

Kirtland's Warbler Conservation Team July Meeting
July 26 – 28, 2022

Jay's Sporting Goods

1151 South Otsego Avenue, Gaylord, MI
(The meeting will also be virtual – Details to follow)



DAY ONE

**Agenda is subject to change*

12:00pm – 1:00pm REGISTRATION

1:00pm – Welcome, Introductions and Meeting Overview

1:15pm – Subcommittee Reports

1:15pm – 1:35pm - Human Dimension Subcommittee (20 minutes)

- Coffee Talk – Rapai
- AmeriCorps Outreach - Lance
 - Calendar
 - School Outreach
- Tours - Kasmer
- Update on HD Outreach – Petrucha

1:35pm – 4:10pm - Breeding Range Subcommittee

- Report on Breeding Range Work Plan Outcomes
 - Outcome 1. Habitat Management and Coordination (30 min)
 - Results of MDNR State Forest Plan KW Essential Habitat Optimization Model – Heckman, Hartman, Kintigh
 - Outcome 2. Improve marketability, program costs and habitat biodiversity (20 min)
 - Update on Experimental Habitat projects – USFS – Oneil, DNR – Hartman, Kintigh, MSU – Machusko, Rothstein, and/or Hartman
 - Outcome 3. Evaluate and implement management goals outside of the core breeding range.
 - Update from Expanding Breeding Range Workgroup – Thompson, Graff (5 min)
 - Baraga Plains Project Area – Boan, MacKinnon (10 min)
 - Update on Canada habitat projects – Burke (10 min)
 - Outcome 4. Cowbird Management Program
 - 2022 Research Progress – (1 min)
 - Wisconsin Activities – Lopez (5 min)
 - Develop and keep current a list of breeding range research needs and implement a feedback loop to integrate research results into habitat management practices.
 - Prioritization of breeding range research needs list – Kintigh (15 min)

3:00pm – 3:15pm: 15-minute break

- Monitoring
 - 2022 Monitoring Results (15 min)
 - USFS – O'Neil

- MI DNR Spot Checks – Kintigh
- UP – Thompson
- WI DNR – Lopez
- Canada- Burke
- Post-Delisting Monitoring Plan Requirements (15 min) – Mensing
 - Review of agency reporting requirements for PDMP
 - Review of anomalies or trends on the KW's expected duration of use within stands
 - Evaluate efficacy of new habitat techniques by census or survey for KW abundance within 6 years of establishment
 - Evaluate efficacy of new habitat techniques by selectively surveying for productivity within 6 years of establishment
 - Provide information on the suitability of wintering grounds (e.g. March rainfall, fruit availability, sea-level rise, etc.)

5:30pm – DINNER – Big Buck Brewery – Dutch Treat

DAY TWO

9:00am – 9:45am - Non-breeding Range Subcommittee (45min)

- Bahamas Update – Deane
- Results of March Trip to Bahamas – Ewert
- Plant Nursery – Akresh
- Mapping winter range habitat – Ewert, Akresh
- AOS Meeting Report – Ewert, Deane
 - Mapping stopover habitat
- Migration Sightings – Mike Petrucha

9:45am – 10:15am - Northern Pine Plains Partnership (NPPP) Update – Woods

10:15am-10:30am – BREAK

10:30am-10:45am - Kirtland's Warbler Alliance - Rapai

10:45am-11:00am – Camp Grayling Expansion - Rapai

11:00am-11:15am - Recovering America's Wildlife Act & America the Beautiful

11:15am-11:30pm – Conservation Plan Updates – Kintigh, Huber

11:30pm-11:50pm - Kirtland's Warbler Archive Project - Bocetti, Ewert, Petrucha, Rapai

12:00pm – LUNCH -

1:15pm -1:45pm – Kirtland's Warbler Festival and GeoTrail Update - Petrucha

1:45pm-2:00pm – Kirtland’s Warbler Funds - Graff

- State of Michigan Kirtland’s Fund
- ABC Kirtland’s Fund

2:00pm-2:10pm – Update on Kirtland’s Warbler Coordinator Search

2:10pm-2:30 Wrap-up

- Day 3 Field Trip Overview – Kintigh
- Feedback on meeting format and topics covered
- Recommendations for Spring meeting
- Additional Business and Adjournment
- Forest for Michigan Birds Forest Management Guides

Break

3:00 – 4:00pm Break out working groups

DAY THREE (optional)

8:00am – 12pm – Kirtland’s Warbler Experimental Habitat Tour

- MSU/MDNR/USFS Experimental Habitat Projects, 4 Mile Rd, Grayling Forest Management Unit

Meeting opened at 1 p.m. with P. Huber acting as leader.

