Learning in Retirement presentation
- DMAP financial assistance workshop

Meetings/trainings

- WYFP Executive Committee conference call— Mar. 17th
- Coordination call with DNR Forestry and My WI Woods— Mar. 24th
- Meeting to discuss live social media events and webinars— Apr. 2nd
- Forest Ecosystem Services webinar—Apr. 15th
- Marketing to Increase Sales workshop—Apr. 23rd
- Learn About Your Land Facebook Live—Apr. 28th, May 5th and 12th

Update

- Spoke with Shirley Bargander with Tree Farm Committee to learn more about forestry demo days they've hosted and identifying potential landowners to host a demo day with
 - Tree Farm is interested in partnering with WYFP. Their next in-person meeting, Randee will attend.
 - This year their field day will be hosted virtually. This landowner has done alder shearing and she invited Randee to speak about alder and young forest. They will video record at the site and post on their website and YouTube.
- Wrote an introduction article about WYFP for My Wisconsin Woods e-newsletter that resulted in 18 landowners filling out our survey.
 - Landowners were from a wide range of acreage and counties generally seeking wildlife advice
- Further coordination with My WI Woods and DNR Forestry on details of how this collaboration would work
 - Learn more about database functions since Randee has access
 - Submitted a protocol/proposed plan to Jen Simoni and Kristin Lambert
- Worked on outreach for the Lumberjack grant including updating ads, coordinating with DNR videographer on video content, and reaching out to partners for outreach images
- Continue coordination with other groups about webinars and outreach
- Embroidery: worked with shop to digitalize logo, organize order for hats and member orders
- Annual report: finished draft, sent out to outreach committee for comments, made edits, distributed report to full partnership
- Continue working with landowners





American Bird Conservancy

Brief Staff Updated

WYFP Steering Committee Meeting

May 20, 2020

Accomplishments

- Pat Weber was able to certify 387 acres this past winter season. (2,344 acres to date through RCPP)
- There were 19 applications that we created conservation plans for and Pat took the lead on assessing and ranking through the new NRCS Conservation Desktop and CART system.
- We are officially out of RCPP money for landowners, all of these applications are in local work group funding pools in general EQIP.

Other

- We are continuing to do site visits in a physically distance style.
- Since the last meeting, we have not been able to attend or host trainings, other than online webinars.