

NH Prescribed Fire Council Minutes

May 29, 2014

Attendees: Zack, Arin, Chase, Wendy, Jim, Erin Lange, Andy, Shaun, Tom

Agenda

- 1.) Reading of minutes from previous meeting.
- 2.) Erin Lange from USFS to present on North Atlantic Fire Science Consortium,(NAFSC) and the Joint Fire Science Program, (JFSP)
- 3.) Possible visit to the National Guard site
- 4.) Interagency cooperation on coordination
- 5.) Public Awareness Campaign
- 6.) Other new business.

Minutes: Wendy moved to accept the minutes; Andy seconded. Minutes approved.

Vice Chair: Andy made the motion to elect Wendy Weisiger as vice chair of the New Hampshire Prescribed Fire Council, (NHPFC). All were in favor and so approved. Tom Natale was moved from vice chair to chair of the council.

Andy reviewed the meeting he and Jeff went for the North Atlantic Fire Science Consortium. The Consortium will take requests for projects and will then develop a regional fire plan, (RFP) and then apply for money to implement.

- Their prospective comes from an ecological approach.
- They identify a need.
- They synthesize the material and make it accessible to people.
- They look to get a college or university to take on the project.
- They continual look to get more funding for these projects from various sources such as grants from the Joint Fire Science Program.

NH Army National Guard

Zach & Erin will lead a tour of the NG Reserve after the noon break.

Interagency Cooperation and Coordination

Needs:

- Burns: At this point, National Guard burns will not take place until the fall.
 - o One of their units is in a scrub oak – pitch pine barren.
- Jim would like to burn other areas on F&G properties. Heidi will reportedly help Jim develop the burn plans for these areas.
- Wendy would like to burn 70 ac. Of the Morse Preserve in Alton.
- New Boston Air Station has an aggressive burn plan and is hoping for more burns this fall.
- Chase will help write burn plans for DRED and F&G is sites get identified.

On the ground: 'The Chase report'

- The Forest Service hired 4 dedicated seasonals for their fire season.
- To date, the FS has burned 147 ac. this spring and plans to burn one 40ac. and one 60ac. unit in Warren within the next couple of weeks.
- The FS burned a 40 ac. unit along the Kancamagus Highway received a fair amount of publicity. Est. cost at this point for the 'Kanc' burn was \$450/ac. Chase will send out a spreadsheet that will help prioritize by cost what area to burn.

Training opportunities:

WMNF

- Urban interface (S-215) fire operation
- June 3rd – Fire refresher
- June 24th – Fire refresher
- Sept. 15-19 – Squad Boss training
- Prescribed Fire planning (S-340 & S-341), one week for each course.

Public Awareness:

- Need to update the NHPFC website
- Andy had a request from an individual to burn a private field
- NHPFC posters were at the Wild NH Day at F&G
- Zach suggested lending the posters out to the WMNF, SPNHF, Urban Forestry Center, F&G etc. so we get some mileage out of them.
- Get the NRCS on board for prescribed burns for early successional / young forest habitat. (send an invite to come to one of our meetings)
- VT & MA would like to attend one of meetings, (need specific contact names)
- There is a desire for some prescribed burning at Locke's Hill fire tower. Chase suggested contacting the Research Station in Durham.

Next Agenda:

- How to allow other conservation groups to join the NHPFC; could it be done by addendum and would the by-laws have to be changed?
- Update the council website?
- Add private contractors to the council website w/ disclaimers?
- Jim will present the results of the Northeast Regional Survey taken a several months ago.

Next meeting is:

September 25, 2014 is at The USFS building in Campton, NH; 9:00 am