

NH Prescribe Fire Council DRAFT Meeting Minutes October 18, 2017 9:00 – 12pm National Guard Regional Training Center Pembroke, NH

Attendees: Arin Mills, Lisa Landry, Wendy Weisiger, Jim Oehler, Zach Boyajian, Steve Najjar, Josh Cook

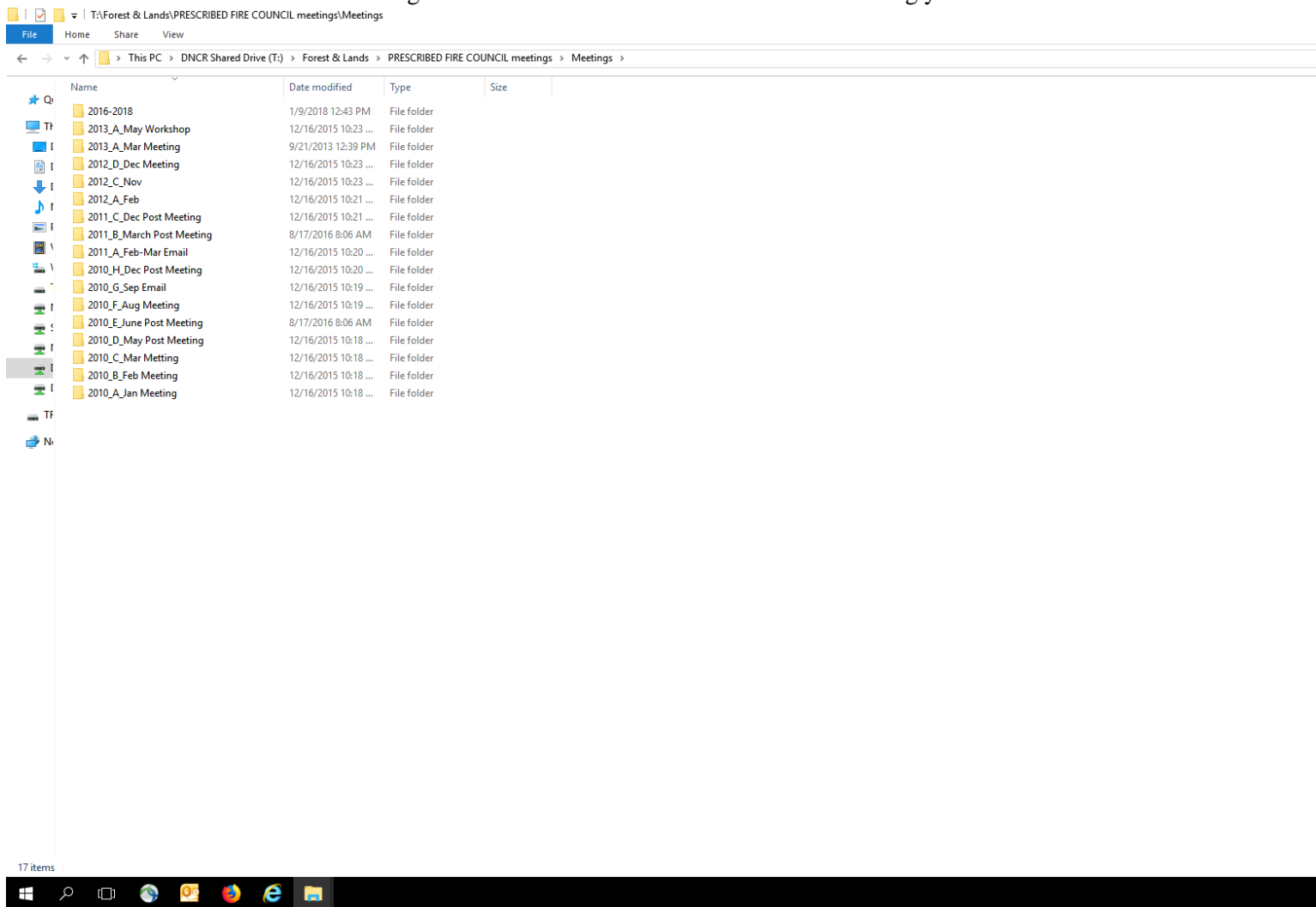
Najjar adjourned meeting at 9:15am.

