



New Mexico Prescribed Fire Council
2018 Annual Meeting Minutes
Socorro County Annex
November 29, 2018



10:00 – 10:20 a.m. Welcome & Activities of NM Rx Fire Council in 2018 Don Kearny, Chairman
Called to order at 10:10 by Chairman Kearney. See sign in sheet for attendance. Gave quick review of facilities. Thank you for help and partnership. Pointed out the new Rx fire incident organization poster that can be posted on the Rx trailer. Discussed closeout of old CFRP grant with South Central RC&D; talked about new CFRP grant that Council received this year. Gravitas Peak Fire Mod will be working with Council to implement this grant. AFF grant with FSG - status? Rx fire trailer was used in Taos, Vermejo Park, as well as other areas, currently living in Santa Fe. Have been gathering various supplies from partnering agencies (drip torches, PPE, etc.) to keep the trailer stocked. TRENX participation: Taos TRENX did not get burn conditions; Malpais Burn – Bluewater fire delayed this one; did burn some piles, but did not accomplish all the goals; Luera Retro did not happen due to politics; looking for other TRENX's and burns. One Rx fire workshop at Mora NWR with other partnerships; field day was to be east of Wagon Mound; did not do actual burn but rather a walk thru b/c of Mora County burn ban; Did tour of Greg Moore's place; great work on his place. D. Cram and NMSU is still looking for opportunities for workshops around Corona 2019. Summary: promote more workshops; encourage formation of burn associations; implement CRRP grant; and work on legislation that supports continued use of Rx fire in NM.

10:20 – 11:00 NM TRENX Activities Dave Lasky & Emily Hohman
Dave presented PowerPoint. Emily talked about activities around Chama. Eytan and Dave talked about All Hands/All Lands work as well as Rio Grande Watershed Landscape work in north central NM. Outstanding work is being done by an amazing group of people working to implement meaningful restoration on a landscape scale. Barriers to implementation were discussed, future opportunities were discussed.

11:00 – 11:20 2018 NM Rx Fire Council CFRP Presentation Rx Fire Council & GNF Staff
Dave Lasky gave presentation; all board members need to be familiar with the goals and objectives of this grant and plans for implementation.

11:20 – 11:30 Break

11:30 – 12:00 Smoke Issues and Predictive Services Rich Naden
Outstanding presentation from Rich as always. General prediction is for a wetter and cooler winter than last year. Possibility for weak July/August rainy season in 2019. A variation of the traditional El Nino has evolved over the last 10 years that is both warmer and dryer than what we expected in the late 80's and 90's. We can expect a decent fine fuel component, primary in the west and southern parts of the state as these areas may see more moisture than the rest of the state. As far as the smoke, nothing really has changed; follow the guidelines; access the web site as needed; call him when you have questions. Showed example of burn registration on web site; talked about the critical information needed, how to click on links and registration.

12:00 – 1:15 Lunch - on your own

1:15 – 1:45 NMSU Activities to promote Rx Fire Doug Cram
Presentation titled: Rx Fire – Working on Private Lands in NM. Presentation describing past and future opportunities for Rx fire in private land in New Mexico.

1:45 – 2:15 Private Property Activities/ BLM Projects/Vermejo Park Projects

2:15 – 2:25 Forest Steward Guild Activities Forest Steward Guild Staff
All Hands/All Lands activity report; have started utilizing HEPA smoke filters for Rx fire smoke mitigation

2019 Legislature is a 60 session so bills other than budgetary things can be introduced.

Four objectives and strategies for NM Rx Fire Legislation:

- 1. We need a statement in Legislature on public benefits and purpose of prescribed burning; ideally a statement that talks about ecology, landscape resilience, community protection, water source protection and wildlife benefit;*
- 2. We need to become a gross negligence state to enable people to burn with the knowledge that they have that level of protection.*
- 3. We need a right-to-burn law on the books where private landowners and their agents have a right to burn and the state shall issue permits with reasonable conditions*
- 4. We need to establish clear public benefits of prescribed burning on the private lands so that state agencies and municipalities consistently interpret the anti-donation clause to allow assistance to landowners conducting prescribed burns.*

