

NH Prescribed Fire Council Minutes

November 20, 2014

Attendees: Arin, Chase, Wendy, Jim, Tom, Dave Walker, Terry Gallagher (USFS), Ralph Perrin (Air Quality, USFS), Kevin Benesca (GMNF)

Agenda

- ❖ Reading of minutes from previous meeting.
- ❖ Request for Rx news, task book info etc. from Zach
 - Should the guides, task books or burn templates be reviewed?
 - Bring changes but be specific
 - Email members on nhprescribefire.org about these changes or send to arin.j.mills.nfg@mail.mil
- ❖ Allowing other conservation groups to join the NHPFC
- ❖ Add private contractors to the website with disclaimers
- ❖ The Northern Long Eared Bat issue/updates
- ❖ Training news – Upcoming events / Needs
- ❖ Other new business
 - Getting a rep on the national fire consortium advisory board

Minutes:

Wendy moved to accept the minutes; Jim seconded. Minutes approved.

There was a reintroduction of the committee members for the new attendees.

Requests from Zach

- Zach wants to know who is doing task books
- Zach would also like some good news stories about Rx fire implementation.
- Would like to put them in the fire learning network
- NAFSC newsletter article. (what, where, and how much success has been on these Rx burns) Terry can help with link-up.
- Write articles as a press release, Dave has some video clips about Rx fire.

Burn plans and Conservation Groups

There was a short discussion about the burn plan and the ongoing issue of having the expertise to write these plans. It was suggested that there be more training opportunities so more of these plans can get written.

- Dave walker suggested we contact other conservation groups that are burning and seeing how they are doing.

As far as allowing others on the council website;

- Council should look at the Wisconsin Fire website.
- The EPA has a disclaimer on their website that states “you are leaving their site and that the committee does not endorse any of the individual business”.

The Northern Long Eared Bat

- All indication is that the Fed's will list the NLEB in the beginning of April. The USF&WL are monitoring the situation.
- Leland Prout is the bat specialist for the USFS. Chase suggested inviting Leland to an Rx council meeting and have her speak on this subject.
- Currently there are SOP's being developed for the bat issue.
- BMP's are just getting completed now using information from the Indiana plan.
- Recognize there are some negative effects of timber harvesting and burning
- Avoid pup rearing season when harvesting or burning etc.
To read the proposal, go to the USF&WL website or to the TOA, SAF, and NESAF website, the comment period is closed though.
- The Feds would like to spend \$\$ upfront to try and beat the trend with the population. A great example is the efforts put forth for the NE cottontail. There is a good chance the cottontail will not be listed due to the efforts to create new habitat.

Training News: (Brian Nowell)

Chase Marshall led an Rx 301 course, (Burn Boss)

- A large number of people showed up!

Dave Walker gave a presentation on what the USF&WL have been doing.

The Feds have taken over NECC

- Possibility they can help manage ICS and IQCS

Requests for training

1. Pump and Ignition course

Training opportunities: (Some of these courses are on a rotating schedule)

WMNF

- S-215 Urban interface fire operation
- S-310 implementation
- S-341 Rx burn plan writing (3 days) have an area in mind!
- S-410 smoke management
- June 3rd – Fire refresher
- June 24th – Fire refresher
- Sept. 15-19 – Squad Boss training
- Prescribed Fire planning (S-340 & S-341), one week for each course.

! Interagency Cooperation and Coordination REMINDER!

Chase will help write burn plans for DRED and F&G as sites get identified.

Meeting adjourned @ 11:45