Minutes: Najjar did a vocal overview of minutes from previous meeting, Oehler made the motion to approve, Boyajian seconded motion, motion passed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. **E-Files** Najjar asked where e-files are kept (e.g. minutes). The website is the official place for final documents. Najjar will email Andy Fast to ask about file disposition and if e-files exist. Everyone should look to see if there are gaps/missing meeting minutes. Is the Interagency agreement on the website?

Forests & Lands e-files have the meeting minutes and other documents from the following years:



2. **RX Burn update:**

- Boyajian—2 burns, 1 burn of 2 units in Pembroke in August (grass with pitch pine overstory) and burned Concord in spring). Very successful burn, meeting objectives, knocked back the scrub oak and getting the duff down.
- Oehler—Heidi Holman is planning to burn this fall (on F&G lands around Concord). Would like to burn Blue Job and have until mid-Nov. to burn. The class VI road at Blue Job is not conducive to a spring burn. Planning to burn 13 acres, do fire line prep next week, then burn. Heidi Holman is looking to burn F&G lands around Concord. Oehler borrow UTVs from Najjar. Would like to burn more, but need access

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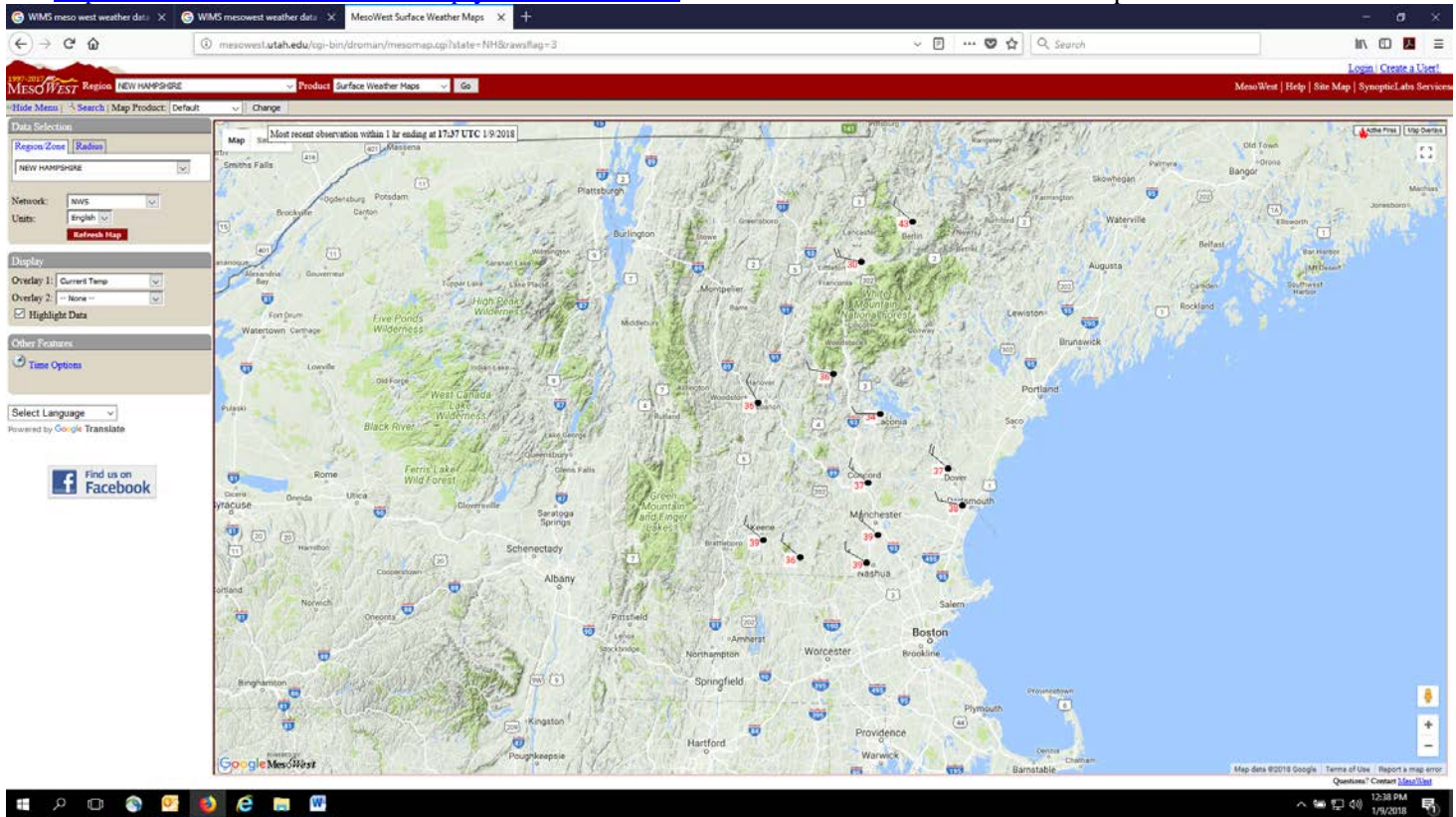
to burn bosses, currently rely on Captain Bryan Nowell who is a burn boss. Need more state employees that are burn bosses.