Introductions

Human Dimensions

- B. Rapai reported that the Coffee Talk, held in late April, was poorly attended. More than 50 people were invited and only nine attended. Despite the low turnout, it’s worth repeating. We are going to try a community event next year in Grayling.
- A. Lance, an AmeriCorps volunteer assigned to the U.S. Forest Service reported on the annual calendar contest. She is also responsible for the Forest Service’s outreach efforts. In 2022 she presented to 1,092 students and took fourth grade classes to see Kirtland’s Warbler habitat.
- C. Kasmer of the Michigan DNR said the DNR and Michigan Audubon hired Baxter Beamer to act as tour guide in 2022. Reported 613 tour participants. Most were from Michigan but others were from 28 other states and Ontario and England.
- M. Petrucha reported on Human Dimensions outreach efforts.

Breeding Range Subcommittee

K. Kintigh started a discussion on Breeding Range Work Plan Outcomes. He said the goal of this effort is to address and improve Kirtland’s Warbler habitat. Currently, the MDNR is going through a state forest plan revision process and is looking at scenario modeling this time around. One of those models is centered around KIWA habitat on state land. Modeling, writing, and engagement teams helped create the plan. The goal: establish a strategic management approach for KIWA habitat creation to incorporate into the state forest management plan.

- Outcome 1

- Past assumptions: built and designed for older mature jack pine harvests (density, form, spacing) and issue with revenue loss. Modeling showed that we need to wait longer to harvest (previously thought 50 yrs old would be marketable, but these models show that is not the case; it takes longer to get merchantable). Need to sustain 5 age class distribution. Creates issue because the 40-49-year-old class not merchantable; now we have to wait until 70 years old.
- Surplus in first 4 age classes. Merchantable timber = ~4,000 acres right now across central habitat area. So, we can only harvest and replant 4,000 acres/year.
- But consider: stands of non-jack pine in the core area; harvest and replant to jack pine. But only 4,000 acres of that.
- Goals: maintain 800 pairs on state land. Annually create 1,560 acres of occupiable habitat per year across the 85,000 - 90,000 available acres.
- Issue: The DNR is unable to rely on traditional pulp harvest to prepare for trenching and planting to support the 800 breeding pairs
- Known variables: 800 breeding pairs; 20 acres per pair; 5-15-year-old jack pine; methods to clear sites (commercial clearcut vs. biomass harvest vs. non comm mastication, vs. pre comm thin and cc); critical habitat 85,000-90,000, conversion to jack pine from other cover types can't be done early.
 - Scenario 1: status quo no deviation: JP not merch until 70 years old. Will drop to 200 breeding pairs, but habitat will go up and be sustainable over time. Not ideal.
 - Scenario 2: converting other cover types at earlier ages: problem not quite as severe but way below goals (near 200).
 - Scenario 3: Use cc but supplement mastication and biomass. Can maintain 800 pairs by doing this. But very costly and difficult to maintain long term. SO only 20% of harvest would be commercial in this scenario.
 - Scenario 4: use cc supplement with mastication and biomass. Biomass only viable in first period due to market prediction.
 - Scenario 5: What if 20 acres per breeding pair isn't right? What if it's 13 acres per breeding pair? Why do this: USFS estimate is about 15 per bird, DNR's is 20 per bird. Status quo, no deviation (only cc): still have massive dip in breeding pair.
 - Scenario 6: Thirteen acres per pair, but include biomass and mastication. Better.
 - Scenario 7: Thirteen acres per pair, but only do biomass and mastication in first 10 years.
 - Scenario 8: What if duration of use extends beyond 19 years?
 - Scenario 9: Use commercial clearcut as much as possible, use pre-commercial thinning and biomass. This one works, but it's a "best case" scenario that might not be realistic. Thirteen acres per breeding pair is pushing it.
 - Scenario 10: Same set up, trying to maintain 800 pairs. Cutting jack pine as it goes out of KW usage. This scenario is not a good representation of reality.

