

NH Prescribed Fire Council
Thursday, June 25, 2020 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Via Zoom Video Conferencing

Attendees: Zack Boyajian, Chair (NH Military Affairs and Veterans Services), Michael Crawford, vice-chair (TNC), Rebecca DiGirolomo (UNH Coop Extension), Steven Junkin (Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forest), Jeff Lougee (TNC), Mitch Lazarz(USFS, White Mountain NF), Tom Brightman (NH Fish and Game), Bryan Gallagher (NY DEC, NE Fire Compact Rx Fire Coordination Subcommittee) Lindsay Silva (USFS, NE Fire Compact RX Fire Coordination Subcommittee) Kathleen Errington (NHDES Air Resources), Tom Trask (NH DNCR), William Nichols (NH Natural Heritage Bureau), Jonathan Stober (USDA), Henry Jones (NH Fish and Game), Katherine Salvatore , Tom Natale (NHDNCR Forest Management)

AGENDA:

Minutes: Review and approval of April 1, 2020 meeting minutes

Opportunities to Improve our Rx Fire or Other Land Stewardship Capacity – Follow Up

Subcommittee researched potential crew options through the Lakes Region Conservation Corps Program. TNC will not apply for additional AmeriCorps Members due to budget constraints. NH Fish and Game considered AmeriCorps Members as well but couldn't bring it to fruition. The subcommittee plans to reconvene to determine and evaluate new options.

Potential for Sharing a Type 6 engine – Follow Up – Mike Crawford Subcommittee continues to review options for a shared Type 6 option for the council. Steve Sherman is continuing to look into Federal Excess Personal Property Program for a vehicle. A vehicle obtained through FEPP would need to be housed with an agency that responds to wildfires. Mike Crawford will communicate with Freedom, Madison and Center Ossipee Fire Departments to determine interest in fire departments housing/maintaining a shared resource. Both NH DNCR and NH Fish and Game have cache trailers that are available to council members. NHARNG will be receiving 2, Type 6 engines that may be available to assist on Rx burns. Zack Boyajian requested to be part of the subcommittee to discuss options and the NHARNG type 6 engines.

Mitch Lazarz USFS-Conserving Biodiversity in the White Mountain National Forest of NH through Modeling Suitability and Current Distribution of Fire-Dependent Red Pine Rocky Ridge Forest Community

Natural Red Pine is at risk of local extinction. Red Pine Communities are an important source of biodiversity and are classified in NH as an Exemplary Natural Community. Red pine community is fire dependent-moderate fire every 20-40 years, stand replacement every 150 years. Lazarz started his research by doing presence/absence sampling to identify study area. Modeling methods included deterministic suitability, logistic regression and maxent. Conclusions- logistic regression and maxent are best to find suitability, both show best indicators of red pine occurrence is slope position, distance to indigenous sites and lighting point density. More datasets are needed to find the strongest indicators. Rx fire and resource use fires are a great way to benefit and maintain the red pine community.

Lindsay Silva USFS NE Fire Compact Rx Fire Coordination Subcommittee Lindsay Silva and Bryan Gallagher joined the meeting to discuss the purpose of the regional subcommittee. NE Fire Compact is attempting to get a survey of all the land management agency's in the region that are using fire, who wants to use fire and what resources they have or need. The subcommittee will review fire programs throughout the northeast to determine resource and training needs. The subcommittee wanted

to learn from the NH Rx Council, how the council was formed, successes, challenges and recommendations.

NH Rx Council was formed mainly as a liability need for surrounding agencies and organizations. NH challenges discussed include education and outreach to community, members workload and ability to focus on council, training and investment in participants, and burning on private and town land. Solutions discussed include a Story Map to tell the history of rx fire in NH, working with surrounding community to determine additional areas to burn, "Learn and Burn" for towns and public, improve council website capabilities to share presentations and videos.

Zack Boyajian volunteered to be a liaison to the NE Fire Coordination Subcommittee

Cohesive Strategy and Regional Rx Council Coordinating Group Larry Mastic, NE Region Cohesive Strategy Committee Coordinator Groups intent is to increase and improve regional communication and coordination of Prescribed Fire Councils in the northeast region. Cohesive Strategy Vision: To safely and effectively extinguish fire, when needed; use fire where allowable; manage our natural resources; and as a Nation, live with wildland fire. Priorities for the Northeast Regional Cohesive Strategy include updating LANDFIRE data, establish a regional wildfire risk assessment and planning group, prescribed fire coordination, engage local fire departments, resource sharing and availability and foster communications with partners involved. A regional Rx fire coordination work group was developed a few years ago to help foster collaboration, engage and coordinate with partners, develop beneficial communications, develop outreach messages, and promote community workshops.

A survey will be sent around to all Rx Councils, please respond by mid-July. Survey will focus on finding common limitations, obstacles, and areas to improve.

Round Table: Agency Rx Burn Season Plans and Training Opportunities

- NHARNG has a few units to burn this fall- approximately 2 acres
- State may burn a small area on Green Mountain near fire tower
- TNC will not burn this season due to COVID and will take the opportunity to plan and prepare for following year
- Rebecca DiGirolomo (UNH Coop Extension) presented the idea of creating an internal map of priority burn areas throughout the state
- NH Fish and Game is working on a plan for Karner Blue
- Forest Service is not conducting prescribed fire at this time

Action Items:

- **Additional Resources Subcommittee will meet prior to the next meeting. Invite Zack to group**
- **Zack and Rebecca will work together to update the Councils website. Zack will send an optional invite to all council members to participate**
- **Improve Capacity Subcommittee to reconvene to discuss additional options or direction**
- **Zack sent out Regional Council framework- Council members should share feedback to Zack**

Next Meeting: September 15th 9:00-12:00, Location TBD

Approved 9/15/2020