

# POLLINATOR FRIENDLY HABITAT WORKING GROUP

Minutes for March 13, 2017

Meeting room 314

Menomonie Alliance Church

1. Called meeting to order at 6:05 pm
  2. Attendance – CA, JG, RR, NB, JK, PW
  3. Introductions – PW joined the group. She is from Bloomer with 5 acres of agriculture land.
  4. Topics of interest
    - a. Invasive plants
      - i. JG will contact Kathy Stahl and see if she can attend our May meeting and provide us guidance on identification of invasive plants.
      - ii. JG will contact County Board Supervisors Thomas Quinn, Chair of Planning, Resources, and Development Committee, and Gary Seipel, Chair Highway Committee, regarding planting of natives along roads in the country and removal of invasive plants.
    - b. Hive reports – Many are dead; preparing for new packages.
    - c. Discussed correct use of oxalic acid for treatment of varroa mites. In the fall, need to treat 3 times about 7 days apart to catch the mites that are in the brood. The capped brood will hatch over the 21 days thus exposing the mites that were in the capped brood cells to the treatment.
    - d. Pollinator habitat seed costs - JG provided updates on the cost of seeds for native planting for programs through NCRS.
      - i. Seed prices have gone up considerably.
      - ii. Pheasants Forever (PF) expanded their program of providing mixes of seed for habitat planting to WI for the first time. Their web site [www.PFhabitatstore.com](http://www.PFhabitatstore.com) lists the mixes available. Mix A – CP42 Pollinator (Mesic – Dry) is approved by WI NCRS as meeting the requirements for CRP and EQIP seed mix, thus cost sharing available. PF does not charge shipping period, nor taxes for orders from WI under a government program. Mix A has many more species than the mixes NCRS has as a starting point. The PF prices listed are for planting one acre. Orders can be in half-acre increments. All orders are shipped from one of two distribution centers so there is no 'pick-up' site.
  5. Other – The scheduler for the church meeting rooms asked if we would need room 314 through the summer months. Summary of meeting dates is:
    - a. No PFH meeting in April since the club will be attending the presentation by Biology Professor Dr. Jim Burritt on his research findings. A newspaper article can be found at <http://www.uwstout.edu/news/articles/Professor-students-identify-bacterium-that-may-kill-honey-bees.cfm> and the full report is at : <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0167752>. Come to the presentation with questions for Dr. Burritt and his students. The Club meeting will be at 6:30 for half an hour prior to 7pm presentation in room 110 of the Jarvis Hall Science Wing (middle building).
    - b. The meeting for June will be at the Community Gardens prior to the hive inspection demonstration.
    - c. The meetings for July and August will be **not** be in room 312. If we meet, we can meet outside, weather permitting, or in room 116 prior to club meeting.
  6. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm
- Minutes prepared by Jenny Gruber