- Scenario 11: Twenty acres per pair with only 750 breeding pairs in the core area. It requires betting on 50 pairs outside core. Biomass in period 1 and then commercial clearcut and mastication. This scenario is most expensive as mastication is the most expensive treatment.
- Scenario 12: Fifteen acres per breeding pair. 750 pairs. Use biomass to make up difference until stands are regulated and can have commercial harvests. No loss in revenue. This one looks like the best option. Really high proportion in low value biomass in next decade. Biomass will likely go away in next decade

E. O'Neil of the Forest Service gave an update on Forest Service experimental habitat projects.

There are currently projects in Huron National Forest:

- **Carter GNA** (Pine River KWMA) (482 acres) Planted as Part of the Stocking Density Project 6X8 Replicate (800 TPA).
- **Conifer 2 GNA** (McKinley KWMA) (388 acres) Stocking Density Project. Cut and trenched, planted in 2023.
- **Hognose** (Big Creek KWMA) (407 acres) Divided into 3 sections- 10% RP, 20% RP, All JP. Opposing wave, 5X6 spacing. 169 acres Traditional, 217 acres non-traditional. Being site prepped now. Planted in 2023.
- **El Nino/Hidden Vaughan** (574 acres) Mack Lake KWMA. This planting technique was inspired by D. Kashian of Wayne State University: 53 percent, high density regeneration; 15 percent med density regen up to 800 TPA; 10 percent low density regen up to 400 TPA; 27 percent open/natural regen only 200 TPA. This area is still being cut.

Outcome 2

D. Rothstein of Michigan State gave a report on Improving marketability, program costs and habitat biodiversity.

- Challenges: Jack pine growing in KIWA form is not really merchantable after 50 years. Stand age distribution problem will require clearing and resetting 20-40-year-old stands for the next 20-30 years. Biomass markets are unpredictable; we cannot count on them being there in the future.
- Precommercial thinning? Will the stands respond to thinning after 20 years? Is it worth it?
- Extend rotation age to 70 years? Does this increase risk of disease, drought stress and fire?

The question being asked on new plantations: Do we reduce planting density?

- Experiments:
 - Precommercial thinning: small plot experiment. 20-29-year-old-age class; trees grew 30-percent faster. Issue: mechanical thinning is costly. Would need an 80-percent increase in volume in 50 years to break even. Major issue: jack pine for lumber is the same price as jack pine pulp. Will have bigger trees, but fewer of them, and it's not worth it.
 - Extended rotation experiment: Drought stress gets worse as trees age and get taller, and it will only get worse with climate change. Mortality high and volume growth low from 50-70 years get worse on dry soils and southern range: core KIWA habitat. Help guide focus on extending rotations or liquidating them.
 - Reduce planting density: established 2021, 2022. 5x6, 6x6, 8x6. Monitor stand development response and KIWA response. It will be ~15 years before we have data.
 - Stand age distribution problems: early restarts. Focused on mastication of 20-year-old stands with goal of natural regeneration. Is that achievable? Factors include cone load,

serotiny, site prep, weather conditions. Pilot work completed winter 2022. Will do work in 2023, 2024, 2025 in 6 stands total.

Questions/comments:

- Looking at relation between KIWA occupation and density validates investment in these plantings. There's no empirical data to support the universally accepted planting density; it came out of fire data. But other schools of thought say the ground vegetation density coverage matters too.
- The market for sawtimber from reduced planting densities vs later thinning. Issue: market. No step up from pulp to saw. Low-density planting saves cost and produced bigger trees

Outcome 3

Evaluate and implement management goals outside of the core breeding range; expanding the breeding range.

