

# NH Prescribed Fire Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 13, 2012

9:00 – 12:00

White Mountain National Forest Headquarters

Campton, NH

Present: Jim Oehler, Lisa Landry, Zachary Boyajian, Arin Mills, , Chase Marshall, Jeff Lougee, Brian Nowell, Stephen Najjar, Andy Fast

- MOU (Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement)The council conducted a general review of the agreement including the following:
  - When referencing Planning for Prescribed Burning in New Hampshire we should ensure the reference is for the most recent version.
  - The Aircraft Section should contains some general language that the all aircraft and associated personnel should meet the Lead Agency's standards or policies
  - When council members get legal review provide documentation to other members. This may help support their efforts.
  - DRED agreed to get Attorney General's Review for the state of NH.
  - Discussion of the providing a way to update principle contact in the event personnel change.
  - Discussion of required federal clauses regarding text messaging and use of other communication devises.
  - The effective period of the agreement should be 5 years from the date of the last signature.
  - If a council member doesn't sign can they still participate? It would depend on the lead agency and if any other agreements are in place.
  - Andy Fast asked about private land owners accessing the resources of the agreement? It didn't appear that other entities would be able to use the extended resources of the agreement.
  - If Forest Wardens and their agents are present no Fire Permit is needed.
  - Does it becomes a regulatory or educational effort to bring private and municipal entities to meet the standards in the Planning for Prescribed fire in NH.
  - Additional Focus on Education is needed. Can include prescribe fire awareness in DRED warden training and semi-annual fall weekend training.
  - Andy Fast may have resources to support additional outreach.
  - Chase Marshall US Forest Service has a Northeast State and Private fuel specialist.
  - Cooperative extension will take lead on outreach. Possibly centered on the Ossipee Pine Barrens area.

- Training Needs (the following training needs were identified)
  - S-234 Ignitions operations
  - S-231 Engine Boss (Forest Service Priority) No date set
  - S-215 Wildland Urban interface (Forest Service Priority)
  - S-212 Chainsaw (Need a place with lots of trees that can be cut 2 per student)
  - S-248 Status check in coordinator (Being offer by US Forest Service)
  - US Forest Service also offering engine boss refresher
  - S-133 Look up, look down, look around (Usually offered with S-131)
  - S-211 Portable pumps and water use
  - RX- 301 and 341 Prescribe fire implementation and Prescribed burn plan preparation
  - S-290 Intermediate fire Behavior (available on line)
  - All members agreed that if they hosted a course to let other members know and get info to the secretary for inclusion in the website calendar
  
- Training and Events update (Burn windows)
  - Forest Service March-May 5-6 units available understory fuel reduction
  - Fish and Game Concord Pine Barrens both spring and late summer, Seavey Island August-September
  - TNC Ossipee Pine Barrens August-September, Maine Kennibunk Plains dormant season grasslands
  - New Boston March –Spetember
  - Pine River State Forest Hazard Mitigation, no agreement in place yet to execute
  - Discussion regarding a prescribed fire crew call list. We decided to use e-mail of primary contact of council members.
  - Please send e-mail after updates of agency training calendars to the secretary to allow update of website calendar
  - Tall Timbers Research institute is planning a Northeast Conference “restoring fire Regimes on Northern Temperate Ecosystomes October 27-31, 2013 Hyannis MA
  - RX planning software webinars are being planning by commercial consultant
  
- Update on using IQS for tracking NH Rx burn positions
  - Eglin Air Force Base holds Air Force records.
  - Council adopted use of modified version of IQCS Personnel qualification and experience form
  - Submit form at the end of the year will any additional training completed, and experience you have received. Provide back up documentation Training Certificates, Task Books, other as available.
  - Discussion about # of incidences. The lead agency should create the incident # and then distribute to cooperators.

- Ossipee Pine Barrens presentation by Jeff Lougee
  - Contact Jeff if you want details of his presentation
  - Use of UVM Field Naturalist program for summer field season data collection
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- Task Books: NH Fire Leader I and NH Fire Leader II – Zack B.
  - Chase Marshall mentions that we may need to clarify what qualifications the federal partners and TNC who are on PMS 310-1 need to have to sign off on these task books.
  - John Meister comments that it might be better if positions mirrored NWCG where RxB2 is a lower level position than RxB1. NHRXL1 is currently a lower position than NHRXL2. Recommendation is to change position titles to mirror NWCG. The Rx Council Guide will need to be amended to reflect this change in the position titles. Decision is to change NHRXL2 to NHRXB2 and NHRXL1 to NHRXB3.
  - Tom Natale makes motion to accept Task Books and John Meister seconds.
  - All are in favor and Task Books are adopted. Some small edits need to be made and those will be forwarded to Zack before they get posted to the council's website.
- Interagency MOU Review – Jeff L.
  - A number of comments were taken on MOU.
  - Some partners will require some language regarding use of aircraft. Use federal language as template.
  - TNC legal and fire management staff had a number of comments and suggested additions. Jeff sent email around with those comments. Folks should review.
  - Jeff has notes on his paper copy of MOU and will incorporate changes and send out for another round of reviews.
  - Once Rx council members are good with language, DRED will take to state attorney generals office for the review. As such, NHFG and NHANG will not take it to their attorney general rep.
- Roundtable News from Rx Fire Council Members
  - Lisa Landry – Air Quality
    - Regional Haze Rule SIP mid course review in 2013
  - Bryan Nowell DRED Forest and Lands Rules Public Comment Period

Items to address at next meeting

- Hopefully final review of Cooperative Fire Protection agreement prior to signature
- Working with and encouraging landowners to utilize planning document
- Additional Training Coordination
- Burn Schedule

Jim will send Doodle to ID date for next meeting – sometime in FEB for March meeting