NH Prescribed Fire Council  
Wednesday March 17th 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Via Zoom Video Conferencing

Attendees: Zack Boyajian, Chair (NH Military Affairs and Veterans Services), Michael Crawford, vice-chair (TNC), Rebecca DiGirolomo (UNH Coop Extension), Steven Junkin (Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forest), Kathleen Errington (NHDES Air Resources), Henry Jones (NH Fish and Game), John Neely (US Forest Service), Heidi Holman (NH Fish and Game), Chris Kane (Natural Heritage), Parker Schuerman (SELT), Steve Najjar (USSF), Steve Sherman (DNCR),

AGENDA:

1. **Review and approval Dec 2020 meeting minutes**

2. **Regional Rx working groups update – Zack Boyajian DMAVS**
   - Relaxing some standards
   - States looking at liability issues closely. Examples provided where this is working.
   - Coalition of Rx Fire Councils Leaders meeting – ramp up communication between states and councils to leverage knowledge and info and potential coordination. Maine has a council now that is close by. Are using NH’s system of standards and quals. Massachusetts thinking about starting a council.
   - Zach reinitiating the training standard subcommittee in early April
     - Heidi Holman, John Neely, Tom Trask
     - Check nearby states training standards
     - Jen sent NH Rx Council specific firefighters: 14 total being tracked.
       1. Try and make an effort to move some of the FFT2’s into more leadership roles. Steve Sherman is signing off on taskbooks when they are submitted to him and certified through his agency.
       2. Steve Sherman is going provide names of people on the list, maybe build out a more comprehensive list including more agencies.
       3. Every season agencies to provide Council list of folks working on taskbooks so opportunities can be provided on burns.
   - Private contractor discussion. Steve Sherman is not comfortable signing off on training of these types of folks. John Neely thinks if someone is interested that they come with us on burn. Consulting Foresters are interested but see the many hurdles to burning as a deterrent. Some training opportunities or workshops for foresters could be one way to gain enthusiasm. A forester in VT helped Zack with a management plan given a heavy lean on burning and maintaining the habitat there.

3. **Shared Type 6 engine – Mike Crawford TNC, Tom Trask FPB**
   - Would be able to share a engine so long as it’s a secondary engine.
   - Still need to find a good type 6 engine or a base vehicle which might take a year or more
   - This is helping towards making resources more available. State – TNC – Local Fire Department (Center Ossipee) joint venture MOU agreement for sharing this piece of equipment.
   - Mike thinks having a town like Center Ossipee come on the council or other Council burn

4. **Rx Council Mapping sub-committee - Rebecca DiGirolomo UNHCE**
   - First provided an outline and overview
   - Forest Service may be interested to collaborate to make a public map
• First of the three items Priority Rx Burn Site, Equipment Resources and Human Resources - Council agrees  
• Discussion of history and completion of burns as a way to track areas managed  
• Polygon or Point? – can’t do both  
• Need to confirm whether we can use one single log-in using UNH’s credentials.  
• Next step to create a prototype  
• John Neely to share tracking tool used on the Forest  
• Jeff Lougee created a dashboard for Ossipee that could be shared at next Council meeting

5. NH Association of Conservation Commission Lunch and Learn January 27, 2021 Follow up - Zack Boyajian DMAVS
   • Really well attended over 60 folks.  
   • Host a workshop for towns to develop preliminary planning. Mapping, basic prescriptions.  
   • Consider asking someone to come onto the Rx Council from NHACC.  
   • Zack will ask the Dept of Justice to talk about liabilities, state liabilities, related to Rx Fire.  
   • This was recorded so can be viewed later, Rebecca will send around to the Council

6. Fire Dependent communities mapping – NHNHB
   • 2 year grant to pursue a refinement of mapping fire dependent and natural communities in NH.  
   • Comparing on the ground mapping data with TNC’s spatial data.  
   • Developing a description of communities  
   • Project is still evolving and will have more to share in the future.

7. Round Table: Agency Rx Burn Season Plans and Training Opportunities
   • SELT has been identifying fire adaptive sites for possible future fire management  
   • TNC has 3 burn units in the Ossipee Pine Barrens and 1 unit in Pine River State Forest planned for late summer early fall. TNC is working on getting 2020 S-130/190 students through the field day and will not be hosting S-130 in 2021.  
   • Fish and Game is waiting to see if partners are available in the spring. May hold off on burning until late summer early fall.  
   • Forest Service has the green light to burn this year. Eaten Town unit, slash burning research burn in Bartlett and wildlife openings. Training- S-130/190, pack test and refreshers in spring.  
   • USSF–Several units available for the spring, folks are welcome if trained to NWCG standards.  
   • NHARNG planning to burn this spring. S-130/190 training for employees.

8. Select Next Meeting Date/Location
   June-date TBD Zack will send a doodle poll focusing on the 2nd week in June.