- P. Thompson of the Forest Service said his agency has identified two areas for expanding KW management in UP: Baraga Plains and the Duck Lake fire area. The Duck Lake currently has one of the largest KW populations outside the core. He is encouraging the Michigan DNR to prioritize KW conservation in this area to address threat of climate change and improve genetic diversity.
- S. Graff of ABC provided a Wisconsin update:
 - Private land mapping: Two areas in the UP and an area in northern Adams County, Wisc., look to be priority. ABC received RCPP grant last year to help advance KIWA habitat. ABC folks have been doing ground truthing to map Wisconsin and the Baraga Plains area. Criteria: large landscape patches next to existing habitat.
 - Adams Co: Sand Valley Golf Course and TNC.
 - Searching for places where ABC and use federal cost sharing dollars with private landowners; meeting with fed partners and lyme timber and Hiawatha. Seeing what activities and practices existing; how to do that work with private landowners.
- B. Boan of the Forest Service gave an update on the Ottawa National Forest is managing for KW and improving its habitat. Proposing 1,345 acres of habitat improvement and management. Western UP North of the Wisconsin border. This is on the eastern part of the ONF. Small portion of the Baraga Plains. South-southwest of Baraga. Have land on rotation. Lots of blueberries in the understory. On track for an August decision. Want to add additional KW blocks. An additional 1000 acres. Total of six blocks for rotation. Getting consistent KW in past couple of years.
- Sherry McKinnon of the Michigan DNR gave an update on the forest management plan for the UP. The KIWA is a featured species in several of the areas the state is working on. Looking at not opposing wave but increase stand size to min of 300 acres per stand.
- Have KIWA as featured species in several areas. The goal is to intentionally manage for KIWAs in designated management areas. The DNR will likely plant using the opposing wave technique but will increase stand size to get a minimum of 300 acres per stand.
- Biggest issue in Duck Lake: unlikely to be able to sustain that much habitat in future.

Peter Burke of GEI Consultants provided the Ontario report.

- Birds are nesting in both of the ecological regions in Ontario. Southern half of Ontario Shield has more jack pine, but no KIWA found in the dense, northern JP. So, the working group looked at red oak distribution and red pine distribution overlay on the jack pine. Red oak and red pine are dominant more southerly.

- The soil in certain sections of southern Ontario is very similar to Grayling sand soil. Today the team is using a novel approach: find habitat that's not currently suitable for KW nesting and replace it.
- The Ontario KIWA working group is made up of land trusts, college researchers, ABC, private groups and others. Areas where KIWA restoration work is being considered have been identified. This is an opportunity to help other species at risk in Ontario because many of them use the same habitat.
- The Ontario team want to establish a working relationship with land managers in Michigan and Wisconsin to share information.
- 2021 Birds started using Packard Tract. In 2022, the first male was detected on May 31. In total, five males were observed on site. Three males stuck around until July 2. No females were documented on site.
- The discovery was a huge success for public outreach. The team created a rare bird ambassador program to help people to see the bird. More than \$1,000 was donated by the people attending the field trips. Also created t-shirts to sell.
- The site is a former Christmas tree farm southwest of Barrie. No jack pine is planted at the site and the tree age is uneven. Because there has been some tree failure, just over half the site is suitable for nesting. Much of the site is poor in ground cover because it was a former tree site so the team seeded more than 80 native species of ground cover.
- Dr. Cooper's work has shown that unmated males wander across the landscape. Now have success with the Packard tract. More success in Ontario, Minnesota, and even NY State.

Outcome 4

Cowbird management. K. Kintgh reported that N. Cooper's field team watched 58 nests on four study sites in 2022. The team documented no parasitism and an almost complete absence of cowbirds on study sites. The DNR and the FS are still waiting for Cooper to develop a statistical model that will provide a threshold for re-instituting trapping.

