



Attendance

Members Present: Cathy Higley – Vilas County L&W, Rod Sharka – Partners in Forestry, Tracy Beckman – Lumberjack RC&D, Tom Rudolph – Lumberjack RC&D, Anna Wisner – WI DOT, Michele Sadauskas – Oneida County L&W, Marjy Brzeskiewicz – USFS, Justin Meier – Vilas County Forestry, Justin Bourneville - USFS, Jamie Remme – WI DNR. Staff: Rosie Page=Coordinator

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:03am by Acting Chairperson Justin Meier. There were no chairperson announcements.
2. MOU Partners introduced themselves. Justin noted that after approval of the minutes, we'll be adding a Financial Update to the agenda.
3. The minutes from the 1/22/2016 Steering Committee were reviewed. Motion to approve by Tracy/Jamie. Motion Carried.
4. Financial Update: The committee received a spreadsheet showing the four current grants WHIP is using with a combined balance available of \$19,115.62. The deadline for the Garlic Mustard Grant is 5/31/16, WMA deadline is 7/4/16 & the Lumberjack grant deadline is 2/3/17. Rod suggested we use funds from the Garlic Mustard Grant to buy harvesting tools to cover his 3 personal ones that were lost. The committee agreed. It was noted the Lumberjack Grant can be used to supplement coordinator time when WHIP services are requested but do not fall under another grant. It was again noted that 25% of the Lumberjack Grant is to be used to search for additional funding for WHIP.
5. The committee received a copy of the Strategic Plan electronically prior to the meeting. After quick discussion, there was a motion by Tom/Cathy to recommend the Strategic Plan as presented be moved forward to the Annual Meeting for Partner approval. Motion Carried.
6. The Annual Meeting will be held Wednesday, March 16th at the Woodruff Town Hall. Rosie passed out the agenda. Speakers have been confirmed. Members volunteered for tasks.
7. Renewal of MOU Signature – Justin & Marjy contacted Tina Smith USFS who can provide the mandatory language needed by the USFS. We're still waiting. Reminder that the Steering Committee affirmed their commitment to split up the list of partners and personally contact them for signatures as soon as the MOU is ready.
8. Other Discussion – Rod - The Conserve School Garlic Mustard pull will be in Phelps on 5/4/2016. The Forest Fest at Trees for Tomorrow is August 6th from 9am to 3pm. Rod also gave Rosie some ideas for funding from private foundations. Cathy – It was noted that local landfills are not consistent in how they accept labeled TIS waste. The group discussed whether or not trying to coordinate a consistent procedure among the landfills is a task WHIP should handle. A local artist and herbalist want to help with control work by offering different uses for Japanese Knotweed. Cathy and Rosie will work on developing these partnerships. Michele – Lumberjack Council has begun requesting more information from their grant applicants. She requests that we be prepared to address these issues proactively.
9. Agenda Items for future meeting: None at this time
10. Upcoming meeting: ANNUAL MEETING Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at the Woodruff Town Hall.
11. Tom/Rod moved to adjourn at 10:44am.