

MINUTES  
New Mexico Prescribed Fire Council  
July 15, 2010

ATTENDEES: Kent Reid, Les Dhesaleer, Doug Boykin, Jeremy Krueger, Donald Greigo, Ernie Watson, Darryl Wilson, Lisa Bye, Brian Henington, Tandy Wheeler, Daniel Denipah, Eytan Krasilovsky, Laura McCarthy

Meeting called to order by Kent Reid at 10:10 AM.

Agenda accepted without modification.

Kent led an hour-long discussion of the By-Laws Draft of July 10, 2010. Following is a summary of the decisions to modify these sections:

Article 2.1 Decision to retain “Purpose” as the title of this section.

Article 3.2 Decision to retain fee language and to launch the Council with annual fees of \$0.

Article 3.4 Decision to specify the Steering Committee size as at least 9 members and no more than 13 members to ensure diversity of organizations represented. The discussion centered on how to avoid government agency dominance of the steering committee and the desire for strong private landowner representation. Draft language was modified by deleting the suggested list of groups to be included on the steering committee and by specifying the need to balance government and non-governmental representation. BIA was considered a government entity; however, tribal governments were not counted as such.

Article 3.6 Decision to retain the requirement that Steering Committee members notify the chair in writing (e.g. by email) if they cannot attend a meeting and if they wish to designate an alternate to attend in their place.

Article 4.1 Decision to separate the duties of Secretary and Treasurer into two positions.

Article 4.6 Decision to edit this section for clarity and consistency with other sections.

Article 6.1 Decision to allow the Steering Committee to recommend amendment of the by-laws to the membership by simple majority vote.

Motion to accept the By-Laws as amended was made by Doug Boykin and seconded by Jeremy Krueger. All present voted aye to accept the By-Laws as amended.

Election of Officers: Chair, Kent Reid; Vice-Chair, Les Dhaseleer; Secretary, Doug Boykin; Treasurer, Jeremy Krueger.

Nine organizations present agreed to be represented on the Steering Committee as follows:

1. Kent Reid, New Mexico Forest Restoration Institute/ New Mexico Highlands University

2. Les Dhaseleer, Vermejo Park Ranch
3. Doug Boykin, New Mexico State Forestry
4. Brian Henington, State Land Office
5. Lisa Bye, BLM (representing Department of the Interior Agencies)
6. Ernie Watson, BIA, Navajo
7. Daniel Denipah, Santa Clara Pueblo
8. Laura McCarthy, The Nature Conservancy
9. Orlando Romero, Forest Guild

Several follow-up actions were discussed in order to further diversify the representation of groups on the Steering Committee:

Brian will contact two landowners, Jim Thorpe and Sid Goodloe.

Doug will contact Doug Cram at NM State University.

Kent will contact Bill Armstrong to see if he wants to represent the US Forest Service.

If all accept, the Steering Committee will have 13 members and the balance described in the by-laws.

After the above discussion, Laura passed the acting secretary role to Doug to complete minutes for this meeting.

#### Work Plan Elements (General *Discussion*)

1) Engagement in Smoke Management Rule Revision: If the council would have been in place before the recent Smoke Management rules revision started, it would have been beneficial to the process. The Council could have assisted by:

- Helping to get the Public to the Public meetings,
- Be more engaged in language changes when terminologies change,
- Be more of an advocate for RX fire,
- Review and provide proposed changes from the RX Council
- Chair elect would receive white papers from the Smoke Management Rule Revision Committee and forward to the Rx steering committee for feedback and comment to the chair of the RX steering committee for feed back to the Smoke Management Rule Revision Committee

2) Increase private landowner engagement in fire policy discussions and membership in Rx Council.

- Work to get a list from Claudia Standish of ED of private landowners who utilize RX fire and have applied for permits.
- Find other private landowners who are engaged and passionate about RX fire and get them involved.
- Develop a survey to contact and engage these landowners and determine needs, etc,
- Would require funding and follow up
- Purpose would be to determine general perceptions of RX fire and to compile data /needed info to help implement actual RX fire projects.

3) Improve NM Laws to support RX Fire.

- Work on right to burn legislation (example passed out from Georgia RX Burn Act)
- Work to increase public perception and tolerance,
- Will take a lot of work
- 1<sup>st</sup> step would be to build the RX council to full membership
- 2<sup>nd</sup> step is to develop relationships with legislators and political appointees to support such an Act.
- Liability is a huge issue
- Would require us to develop a set of agreed to guidelines between all the agencies for implementation.
- How would contractors be certified and by whom?
- Qualifications, Liabilities, Insurance, etc.
- There are lots of burners that have the skill but are not qualified on paper (NWCG certifications).

We need to get our ducks in row to accomplish this. Until then, we need to work on ways to collect workable data that supports RX. Survey current practitioners on needs, issues, fears, liabilities, etc, possible link somewhere with the SW Fire Consortium to pool resources.

First Steps. It was suggested that we have a NM RX Fire Council kick off meeting to explain current organization, explain future needs of the organization and what is needed to make it viable, and then ask everyone to attend a short breakout meeting to discuss and come up with action items on the above 3 listed work areas. A Steering Committee member other than one of the 4 officers would be selected to be sub-committee chairs and to start working on doable reasonable goals and objectives for year 1.

The agenda would be something like this:

- Intro
- Current organizational structure and needs.
- Vision and mission statement development (would need a facilitator for this)
- Overall strategies
- Other steps
- Current scope of work

Doug will set up a conference call for 0900 on 9/23/10 and send call info to Kent for dissemination.

We will have a face to face meeting on 10/7/10 9 (Brian and Kent to secure location)

Actual kickoff meeting would be 10/21/10, Donald Griego suggested at the ABQ Fire Academy on the west side of ABQ (Donald will check).

Other needs:

- Flyer to announce the kick off meeting
- Facilitators(s) for the kick off meeting.