

**NH Prescribe Fire Council Meeting Minutes**  
**May 30<sup>th</sup> 2018 9:00 – 12pm**  
**USFS HQ, Campton**

Attendees: Steve Najjar, Mike Crawford, Andy Fast, Lisa Landry, Jim Oehler, Ralph Perron, Zach Boyajian  
Kelly Boland (guest), Patrick Johnson

Minutes: no review of past minutes

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**1. NRCS, Kelly Boland: Potential NRCS Funding for Rx Fire**

Kelly joined us because of our interest in trying to get NRCS to fund Rx Fire again. It's her understanding that most of the problem was from NRSC having to de-obligate funds due to practices not being implemented. Rick Ellsmore is open to discussing our needs and how this might work again.

-Najjar – there are really only 2 vendors who provide the service now (Joel Carlson and Fire Management Services)

-Crawford – TNC is looking at a new model “Trex” Training Exchange. This is a 2-week model to train partners to burn as a crew, work on ask books, etc.

Oehler – Brad Simpkins has also talked about that model for the Compact.

Najjar – there isn't a standard burn plan for NH

Boland – there are TSPs in other states who are qualified to write burn plans. She doesn't know if there are any in NH

Weisiger – feels we need funding to cover the burn plan and implementation, not just prep (already covered under EQIP for habitat work)

Boland – any funding would require a practice to happen within year 1

-VT and MASS both get Rx Burn money from NRCS

Najjar – 1 - Burn plans have an expiration & 2 -It may not work to have to do a practice in year one because prepping burns need to happen immediately before a burn.

Weisiger – can the NHRx be a vetting group for proposed projects?

Boland – NRCS vets through the ranking system from a series of questions

Fast – inquired about tow-behind burning equipment and if that would be a more efficient and accessible way to burn some areas like fields and blueberries. (discussion ensued)

Boland – Does NHRX have focus areas they can provide for fire needs?

Oehler – suggested that the Rx Council can certainly put that together.

Crawford – Burn Bosses and Line Bosses & equipment are the biggest limiting factors

Boyajian – brought up the trouble we have been having with DNCR to sign task books

Boland – will talk with Rick Ellsmore and Don Keirstead and some other biologists and get back to us.

**2. Burning Round-Up (Weisiger may not have done a great job summarizing this)**

Landry (DES)– mentioned we had 2 ozone exceedances at the summit of Washington

-recent exceedance in Londonderry intensified from the NOX emissions from Canadian fires

Boyajian (NHNG) – NHACC Annual Meeting – Barbara Richter is interested in posters for the meeting.

Zach will try to get the Rx Council posters to that meeting

-Planning to burn in Pembroke this fall

Oehler (NHFG)- Blue Job burned. They had good fire effects, good crew, but didn't cover as much area as they'd hoped.

Wendy (SPNHF) – no burning this year

Fast (UNHCE) – Burned in Gilford

Andy would like to partner with GSDSAF to put on a fall workshop in Gilford at Kimball Forest.  
This would be ½ day inside and ½ day outside.

Crawford (TNC) – S130/190 training coming up

-they want to be ready to burn in early August

-they have more than 100 acres planned for burning in the pine barrens in Ossipee

Forest Service – burned 11 units for ~150-175 acres before NELB shut-down

Najjar (USAF) – burned 32 acres on 2 units. Nothing more planned for this year

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

Next meeting date 9/19/2018 @ 9am – 12pm (Google poll should go out to check 19 or 26<sup>th</sup>)

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