

NH Prescribe Fire Council Meeting Minutes
December 3rd, 2015 9:00 – 12pm
Alton, NH

Attendees: Andy Fast, Tom Natale, Chase Marshall, Arin Mills, Sabrina Stanwood, Jeff Lougee, Steve Najjar, John Kneely, Adele Fenwick, Jim Oehler, Wendy Weisiger

Minutes: Minutes from the 8/26/2015 meeting were accepted.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Listservs:

Oehler reported back to the group on his findings for potential Listservs. His choice is Freelist.org which is for science and technology users. After some discussion the group decided to have **Oehler** ask Freelist for access and start a listerv for the group as a trial. **Marshall** also suggested that the new shared position, Center Manager, might be able to also provide this resource and suggests we invite Molly Campbell to our next meeting. The group can then meet her and discuss options and other business such as tracking prescribed burns.

2. Letter to NH Division of Forests and Lands

A draft letter to NHDFL from the Rx Council was circulated at the meeting after some overnight revisions. Due to some complications with each member signing the letter, it was decided it would go out under the Chair's signature only. A few minor edits were made to the letter.

MOTION: Oehler motions to accept the letter as amended

2nd – **Fast**

Abstentions – **Stanwood** and **Najjar**

Approved

Weisiger will make amendments and recirculate the final draft to the council members.

3. Vice Chair

While absent from the last meeting, the council ruthlessly voted **Marshall** in as vice chair. He subsequently read the minutes and replaced himself on the council with **Kneely**. This precipitated another vote at this meeting in which **Kneely** (slight arm twisting) was voted in as the vice chair.

Kneely will start as vice chair at the next meeting.

MOTION: Lougee moved to elect Kneely as vice chair on the Council.

2nd – **Stanwood**

APPROVED

4. Adele Fenwick

Fenwick will replace Steve **Eisenhauer** as UNH representative on the Rx Council. She is currently a UNH PhD student working in the field of fire ecology under Dr. Mark Ducey. **Fenwick** introduced herself to the group and offered that she is open to suggestions for a final project and looking for help by technicians on her field work and grant funding sources. She is focusing on red pine and oak regeneration and fire regimes.

5. Review of Publications

Fast brings this up partially because his agency is responsible for maintaining up-to-date publications on the UNH Cooperative Extension website. He asks that members think about a reasonable regular interval to review our resources and update. Please think about this for the next meeting and bring suggestions: <http://extension.unh.edu/New-Hampshire-Prescribed-Fire-Council>

6. Fall Roundup

Several members shared their burn events from this fall with the group. TNC burned several properties including the SPNHF Harmon Preserve. Whites completed burns in two units. **Kneely** mentioned how helpful the MOU has been with getting resources out on burns. They were able to facilitate burns on Army Corps land and NHFG land. Army Corps finally got their first fire on the ground this year in 4 small units. **Najjar** burned almost 200 acres this year and mentions that the Council is working well for him in connecting with burns.

7. Other:

Marshall would like to see the Rx Fire Council drive the discussion about what trainings are needed. This discussion will be added to the next meeting's agenda.

Fast suggests we write a "success story" about how well things are working with the Rx fire Council. Fortunately, he also offered to write this and get input from the partners. This could prove very useful in discussions with DRED and other partner agencies. **Oehler** additionally suggested this also be posted as a blog on the Extension website. Furthermore, it could be a blog on partner websites as well.

8. Joel Carlson and Northeast Forest & Fire Management

The Council invited Joel to attend a meeting and have a site visit on a potential project to get a better understanding of what his services are and how private landowners might utilize them. Joel brought along two of his staff, Kate Sullivan, Natural Resource Management Specialist, and Mark Teixeira, Senior Fire Management Specialist.

Joel recommends that the Council interface with Massachusetts on trainings as their Division of Fish and Wildlife has been ramping up burning on their lands. He also highly recommends members attend the RX510 course held annually in Tucson for its extremely high-level information.

Joel shared with the group his business structure, how he can facilitate burns and his company's expertise and services. He also brought pamphlets and pens (great swag!).

A rough summary:

Joel is a certified TSP through NRCS and licensed forester. NRCS is funding fire in other states (*something the Council might think to address in NH*) He has several qualified staff for writing burn plans and implementing burns (2 Type II Burn Bosses). He has equipment resources but not the full cadre of equipment as he typically involves resources from other partners and towns when implementing burns. His clients include mostly state, federal, NGO and municipalities. His services are geared to ecological management with some (few) fuel management goals.

It was a good discussion of their capabilities and how they might be helpful in NH.

At 11am the indoor meeting was closed and most members joined the field visit to the Morse Preserve in Alton where SPNHF is managing former agricultural blueberry lands for early successional habitat and would like to get fire on the ground. It snowed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by **Wendy Weisiger, Chair**

Next meeting date TBD through Google poll.