Population monitoring updates

- Lower Peninsula
 - E. O'Neil and D. Meder and that the Forest Services does population monitoring surveys every other year when not doing census. Huron Shores has 4,007 acres of occupied habitat covering 11 management units. Three units in Tawas: Vaughn Creek (regen), Plank Road and Fountain; eight units in Pine River: Bugs N Bears, King WUI, Red Trout, Golden Gopher, Dropped, Kokosing & Seven Channels (Pine River) and Galion Burn (Tawas). Overall, Mio has 10,670 acres of occupied habitat with 22 sites occupied.
 - K. Kintigh said the DNR's policy is similar to the Forest Service but the monitoring is not as thorough. Mostly, the DNR does spot checks to document new occupancy. This year the DNR looked at eight sites and documented occupancy in two.
- Upper Peninsula
 - P. Thompson of the USFS said there were 45 KWs in the UP this year, which is similar to what was found in the census. Not every area was searched. Duck Lake had 23 birds. Hiawatha NF – 21. Ottawa NF – 1.
- Wisconsin – No report
- Ontario

- P. Burke said the main population in the province continues to be found on military land. Camp Borden has had 20-25 birds historically. That is similar this year. Camp Petawawa typically has 1-4 pairs. The numbers there are unknown for 2022. There were five, maybe six males found on the Packard Tract; there was no evidence of breeding. The area on Georgian Bay is still too young.

Post-Delisting Monitoring Plan Requirements

- In C. Mensing's absence, K. Kintigh reminded everyone that the agencies will need to submit these reports in the future. Think of it as a report of anomalies or trends.
- P. Huber reports that the Forest Service has been monitoring duration of use, which has declined to 15.5 acres per pair and has started to level off at that acreage. Low acres per bird is for stands that are very large. The Forest Service has moved to larger plantations. Duration of use change? It's a little over 10 years. See longer duration of use in wildfire lands it's like 17 years. More diversity in a wildfire tract. Short usage is like 6 years in Pine River because the trees grow so fast.

End of Day 1

Day 2

Bahamas update

D. Ewert began with a discussion of sites where birds were found in March-April 2022. Many birds have been found consistently at the same sites for the past 20 years.

March rainfall is a metric being used to evaluate winter conditions on The Bahamas and thus potential effects on Kirtland's Warblers in the spring. However, there are many caveats associated with this metric as consistent rainfall data are only available from Nassau, and not Eleuthera, and rainfall patterns can be very different between the two locations.

During the American Ornithological Society 2022 meeting, a workshop was sponsored by American Bird Conservancy to work toward elucidating how conservation programs for migrants using the SE US can be implemented taking into account wintering, breeding, and migration seasons. Such an effort could highlight important stopover areas that might be used by Kirtland's Warblers. This workshop was a first step in determining what the next steps might be.

Calderon et al paper.

G. Deane

- Capacity building exercise: unable to do research this year, but did a capacity building exercise instead with 4 staff to do bird and plant ID practice and site familiarization. Also gave an in-school presentation.
- Youth artist competition: 2 Bahamas schools participated; 33 entries. Virtual presentations.
- Upcoming work: 2 workshops w/goat farmers and non-farmers to explain importance of KWIA, youth artist awards, calendar distribution. Caribbean land bird monitoring project (Birds Caribbean) is currently doing this to increase capacity of nationals in the region; 3 modus towers. KIWA mapping project
- Question: opportunity to do mechanical work on vegetation? A: have to be careful and not push out other species of concern

Plant nursery

M. Akresh said work continues on development of Bahamian nursery for black torch and white sage. Starting on San Salvador. He has not been able to obtain Bahama research permits, so haven't been able to get back to the Bahamas to continue this work.

- Clearing land to plant and broadcast seeds: 50x100m plots, conducting vegetation survey before clearing: half of the plot will be control, half will be the experimental broadcast. Will probably get shut down: Bahamian law says no clearcutting or treatments with bulldozers. Goat farms are an option, but how to create habitat when creating this habitat often can't be done in a legal way? Huge issues with permitting process.
- New GIS mapping project: goal to create map of land use, disturbance, veg height for the central islands, creating a habitat suitability map for KIWA. Phase 1 is gathering public data. Phase 2 is preliminary land use classifications and analysis. Phase 3 is further ground truthing and KIWA surveys. Phase 4 is land use classification – random forest, effects of sea level rise, disturbance, droughts. Further phases: creating KIWA suitability map.
- This is super high priority research we identified last year.

Mapping Winter Range Habitat

- M. Akresh is taking over as co-lead of the Non-breeding Range Committee.

AOS Meeting Report – Ewert, Deane

- Mapping stopover habitat

Migration records

M. Petrucha informed the KWCT of two fall sightings from 2021 in Baltimore, MD, and Charlotte, NC. There were 24 sightings in the spring of 2022, which is the most ever. Most sightings were of males in shrub/scrub habitat.