- Delegation of Authority—Najjar and Neely are burn bosses. Oehler should look into drafting a letter that authorizes the delegation of authority so F&G can use those resources. Get pool of RXB2's who are willing, with delegation of authority letter. Boyajian will send a copy of the delegation of authority to Oehler. Make sure the burn addresses conversion and state law.
 - Weisiger SPNHF—TNC oversaw a burn on Harmon preserve. Bronto'd and burned approximately 100 acres that are being maintained as pine barrens. Managing 150 acres—high graded it and left pitch pine.
 - Forests & Lands, Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR)—none
 - New Boston Airforce station—couple of grasslands this spring, also will do Robie Hill. Had a lot of dry standing and dead, low moisture content, so stopped fall burning, may try to burn this spring. For resources who would like to assist with burns here—for non-federal partners (or federal partners with permanent ID), send in visitor access application—after that initial background check, have 2 forms of ID. Need to have Real ID (passport or enhanced license)in Feb. 2018. Read application form for directions. Najjar will email out.
3. **Monitoring**—Mills gave a ppt. presentation on vegetative monitoring techniques, Mills went to training because there was a need for more repeatable methods. The goals of the training program were to 1) monitor vegetative response to Rx and 2) show progress. Mills will email the ppt and a handout that she created titled “NHARNG Vegetation Monitoring Handbook.” Weisiger offered to lend metal detector to assist locating plot pins.
4. **NH F&G Grants**—Reviewed a proposal to add prescribed burning to NHFG small grants program. Discussion on draft standard, proposed and maximum allowable funding. Every unit is different and there are variations on the complexity and fuel types (grassland vs. scrub oak). Weisiger suggested if meet a certain standard then it is a certain \$ amount, and if meet another standard, then a different \$ amount (to try to capture complexities. Could do a \$ based on fuels and terrain. Concern about how to ensure that Rx standards are met is to have them apply for funding for a burn plan, then make sure that it meets our standards. Then they apply for funding for a burn.
- Sand plain grassland and pine barrens restoration nongame program grant application—Oehler briefly discussed his work with Holman and asked for ideas for match. Thinking about using 15 acres in Concord and 25 acres in Pembroke and some acres at Pine River for potential future Rx burns.

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5. **Weather Monitoring**—Boyajian discussed MesoWest web site

<http://mesowest.utah.edu/html/help/yourweather.html> which has data from the Concord airport.



Landry also has weather data that she will send around. Hourly weather forecast graph is available too.

6. **Training**—none discussed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by **Sabrina Stanwood, Forests & Lands, DNCR**

Next meeting date tdb