

WISCONSIN PRIVATE FORESTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WPFAC)
 Date: July 11, 2019
 Location: Sand Valley Golf Resort 1697 Leopold Way – Nekoosa, WI 54457

Attendance: Bill Klase, Joe Hovel, Dennis McDougal, Ann Calhoun, Skya Murphy, Earl Gustafson, Ron Gropp, Buddy Huffaker, Nancy Bozek, Andy Hart, Diane Gunderson, Chuck Wagner and R.J. Wickham

Special guests: Aldo Leopold Fellows, Richard Reid (NRCS) and David Ruid (Consulting Forester) and Jens Jensen (Ecologist), Doug Akin (USFS)

Absent: Jim Warren, Aaron Burmeister, Shawn Hagan, Brandon Soldner, Brock VanOss, Kristin Lambert

Time	Agenda Item Presenter Type (<i>info/discuss/recommend</i>)	Decisions (include why)	Assignments / Follow-Up (include deadlines)
10:00am	Welcome & Introductions RJ Wickham <i>Informational</i>		
10:15am	Agenda Review / Repair All <i>Informational</i>		
	Committee Member Updates All <i>Informational</i>		
	- Committee member introductions All <i>Informational</i>		
	- Brief agency / organization update All <i>Informational</i> -Updates shared by participants included: -- Completion of new regulations, including NR 151 (Runoff Management); and - Update to NR 46 (Forest Tax Law Administrative Code) was approved by Natural Resources Board. Waiting Governor approval and will be routed to Legislative Review Bureau for final review and approval. -Introduction of the Aldo Leopold Fellows, and statistics to date on the “my Wisconsin woods” campaign, including, 500 plus onsite visits, 20,000 website hits, and 800,000 media impressions statewide. -It was shared that the relocation and naming of the of US Forest Service NE Region, which is now the Eastern Region 9, located in Milwaukee,		

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	is now complete though re-staffing continues after the move from Pennsylvania -One member voiced the importance of completing 2020 revisions to Forest Action Plan -The Paper Council has moved to Madison, and has a new executive director		
11:00am	Forest Legacy Program (Intro / Background) Ron Gropp <i>Informational</i> -Ron provided the background to the Forest Legacy Program, including the national and state resources available and processes for acquiring forest stewardship easements.		
	Intro/Background Ron Gropp <i>Informational</i> -Survey about the Forest Legacy Areas got 3 responses, all affirmative. Also comments and considerations. An ad hoc committee will go through and review, some recommendations on FLA recommendations to update designations. -Once the ad hoc committee decides, recommendations will go through 21 day public comment. WPFAC will need to respond to any comments before putting forward to State Forester. Ron Gropp asked for volunteers to go thru comments, to see if they have merit. FLA designations have to be approved by forest service.	-Joe and Anne volunteered to help Ron with going through Forest Legacy survey responses.	-Ron will engage volunteers individually.
	- State / Federal Review & Funding Process Ron Gropp <i>Informational</i> -Ron provided details of the approval and review process for submitting project proposals to the national competition. -Suggested adopting federal review guidelines	-Group was supportive of adopting the Federal guidelines for reviewing project proposals	
	- Check-In: Forest Action Plan – FLP Update Ron Gropp explained where we currently are in the process of updating, assessment if almost complete. <i>Informational</i>		
12:00pm	Lunch (provided)		

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12:45pm	FLP Project Application Review Process Ron Gropp <i>Informational</i> -Ron Gropp requested application review volunteers -Ron presented the two (2) project proposals that have come in. Asked for help to evaluate proposals. -There was discussion around whether the two proposed project could or should be combined to make them more complete nationally. -The committee discussed the use of a decision matrix using a scale instead of straight yes or no. There was interest in seeing the matrix from the group, some of whom had already used the tool. -Ron reminded the group that we strive for consensus.	-Andy, Diane and Bill volunteered to serve on ad hoc committee to review project proposals. -An email vote will be used by member to accept (green) or reject (red) the advancement of the proposal.	-Ad hoc committee will coordinate to review proposals -Ad hoc committee will provide their recommendations to whole group by September 6. -WPFAC will have until 9/13 to vote whether to advance each application to the national competition -WPFAC recommendation will be provided to the State Forester (Fred Souba) by 9/15. -Projects will be input into the federal system by Ron by 9/30 to allow time for response from Federal partners. -Project due into the Federal system by 11/30. -Buddy Huffaker will share a voting procedure with R.J. that may be helpful for WPFAC to better communicate their concerns and support for agenda items or other private forestry topics.
1:30pm	Presentation: Central Sands Pines Conservation Easement Ron Gropp, Dave Ruid, Jens Jensen <i>Informational</i> -Invited presenters offered the forestry and wildlife conservation aspect of the restoration activities around the golf course and easement to the south.	-Aldo Leopold Foundation scheduled a field tour with Dave Ruid and Jensen after the meeting to see the restoration sites and visit the conservation easement. Other committee members were invited to attend if they were interested.	
2:30pm	Forest Action Plan – Next Steps Ron Gropp <i>Informational</i> -DNR went through a phase of collecting feedback from public, in the process of considering partner requests, for priority landscapes and maps. -Public comment on assessment will be August 6 th . -Next phase will be strategy. 1 st draft by 9/30, to operational partner groups. October 24 strategy workshop. Engaging WPFAC to flesh out	-WPFAC members will participate in a strategy workshop October 24.	-WPFAC members will receive a draft strategy document to review prior to the October 24 meeting.

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	strategy. Additional public comment period, put into action at beginning of 2020. -Need to ID priority areas for both core and landscape level competitive grants.		
3:00pm	Open Forum All / Moderator: RJ Wickham <i>Discussion</i>		
	- Small acre easement acquisition process -Ron Gropp described how there really isn't a way to shorten all the necessary steps that must happen for land acquisition for an easement, for small properties.		
	- CRP Sign-Up -Limited discussion as Brandon Soldner was unable to attend after being detailed to D.C. to assist with CRP sign-up.		
3:30pm	Meeting Wrap-Up / Adjourn -All		
	- Schedule next meeting	-Next meeting will be a strategy workshop	10/24/2019
	- Agenda -Ron Gropp and R.J. Wickham emphasized the agenda belonging to all WPFAC members. This committee serves to inform the Division of Forestry and the Chief State Forester of the current and developing needs of Private Forestry in WI.		