Northern Pine Plains Partnership

- S. Woods of Huron Pines gave an update on this new organization that is taking a more holistic view of the jack pine ecosystem. He informed the KWCT of the goals of the NPPP and who is participating in it and encouraged all those in attendance to participate. He said the need for more wholistic management of JP ecosystem grew out of discussions with K. Kintigh (DNR) and S. Sierkierski (USF&WS). The NPPP is seeking better ecological outcomes for the habitat. This will require changing how we manage for KW and studying those changes in hopes of positive outcomes.
- Among the discussions he is having is about finding ways to return fire to the landscape through a private lands fire collaboration, potentially through a Forest Service landscape scale restoration initiative. To demystify the process, also looking at non-commercial forestry treatments and trying to ID all pine barrens areas out there which is actually difficult (we don't have the data for this yet) and also management is pretty different across diff ownerships
- Funding for this effort has come through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative with the USF&WS coordinating.
- Right now, the work is focused on USF&WS's KIWA management area in the Lower Peninsula. That land is managed by the Seney National Wildlife Refuge staff. The land stretches across eight counties and is surrounded by DNR and Forest Service land so it would be best if all of it is managed for ecological health in a similar way.

Alliance update

B. Rapai gave the update.

- Jack pine planting day was a success. Thirty-five people participated and we planted 2.5 acres. The Alliance is thinking about expanding the acreage to be planted.
- No advocacy in Lansing this year. The Alliance has discovered that it's difficult to reach legislators during an election year.
- The Alliance had a RAWA discussion with U.S. Rep. Debbie Dingell's office.
- Recent meeting with DNR mgmt. committee.
- Going through strategic planning process.
- Mio monument too far beyond capacity right now (\$60k to do it right).
- Highway Brewing Company in West Branch recently brewed a fundraising beer for the Alliance: The Kirtland's Warbler.
- Need to develop roles for volunteer and create additional volunteer events. Also looking to expand the board/seeking board members. Need more people who live in Jack pine area
- The Alliance is gearing up for an effort to make the KIWA Michigan's State Bird. A legislator plans to introduce legislation after the November election.

Camp Grayling Expansion

B. Rapai gave the report.

- Actual footprint of Camp grayling will not change.
- National guard is requesting to lease about 162k acres of state land, and it's likely to be a lot less than this in reality.
- They are doing this because they are concerned the need for using electronic/satellite and cyber-warfare training will affect other things if they do it on-base and could affect the town /other local communication... there could potentially be tree cutting but no live fire or road construction... no deer hunting and some temporary land closures
- The military hasn't assigned specific tasks to specific tracts, but when they do, the DNR will propose specific language limiting what the National Guard can and cannot do in that area. There is Kirtland's warbler habitat in each of these proposed areas, but much of it is too old to be used for breeding.
- Right now, the National Guard is collecting public comment. DNR and MNVA will determine lease limits and language for each area. The National Guard will conduct NEPA. Once that plan has been developed, the DNR will go through will seek public comment. The DNR KW management team will also review. Then the DNR's executive management will review the revised draft and work with MNVA final draft will need approval. A final decision is likely in late 2023.
- The KWCT SC has been assured that it will have an opportunity to review the plan.
- UHF radio waves' effect on wildlife? Not well known right now. Will drones affect wildlife? NG will reserve the right to allow others to use the land, though right now they don't have any plans to do so. This could be concerning bc they could let the public on to the land without DNR approval first.
- B. Rapai asked the KWCT if we should we comment now or wait? C. Bocetti said we should comment as a group but think about the best timing of when to do so. She expressed her concern that there is still much we don't know.
- K. Kintigh said DNR hasn't made a decision yet on if they're actually going to pursue this, so we shouldn't comment until they actually ask for it. Right now, the public comment period is just

for the military, not for the DNR. All of the land use restrictions we have in place now will still apply here so don't see how we would allow drones to fly over kw habitat, for example.

- This is a surface lease for specific activities the military conducts.