Suggestions:

- Push legislation for # 1 and # 4; Expand # 4 to talk about ecology and effects of Rx burning, how the anti-donation clause effects/slows down work*
- Beef # 4 up to make it the primary focus*
- Find a couple of legislators who would be willing to carry this forward as house and senate bills*
- 2016 Memorial was generic; it may be time to expand it a little more; bring in more specifics (certified burner, standard burn plans, etc.); we need to clarify future needs as well as goals and objectives in a new memorial or in an actual legislation*
- Another call is scheduled; is there support from the Council to move forward and support this? Eytan and Emily will follow up with the council after the meeting*
- Dave's comments: What standard of burner is qualified? NWCG is not attainable for most folk; Form a trade association; Provide quals then you can get insurance; Councils are C3, Trade associations are C4; Standards are what an insurance companies need*
- What is the third way/option? Self-certification by Burn association? Some landowners are producers, so that it is considered a farm/ranch activity and Rx is then considered part of the daily operations on that ownership. On-line training course, and then attend a one day workshop*

2:50 – 4:00 Rx Fire Council Business Meeting

- 1. Approve minutes from October meeting - motion by Fred; second by Tim; approved*
- 2. Treasure's Report - no change from past meeting, \$850.57 in general account; \$379.12 in trailer fund*
- 3. Schedule Meeting for Dec 2018 - Wednesday, December 19, 2018, 1330 – 1500; Socorro County Annex; Regular meetings will be third Wednesday of month.*
- 4. Approve Purchase of Liability Insurance - Eytan makes a motion; Tim second; motion carries*
- 5. Approve Mike Caggiano's draft contract for CFRP Admin work – Boykin motion; Tim second; motion carries*
- 6. Elect Board Members and Executive Board for 2019 - Current Executive Board: Don Kearny - Chair; Vacant - Vice Chair; Doug Boykin - Secretary; Tim Kirkpatrick - Treasurer; Board Members: Dave Lasky - Gravitas Peak; Doug Cram - NMSU; Emily Holman - CPLA; Eytan Krasilovsky - FSG; Jacob Davidson - NM G&F; Lisa Bye - BLM; Mary Stuever - NMSF; Mark Meyers - NMSLO; Mike Caggiano - CSU; Kent Reid - NMF&WRI. Discussion: Land Grant representation; tribal representation, landowner; acequia representation; representation from all these groups would be good. Current members will reach out between now and the December meeting to see if there are other groups who want to participate. For example: NRCS, BLM, USFS, Cattle Growers, Air Quality, etc. Will hold off election/finalization until the January Meeting. We can also start using the Webinar version of the conference call system so that remote participants can see the presentations, discussion. Mary nominated Emily as vice chair, Tim seconded, all approved, Don agreed to serve another one-year term. Tim agreed to serve as treasure for one more year. Boykin status is changing, going from NMSF to retired person, and can serve for one more year. Emily will serve out the remaining term for Rick and then we will finalize the board of directors and executive board at the next meeting.*
- 7. Wildland /Urban Fire Summit - Tim: feedback from the Association of Counties (now called New Mexico Counties) is that the summit is not that viable. Change to four regional meetings; 1-2 day events. Have statewide*

meeting every 3-4 years. Tim will be the representative for the Rx Fire Council as this moves forward. Motion made by Mark Meyers, second by Fred, all approved.

Fred: motion to reimburse Tim for refreshments and drinks for meeting; Russ seconded, motion passed; Costco: \$152.22; Smiths: \$14.75, Total = \$166.97

Besides CFRP, goals for 2019: get landowners involved; make it easier for TREX participants to participate (1-2 days instead of a week or more); work with NMSU on Corona opportunities.

Action Items:

1. Investigate webinar for meetings and presentations
2. Look for additional partners/members
3. Boykin will invoice FSG for Liability Insurance cost after he received policy from insurance agency
4. Finalize Dave Lasky's contract
5. Discuss outcome of 12/4/18 Legislative action meeting

4:00 Adjourn