

NH Prescribe Fire Council Meeting Minutes
August 26th, 2015 9:00 – 12pm
Conservation Center, Concord, NH

Attendees: Andy Fast, Tom Natale, Bryan Nowell, Zachary Boyajian, Arin Mills, Sabrina Stanwood, Jeff Lougee, Lisa Landry, Jim Oehler, Wendy Weisiger

Minutes: Minutes from the 4/16/2015 meeting were accepted with one minor edit.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. State Resources:

Bryan Nowell joined the first half of the meeting to address our previous question regarding the **State's fire resources:**

- *South of the Lakes Region:*
 - 4 Rangers and 1 Patrolman meet Rx fitness level
 - 3 Engines: Type 6, 7, and 4 (holds 5 passengers) – all are equipped with needed supplies and tools
- *North of Lakes Region:*
 - 1 Ranger and 1 Seasonal Patrolman
 - 3 Engines
- Portable Weather Station
- Fuel Sticks
- Duff Moisture Meter (Jeff Lougee has it)
- State capabilities lie mostly on the implementation side
- Trying to do a Burn Plan Writing Course (the State and Feds run this together with Chris O'Brien before the end of 2015)

Bryan also updated us that the combined Dispatch position is up and running and he's hoping the State will have a new dispatch position as well.

Discussion ensued about the lack of qualified Burn Plan Writers in NH. We discussed ways of making our own members more capable of burning on our own lands. This led to a discussion about the State starting to "own" burning again on their own lands.

MOTION:

The Council send a letter to Brad Simpkins and Ken Desmarais asking that a % of the new Central Region Forester position have a prescribed fire focus and duty to implement fire management plans on State lands. Examples: Pine River, Blue Job, and Bear Brook. (Oehler moved and Lougee 2nd)
Motion passes with one abstention (Stanwood)

-Weisiger will draft a letter and members will all sign at the next council meeting.

2. Baseline Rx Fire Data Collection Project:

Fast talked with **Nowell** and it was determined that the position could be housed in Concord. Rangers can help, but cannot be the primary project oversight. We're still looking for someone to oversee this project. **Landry** suggested we all oversee different portions of the project and share responsibilities that way. **Fast** can shop this out to Faculty at UNH looking for students for a senior project, extra credit, undergrad project, or independent study.

-will need an e-mail distribution list for the Fire Wardens. **Lund** might have this? **Landry** may have some lists. Brad's assistant, Rhonda Perry, may have some lists as well.

3. Next Year's Focus for the Council

-One issue has been e-mail communications. Outlook limits e-mail recipients to 100 people so that makes it harder to send out burn notices and such. **Oehler** offered to look into Listservs for us. A request to send out meeting dates via "Outlook Meeting Request" was made.

-How do we get more inter-agency cooperation? **Boyajian** suggests more educational field trips. Lougee reminds us that we've already made great progress. What we can do better:

1. What expertise or capacity do others around the table have that we need?
2. We should reach out to each other more
3. Perhaps we can communicate what's happening with each other more
4. Communicate what our needs are with each other

*Can we invite contractors to meet with the Rx Fire Council?

-**Weisiger** will set up a meeting with a fire contractor to talk to the Rx Council and walk a potential project site.

Workshop Potential:

*Fire Effect Monitoring Techniques: **Mills** is struggling to find good methods to monitor if objectives have been met for fires. **Lougee** has a good simplified approach and will share his methods. Offered to teach a workshop on his methods and perhaps roll that into an afternoon walk with licensed foresters. USFS staff might also have input for this.

4. New Chair

There was discussion about our next chair and who that might be. The seat is currently vacant and typically the vice chair takes the meeting minutes. The attending group decided to approach **Chase Marshall** to see if he'd be willing to take the seat next.

Minutes respectfully submitted by **Wendy Weisiger**

Next meeting date TBD through Google poll and potential for a contractor visit.