

WISCONSIN PRIVATE FORESTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AUGUST 20, 2021

1:00PM – 3:30PM

VIA ZOOM

Attendees: Ron Gropp – WDNR, Jim Warren – WDNR, Kristin Lambert – WDNR, Joe Hovel – Partners in Forestry, Allan Braun – NRCS, Ann Calhoun – The Nature Conservancy, Bethany Olmstead – The Conservation Fund, Bill Klase – UW-Madison Extension, Buddy Huffaker – Aldo Leopold Foundation, Dennis McDougall – USFS, Clint Miller – The Conservation Fund, Jeff Simon - WDNR

NOTES

Topic

Welcome – Jim Warren, WDNR

- Thanks for joining
- WPFAC is:
 - All things private forestry, make recommendations to State Forester
 - Also meets two requirements for Federal Forest Stewardship and Federal Forest Legacy programs
- Today we will focus on federal forest legacy
- Round robin introductions

Presentation on the Pelican River Forest Legacy Project (Phase 2) – Ron Gropp, Clint Miller, Bethany Olmstead

- FY23 funding consideration for Forest Legacy Funds
- 3rd time the conservation fund has looked at this property
- under contract to purchase ~69,000 acres
- Clint and Bethany are the “public face” of this project
- TCF is DC based – a conservation based non-profit
- TCF expects to conserve ~500,000 acres over the next few years
- past projects – Brule St. Croix Legacy Forest – globally important pine barrens – connects significant amount of already conserved lands
- Pelican River – resides in northern forest forest legacy area (FLA) – Mostly in Oneida County, dips into Langlade and over into Forest
 - provides significant connectivity, rare and common species habitat, public recreation
 - largest block of unprotected privately owned forest remaining in WI
 - property is currently FSC certified and will continue if purchased by TCF
 - enrolled in MFL program
- Project scoring
 - scores HIGH in the strategic category
 - scores HIGH in the importance category – environmental, social and economic benefits
 - economic fact sheet
 - project scoring for threatened – Threats are subdivision and land conversion; hope is to prevent poor forest management and a reduction or elimination of public access; if the project goes through, we can avoid those threats and outcomes
- Pelican River Phase 1 – earlier this year (2021) 12,500 acres were acquired (no objections from Joint Finance Committee) – allocated entire allotment for Knowles Nelson Funding to Phase 1 (that’s why looking for Legacy Funds for Phase 2)
 - this easement does come with motorized access and a road maintenance endowment fund
- Phase 2 is roughly 58,000 acres
 - Would use a combination of Forest Legacy Program (\$15,000) and KN funds as match (\$5

WPFAC Purpose: The Committee advises and recommends to the Wisconsin State Forester and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) concerning Wisconsin’s suite of Private Forestry programs, including implementation of the Forest Stewardship Program, Forest Legacy Program, and other related cooperative private forestry programs.

million)

- Timeline
 - Sept 14 projects need to be entered into federal system with letter from state lead to FS Regional Forester
 - Sept 29/30 – Region 9 FLP mock panel
 - Oct 18 – Final project entered into federal system
 - Nov 17/18 – national FLP panel convenes
 - After Jan 1 of 2022 should know how project ranked but it wouldn't officially get funded until federal FY23 budget is passed

Q & A

- Feels like a slam dunk – anything else we should know?
- What is TCF's long term game plan?
 - TCF often purchase, ensures conservation easement and then sell the underlying fee title (business minded – TCF will not be long-term owners) – goal would be for that sale to be to a single owner to maintain it as a working forest to contribute to forest economy

WPFAC Recommendation

- Joe Hovel motioned to approve recommendation; Ann Calhoun seconded; no discussion; no opposition
- Recommendation moves forward to Heather Berklund, Chief State Forester

Open Forum

- Joe asked if there is anyone else wants his Northwoods Forest Conservation book to email him with his mailing address (logcabin@nnex.net)
 - Buddy indicates they have been sharing the book with northern landowners
- WI Council on Forestry meeting next month (September) – Buddy is on the Council – let Buddy know if you have any items to share
 - REDS project
- Ann – version 2 of the climate change field guide for northern forests available and climate change field guide for southern forest now available at <https://forestadaptation.org>
 - Family Forest Carbon Program = TNC + AFF partnership; have identified three practices that could be financially viable for landowners
 - AFF hired Midwest Carbon Coordinator – Jen Simoni

Meeting adjourned at 2:20pm