



New Mexico Prescribed Fire Council Meeting

10 a.m. Wednesday, November 4th, 2015

Cibola NF Conference Room
2113 Osuna Rd. NE, Albuquerque

Minutes

10:00 Welcome, facility briefing, introductions

1. Discussion with Guests

Joe Thompson, Stefan Stathopoulos and Laura McCarthy started off the meeting. Joe has 22 years of experience working with the NM Legislature both as a representative and lobbyist. Gave council advise on how the legislature works and how the council should go about approaching the legislature on topics related to RX fire, such as liability, right to burn laws and goals and objectives. Liability is a significant issue; tort reform is always widely contested by various lawyer groups; discussed the possibility of working on a public policy or state/insurance liability change like Georgia and Florida have in place. Recommending contacting state representatives, developing a memorial for the next session. Also thru contact with the Speaker or other state reps, have the Legislative Council service to do an analysis on current laws related to prescribed fire. Meeting with Reps should be private citizens/ retired member of the council as primary contact with agency folks along for technical assistance.

Action Items: a) Encourage members to contact their state reps, Don and Boykin will visit with Speaker Tripp as per statement above. b). Will request Legislative Council service to do an analysis on current laws related to prescribed fire. c) Complete talking points for 2016 Legislative session booth and have them ready for next meeting so that we can use them in our meetings with Legislators.

2. NM Rx Fire Council business

- a. Donations, bank account, 501c3 status, etc. – After discussion, Tim Kilpatrick stated that he had just completed the process for an organization he is with and will develop a step by step process that we can follow. This was determined due to the fact that getting 501c3 status using the 1023-EZ form on line is pretty straight forward. Boykin and Don will start working on that. Will need a EIN number first to get a bank account, then submit for processing. Also SCM RC&D has provided an agreement for us to review that will allow them to serve as the fiscal agent for the council until we get the 501c3 status done, but they will want 10% in admin fees. Was decided to hold off on the agreement until we see what it will take with the Ex form; discussed getting a cash advance to start the bank account so that we have a way to pay the admin fee.
- b. Draft Logo – was approved, suggestion # 1 – use San Sara Font, more contemporary than the one being used now for the “ NM Prescribed Fire” wording, 2) also wanted a color version and black and white version, 3) make the drip torch bigger, 4) will have to apply for license to use the Zia Symbol (in due time). Boykin will get with Kenny Rodgers to talk about him creating banner with logo, possible bumper stickers (good fire prevents bad fire), we can use funds from the CFRP grant for some of these cost once we get that all set up.

3. Old Business

- a. Website update – to do list: to encourage membership and build landowner support, build an application/membership list on the website so that we can contact everyone and would assist in contacting State Representatives/Senators. Create a link to the western landowner alliance. A membership list would also be helpful if we could separate private members & agency members for mailings.
- b. CFRP Grant status/update – Mike Caggliano; grant able to be spent according to CFRP budget, need to finalize the list of Rx materials for the Rx trailer (**agenda item for next meeting**)
- c. AAR for Capitan area workshop – logistics were perfect, 68–72 present, building acoustic was ok, but not great, if we could get a portable PA, that will be very helpful, questions asked were hard to hear for everyone else in the room, add to the noxious weeds presentation some info on how Rx fire benefits wildlife & livestock. Specific examples of burn plans may be helpful; another session for just burn plan development may be good. See attached participant survey (22 submitted) put together by Mike Caggliano. One issue brought up was - can landowner be involved in management actions taken on a natural start on their property - in reference to Gray Ranch/ Malpai Borderlands. Idea is that a landowner probably needs to have some form of fire/land management plan in place to allow fire use otherwise full suppression will take place. Can work with the local district of NM SF to get this in place. Lots of talk on county burn bans and how these burn bans can limit a chance for Rx opportunity at the right time of year. Need to work on measures that will allow waivers, etc. to be sure that escapes do not happen. This could be tasked to the various EMO's involved with the Council. Another topic was - what is a successful Rx fire is and what is the criteria. Representation was good; diverse crowd, from landowners, county commissioners, agency staff, etc. Starting at 0900 was good; gave more time for the presenters, another 30 minutes or an hour would not have been detrimental; Q&A was good. Food was outstanding. Next workshop - sign in sheet needs to be bigger so we can read the names, address and correct e-mails.
- d. Rx Council display 2016 NM Legislature - Julia Anne and Cliff will finalize our talking points and booth design for review for the next meeting. NM True is ok to use. Pam has a lot of pictures to use. Cliff is going to build a presentation that can loop on either a bid screen or a laptop that shows pictures and videos but also our talking points. Working on banner and handouts.

4. New Business

Start planning workshop with Malpai Borderlands Group/AZ Rx Council in SW NM/SE AZ; tentatively scheduled for 2/18/16 at the Chihuahua Desert Museum, 2-3 miles north of Rodeo. Boykin will work with the MBG contacts to arrange meals, logistics, will need to coordinate with AZ Rx folks to build in time for their presentations and information because AZ laws and policies are different than NM.

12:30 Dismissal; next meeting December 10 at 10:00 a.m. at Socorro County Annex

Attachment 1

I entered the results of the workshop participant survey and crunched the numbers this weekend. I know some of you are attending a meeting in Santa Fe and thought this might be helpful. We had approx. 20 surveys turned back into us after the workshop (30% response rate). I started exploring the data and here are a few of the findings distilled down into bullet points. If anyone wants I can share the hard copy surveys or more specific numbers. It will be interesting to compare this with the results for the various workshops across the state. Please feel free to share this with anyone you think would like to know.

- Overall the presentations were informative
- Improving habitat was the primary reason participants came to the workshop
- Participants more interested in learning about Rx fire efforts in the community than using it on their own land
- 1) Lack of insurance and liability, and 2) local laws, were biggest obstacles to participants using Rx fire
- Uncooperative neighbors are the smallest obstacle to participants using Rx fire
- Participants are more supportive of Rx fire in their community than they are of using it on their own land
- The workshop increased participant's support levels of using Rx fire in the community
- The workshop increased participant's support levels of using Rx fire on their own
- Before the workshop 45% of participants had high levels of support for using Rx fire on their land
- After the workshop 65% of participants had high levels of support for using Rx fire on their land
- 40% of participants use fire to manage their land
- 80% of participants would like to use Rx fire to manage their land
- 90% of participants interested in pile burning
- 60% of participants interested in broadcast burning
- The majority of the participants were interested in using Rx fire on rangeland or in PJ