

NH Prescribed Fire Council
Tuesday September 15, 2020 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Via Zoom Video Conferencing

Attendance: Steve Junkin, Heidi Holman, Zack Boyajian, Rebecca DiGirolomo, Ralph Perron, Tom Trask, Kathleen Errington, Brad Simpkins (attended meeting late).

AGENDA WITH STEVE JUNKIN'S NOTES:

1. **Review and approve June meeting minutes** Approved
2. **Potential for Sharing a Type 6 engine – Follow Up – Mike Crawford or Steve Sherman**
 - Zach, Mike and Steve met and talked about the research done. Excess equipment from towns? Not much interest when towns were asked. Freedom initially but selectman were worried about responsibilities. National Guard sending Zach two type 6 engines, the concern is the number of folks that would be trained for using these. Would need to be licensed to use it. Zach will be attempting to use them often to keep in good shape. Bear Brook has some state resources. Tom spoke with Mike about the engine he was also told Freedom was working on a way to provide storage.
3. **Shared Mapping of Rx Fire project areas Rebecca DiGirolomo UNHH Cooperative Extension**
 - Rebecca showed her mapping program. Using survey data collected since 2017.
 - Council members can add to the database of priority areas that they would like to implement prescribed fire.
 - To enter their properties it's a simple Survey 123 program that runs through a list of questions that then populates the map
 - Zach mentioned that this tool may also be of usefulness to NHB/NHFG for fire dependent natural community mapping purposes.
 - Rebecca will share the questionnaire with the group and we may set up a committee to work on this further. The group thought this was a positive initiative to move forward with
4. **NE Regional Prescribed Fire council Working Group Questionnaire, Zack Boyajian,**
 - Trying to increase coordination between the councils, consider what would make your council grow and what are the limitations to growing your council,
 - Zack provided some thoughts...common limitations to start the council Zach thought that if we had a formal funding mechanism that might help such as non-profit status.
 - General lack of resources
 - How can we add new members?
 - Ralph Perron said that Jon Neely worked hard on the council "charter" document. Bureaucracy comes into play. New WMNF Forest Supervisor Derek Ibarguan.
 - Maybe to bring more folks in like a town would be to make a "Rx Fire process document" that is simplified.
 - Category 4 permit to burn blueberries
 - NERCCG
 - North East Compact
 - Fire Science Network
5. **New Initiatives?**

- Mapping that Rebecca has proposed
- Air quality initiatives. Kathleen doesn't have any new state initiatives. Kathleen mentioned that the west coast fires have impacted our skies, but our PM numbers have stayed low. Hoping that these PMs will stay aloft. Overall air quality this summer have been good because the ozone levels are low. Ralph said that Milwaukee is projecting that fire will soon begin being implemented this fall but logistics still need to be ironed out.
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6. Round Table: Agency Rx Burn Season Plans and Training Opportunities

- Rx Fire intern reaching out to fire departments but will also reach out to council members as well to get their numbers for the year. She will send out an email to get this information. If council members could talk with her via zoom for 5 minutes to talk about what we do because she has been in a bubble working on this project, not being able to get out on a burn to see personally.
- Strafford NH private landowner looking to burn. Burn 4 acres, old field management, burn for blueberries and a meadow. Tom Trask says that Strafford is very interested in doing training burns.
- Grafton county farm land, manage for oak using fire – Jon Neely looked at the site, good opportunities, looking for people to do research projects and other partners, use site as a public outreach tool.
- Brad Simpkins jumped on the call late. Introduced himself in his new role. Fire and Aviation branch of the US Forest Service. Does a lot with grants, wildfire reduction grants, Rx Fire use, provide grants for training. Forest Service liaison for and with FEMA.
- Heidi doesn't have anything planned but did put together a burn plan for Concord Pine Barrens?
- Center Ossipee wants do a training burn, its very remote, lots of fire danger at the moment so might not happen
- Zach is the only one to attempt to do a burn this year. Burn plan in place in Pembroke, plan has been signed and Cat 4 permit ready to go. Conditions are very dry right now, may wait until rain is in the forecast and burn just before that comes. Looking for rakers to help do burn lines the next couple days.
- TRAINING?
 - Remote training is about it that Zack can think of. NY Rx Fire Incident Management Academy was going to hold trainings. Formal training offered at National Guard providing cooperative agreement training but it was limited in its abilities and numbers.
 - Fire Behave program might be a future training.
 - Rx Burner Planner Training might be good to hold
 - Brad said there is a webinar North Atlantic Fire Exchange – how to write a burn plan. Rebecca did this one hour training. It was recorded so is available to anyone to participate.

7. Select Next Meeting Date/Location

- Early to mid December, doodle poll forthcoming

Approved At NH Prescribed Fire Council Meeting December 14, 2020