RAWA update

- S. Graff said the legislation has passed the U.S. House and now is in the Senate. He is cautiously positive about passage.
- The measure would provide \$1.4 billion to states annually.
- The biggest issue that Congress needs to work out is how the measure would be funded.

Conservation Plan Update

K. Kintigh and P. Huber said the Breeding Range Conservation Plan was written in 2015. The goal now is to update:

- Specific numbers on acres being managed. This is not in the current plan.
- The cowbird plan with a new management approach. Since the number of Brown-headed Cowbirds on the KW breeding range has fallen significantly the DNR and FS will only be conducting monitoring for the time being. K. Kintigh said he and P. Huber are still waiting for a piece that is missing that sets a threshold for restarting trapping. That is coming from Dr. Cooper.
- The goals of the Breeding Range Working Group. The most important goal is to increase number of breeding pairs outside the NLP from 100 to 200. The second goal is prioritization of other landscapes to get other habitat work done.

The 2015 update took about three years to complete. Much of the information in that update is still valid. The committee is going to start moving forward around Sept. 1. Completion of the update may be delayed because C. Mensing of the F&WS has been assigned to a high-priority program – the survival of the northern long-eared bat.

KWCT coordinator update

- S. Graff introduced Steve Roels, who has been hired as the new KWCT coordinator. Thirty people applied for the position. The committee narrowed the choices to nine. Four were brought back for second interviews. Narrowed down to two. Chose Steve.
- Roels has a PhD from Michigan State. He is moving to Grand Rapids from Colorado with a family, a dog, a horse and a donkey.

Archives Project

B. Rapai and M. Petrucha

- Archiving documents and media for KWCT and the KWRT.
- Looking for KWCT's thoughts. Has the committee overlooked anything? Is it on the right track?
- Important to document our history and our processes to help guide other recovery teams.
- Documents are spread out. Some held in Department of Defense archives. Others are held by individuals. Some at Kirtlands Community College.
- Want to acquire more documents; talk to people who have been working with KIWA for years for their records.
- Creating a plan of work now, also need to create a budget for the process.
- Need to do technology assessment; how will we getting these documents onto the web?

- Also need to finalize agreement with Central Michigan University to make sure these documents are stored, a database created and media made available in the “cloud”.
- Also need to train next KIWA conservation coordinator to make sure all those documents are included in archive.

Festival update.

- M. Petrucha said there were about 200 attendees this year. About 50 for the Home Opener, which was held the night before at Gahagan Nature Center.
- KIWA Festival and Summerfest combined.
- Lots of tents, vendors, agency personnel.
- Set for June 2-3, 2023.

Geotrail

- M. Petrucha said there has been 4,386 total finds from 551 unique finders. 525 Favorite Points awarded. 137 KWGT Passports have been completed.
- The goal of any geocacher is to earn geocoins. On this trail, a geocacher has to find 20 of 25 geocaches to earn a coin.

KW Fund Update

- S. Graff said the State of Michigan has \$2.2 million invested, but not sure what the current value is because of recent fall of the stock market. The fund is still in building mode so no interest is being drawn off. The fund can be used for cowbird control, but if not needed can be used for other KIWA activities.
- ABC has raised ~\$300,000 for KW conservation. It is being held in two funds; one in Michigan and one with the Natural Resources Foundation in Wisconsin.
- ABC has developed a fund administration team. Two former ABC board members are on it.
- An ABC donor trip in spring 2022 raised \$41k.
- There is a \$500k threshold for drawing interest off the fund for conservation work. Funds will be used for the coordinator position. If the draw is 5 percent that is \$25,000 that will be used to fund the coordinator’s salary. Those funds will be combined with other resources to complete the funding. Right now, ABC has three solid years of funding in hand for coordinator salary.

Optional Field Trip

K. Kintigh announced the particulars of the Thursday field trip. Interested people will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the corner of Beasley Road and 5 Mile, southeast of Grayling.

Wrap-up items

- Next meeting.
 - Likely be conducted virtually because of Covid.
 - Feb. 14, 2023.
- Forest for Michigan Birds Forest Management Guides
J. Mittig
 - 3 years in the making and now available.
 - On Michigan Audubon website.

- Future workshops coming up; let M. Paling of ABC know if interested.

End of meeting.