

NH Prescribed Fire Council
June 27, 2019 Meeting Minutes
9AM Dept. of Natural & Cultural Resources HQ
172 Pembroke Road, Concord NH

Attendees: Jim Oehler, Chair (NH Fish and Game), Zack Boyajian, vice-chair (NH Adjutant General Dept.), Andy Fast (UNH Coop Extension), Lisa Landry (NHDES Air Resources), Kathleen Errington (NHDES Air Resources), Bryan Nowell (NH DNCR Forest Protection), Tom Natale (NHDNCR Forest Management), John Neely (USFS, White Mountain NF), , Steve Sherman (NHDNCR Forest Protection), Steve Najjar (New Boston Air Force Station), Wendy Weisiger (Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forest), Sabrina Stanwood (NH Natural Heritage Bureau)

AGENDA:

- **Introductions:** Lisa Landry announced her retirement and that she was out processing later that day. She introduced Kathleen Errington who would replace her on the council.
- **Minutes:** Minutes from the December 12, 2018 and February 28, 2019 were approved.
- **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and By Laws:** Signing of the MOU is in progress. Only the US Forest Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service remain to sign. It was hopeful that the MOU would be completely execute for the late summer burn season.
- **Statewide Prescribed Fire Use Survey and database:** Andy Fast provided a summary of the statewide prescribed burn survey that was conducted for 2018. We are still unsure whether we are capturing all of the burning. Should we use additional terms to describe various types of burning to collect different types of burning that may not be captured. The question of “Is there a way to scale up burning?” was discussed. 2018 number of burns was down 50%. This is possibly due to wet weather. The Council agreed there was a desire to keep the survey effort going. Andy agreed to continue the effort. He will pursue how to get better reporting. Possibly though use of new applications. Steve Sherman state he could relay the need for collecting this information and report along with other pertinent information to the Municipal Fire Chief’s Association.
- **Forest Protection Bureau Small Grant Program:** Steve Sherman provided information regarding applications submitted for the Wildland Fire Hazardous Fuel Reduction Funds Small Grant program. The grant program is available to municipalities up to \$2499 for prescribed burning/fuels reduction activities. It is a 50/50 match and applications were due June 1st 2019. Only 3 applications were received and only 1 proposed executing a prescribed burn. After discussion it was recommended that the grant application deadline be extended and it be sent out again. The funds expire in September 2020. We should include land trust as possible recipients. Also discussed distributing it through NH Association of Conservation Commissions. The three grant application received were from Eaton, Hebron and Hanover. Zack Boyajian made a motion to recommend awarding the Eaton grant application. John Neely and Steve Najjar abstained. 5 Yes Votes. Zero No Votes. The motion passed.
- **The Nature Conservancy Wildland Fire Risk Reduction Grant:** Jim Oehler provide information for Jeff Lougee. TNC was awarded the grant they applied for. They will receive \$150,000 in Federal Funds over three years. The grant will support prescribed fire and mechanical treatment on TNC preserves in Ossipee, Madison and Freedom Town Forests, training of volunteers and Natural Heritage Bureau fire dependent community mapping.

- **Grant investigation Subcommittee**

Jim provide an update of the grant subcommittee discussion. It was suggested that the council or some subgroup try to pursue a grant to support seasonal crew who would do multiple task including prescribe fire implementation, preparation and monitoring. Other land management tasks might be incorporated. The Forest Guild and Americorp have provided modules like this. Discussion about how to develop the grant proposal. It was suggested we invite a group that has used one of these sources to learn what they did and what was successful to the next council meeting. There was one in the lakes region this year.

* Next meeting September 26 2019. Proposed location in Guilford

Meeting adjourned 12:05PM

Respectfully Submitted, Zachary Boyajian, Vice-chair