

**NH Prescribed Fire Council Meeting Minutes**  
**February, 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 0900-1200**  
**USFS Campton, NH**

Attendees: John Neely, Lisa Landry, Dave Walker, Andy Fast, Jim Oehler, Wendy Weisiger, Bryan Nowell, Steve Najjar, Zack Boyajian, Tony Davis, Aliesha Black (State of Maine), Jon Bailey (TNC Maine), Chris O'Brien (USFS Maine).

Minutes: Minutes from the 12/03/2015 meeting were accepted.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

**1. Topics from last meeting:**

Listserve is working well for the group. If there are additional people who should be on the list, forward emails to J. Oehler. It would be nice to keep a list just for rx council members to cover operational issues like availability during burn season etc. but managing more than one server is a lot of work. At some point Northeastern Coordination Center could help group with resource tracking and availability but for now use listserve.

**2. Maine interest in Rx Fire Council:**

3 representatives from Maine attended meeting to observe. They are interested in starting a council. NH Council members suggested pulling in DoD partners and Maine DEP (air resources).

**3. EPA emissions modeling:**

Lisa is checking EPA's data on state acres burned for accuracy. She sees some issues with proportions of acres burned by wildfire vs. rx fire in NH data set. She is trying to figure out where they get their numbers from. There is a need to get a better tracking system for private acres rx burned and for wildfire acres. One issue is two types of rx permits- day vs. night, night may not be tracked as well. Also, lots of burns are by fire departments for training and those acres are not tracked. Wildfires are similar with acres burned going unreported from a town level. Bryan said the state is working to improve the reporting system. Lisa will send out additional info on the EPA data process to the group.

**4. Student Internship Update:**

Grant to hire a student to track acres burned during 2014 and 2015 is in place. Student will begin work this season. The person hired will be contacting the agencies for info at some point. Lisa mentioned that DES can meet with student and provide info on how data will be used. Bryan Nowell mentioned there is work space at state offices if needed.

**5. NECC resource tracking and reporting acres:**

J. Neely passed along from NECC that starting the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, the Compact Operations Team will be having weekly calls to brief on local fire and rx activities as well as any needs they may have and resources they have available. This isn't a call everyone can call into, it is only for OPS Team Members. From this call, NECC will develop a way of advising everyone of available resources. J. Neely sent council members an acres reported form for wildfire and rx fire. Members can fill out and send to NECC: [necc.dispatch@gmail.com](mailto:necc.dispatch@gmail.com); [maccampbell@fs.fed.us](mailto:maccampbell@fs.fed.us). NECC Center Manager will attend a future council mtg. as well.

**5. Planned Burn units 2016 and burn bosses**

Agency	# of Units	Fuel type	Town	Acres	Timing
WMNF	4	Grass/Shrub	Stark/Milan	19	Spring/Fall
WMNF	2	Grass/Shrub	Gorham	8	Spring/Fall
WMNF	4	Oak-pine	Wentworth/Warren	53	Spring/Fall
WMNF	2	Red Pine	Benton	14	Spring/Fall
WMNF	1	Red Pine	Maine	15	Spring/Fall
NBAFS	3-5	Grass units	New Boston		Spring/Fall
NBAFS	2-3	Grass /Shrub	New Boston		Late summer/Fall
NBAFS	1	Understory unit	New Boston		Fall
TNC	2-3	PPSOW	Ossipee		Spring/Late summer/Fall
TNC	1	PPSOW	Madison		Spring/Late summer/Fall
NHARNG	3	Grass	Concord	1.5	Spring/Late summer/Fall
NHARNG	3	Slash	Pembroke	4.5	Spring/Late summer/Fall
SPNHF	1	PPSOW	Freedom	25	Spring/Late summer/Fall
FWS	1	Grass	Barrington	20-30	Spring/Late summer/Fall
FWS	1	Oak	Barrington	20-30	Spring/Late summer/Fall
FWS/State of NH	1	Grass	Concord Airport		

Units in the planning stage are: **State of NH-** Pine River SF, Blue Job SP, Joy SF. **UNH Coop Ext-** Town of Gilford.

**7. Update on Central Regional Forester:**

Council sent a letter to the state requesting that new hire have some rx fire background. Rx fire was one of 10 factors the applicants were rated on. Shaun Bresnahan an in-house candidate filled the position. Has been on some rx burns. Jim Oehler believes he will be supportive of rx fire.

**8. Training Needs and potential classes:**

The group discussed what is needed for future training. It was generally agreed that on the job experience and signatures on taskbooks would be most valuable. Zack has an RxB3 book open. NH F&G has an employee that needs engine boss experience. Have trainees bring books to rx burns and let burn boss know they need training opportunities...

In the future consider attending Rx340 Fire Effects, and Rx 410 Smoke Mgt.

**9. Joint work on partner lands, liability form, and students:**

Group discussed feasibility of burning on private/town land and if council is covered to do that. J. Neely sent out liability form and suggested if landowner signed it that might be enough. J. Neely will follow up

with his leadership to see if that is the case. J. Neely is willing to write rx burn plans and support burning on town lands and Council lands, would request that Council members let him know what the needs are so work can be planned out in advance. Andy Fast has some town property he would like burned. J Neely will assist town of Albany with a burn probably this spring. WMNF is working on securing funding for research on fire adapted natural communities this summer- mostly red pine/jack pine/ red oak.

#### **10. Round Table**

Bryan Nowell- Rt-130 Weds. March 16 at Bear Brook SF. WCTs March/April. Will send info to the group. Tony Davis introduced himself- he is FMO of NPS and FWS's new North Country Fire Mgt. Zone. He has units he wants to burn and will provide info and support to the council soon.

NHARNG- DoD Legacy Grant program is worth looking at for ideas. It is open to DoD partners. He will send out to group.

Next mtg June 2<sup>nd</sup> 0900-1200 New Hampton Fire Station. Bryan Nowell will coordinate.