**Michigan Rx Fire Council - Steering Committee Meeting**

**June 8, 2016**

**Meeting Minutes**

MUCC Building

2101 Wood St. Lansing, MI 48912

Conference Call #: (605)562-0020 Passcode: 871-156-920#

**1000- Welcome, Introductions**

In person: Dan Laux, Dennis Irelan, Ryan Koziatek, Anna Mitterling, Ryan Koziatek, Andy Henriksen

On phone: Jack McGowan-Stinski, Dave Borneman, Steve Nurse

**Topics for Discussion:**

* **Welcome (RYAN)**
* **LSFSC Events (JACK)**
  + **July 27th - FEIS in the Lake States –** webinar hosted by LSFC, App, and Oakwoodlands. Updates on the FEIS. 2 folks from USFS heavily involved in updates. 1P EST. Info up on LSFC website.
* **Workshops (JACK)**
  + **Oak barrens monitoring and management plan development July 21st (tentative)** on hold due to budget issues. Not July 21st, date to be determined.
  + **GVSU** doing another S130-190 15-19 August at PCCI. Students pay registration, but facility fees only for other students. Pass it on is you have folks who need that class. No option to just do one field day as it’s not compressed into the singular day. Starts at 9A on 15th. No info out yet, but when it is we’ll put it up on our website. List Jack as contact. Facilities fee is about $330, but not firm price.
* **Illinois Fire Needs Assessment 2016 (JACK)**
  + **MI has an old FNA. Time for a new?**

Jack hasn’t had time to track it down, it should be at MI TNC office. Put out PDF of powerpoint and the maps at least. Background data et al we do not yet have in our hands. Put it out for review and discussion for other meetings. WI just finished an FNA a few years back. The maps and process are available online. Highlighted in a few places. We’ll get the old one out on the website, see if we need to update it, get a tasker out to MPFC membership to review.

* + **For review and future discussion:** <http://static1.1.sqspcdn.com/static/f/1437373/26895444/1457108306857/IL-FNA-2016.pdf?token=npMFKS3TK%2Bh%2BXjyFwnIjw0GvIZE%3D>
* **Staff Ride & MI Firemen’s Memorial Festival - 15-18 September (RYAN/CHRIS P?)** – Steve will follow up with Chris to determine if we’re doing this, what help he needs from us on it, and Steve will report out what we need after he talks with Chris.
* **MPFC tasks for 2015/2016 (Continued Group Discussion)** do we need a survey? Do we need a micro-working group? Strategies to get more energy into the fire council. Garnering new members. Are they interested in being a part? If not, is there someone else who is? What other organizations do we need to participate? NPS? USFWS? Past list of participating organizations. How do we manage the broad swath of ecology that our state has? Getting UP involved. Having regional committees to address differences. Having smaller events in different locales might help to address that. Regions need to source their own stuff. What would benefit them? How can we help them? Working on internal communications would benefit us. How much Rx Fire is done in the UP? DNR did 8 or 9 burns this year, mostly for wildlife and some slash reduction/opening maintenance. 200-500 acre burns. Ryan will sit down with interested stakeholders in the UP and will coordinate it so he can get the skinny on what they need/want. Might need an agency person or two to help carry the message. Ryan will work with Chris and Dan to get it done (keep Andy in the loop, too, and he can make some contacts for them). Greg Corace from USFWS should be included. Marquette would be good locale for that meeting.
* **First Ohio Prescribed Fire Council Meeting (DAVE)** Attended on 1 June, gave talk about burning on public and private lands. Cut off attendance at 75 people and they were packed. Did his best to represent the council in Michigan. History, challenges and opportunities. Rx Fire certification issues. Woodland burning is controversial. Their participation is a different beast. Fit OH into our annual meeting about their limitations in woodland burning. National Association of Fire Council is still active, but Mark Melvin’s email bounced back to Dave Borneman.OH heavily focused on grassland burning. Ryan will include Dave’s information regarding this event with our meeting minutes
* **Annual Meeting (RYAN/ALL)** Some replies to the date change. 29-30 Sept and 20-21 Oct. Lee can’t make either of those. Only received doodle responses from six folks. Ryan will send it out one more time. One more week for responses. Choose 15 June. Official subcommittee not officially set up. Put it in the subject line when it is sent out. Michele, Jack, Dave, Ryan, Dennis in.

Location – Michele has her issues with food at the Library, KNC feels more comfortable per Dave. 70-90 attendees. Jack had mentioned Ed Lowe Foundation, will check in to cost. There is a field trip on site. Not try to do a burn given the logistics of doing it. KNC or Ed Lowe. Ed Lowe 2017, KNC 2016.

Topics

Dan Dey, tools, operations and climate change, fire ecology and fire effects. Fire and invasives no-go with Marian. Celeste might have someone for invasives and fire effects. OPFC fit in as a panel or a stand-alone talk. Invite other state’s fire councils regionally and have a panel discussion. Jack will talk IN, WI and IL, Dave will check with OH. Jack will check with Dan Dey and see if one of the dates work better than the others for him. Dave will see if Lars or Grese would be interested in having Dey speak at a University. He does oak restoration and we’ll let him pick. Monitoring and research talk, maybe Jessica Miesel. Pulling something from the firemon workshop they did at end of May. Brian Stearns led it. Might be worth having him come to talk again.

Brian Stearns – monitoring talk

Dan Dey – oak restoration

Regional panel

Celeste – invasives person for presentation

Specific habitat restoration -

Michele will touch base with Stephen Handler at NIACS and see if he has someone with climate and fire that could speak to us.

Second day optional registration. Lower registration rate for both days together. Each one is a separate event. Manage our expectations. Ryan has a couple ideas for site visits. Butternut Creek MS habitat (save this one for the 2017 meeting at Ed Lowe Foundation). FCRA suggested by Dan Laux. Dan will ask Bob and Glenn if they’re willing to lead. Anna said she has some private landowners in the area who have done burns.

Planning call on 6/23 at 9A EST to follow up on taskers from this meeting.

* **Treasurer Nominations (RYAN)** We need a new treasurer. Can we get Lori to be a more visible presence and/or treasurer for us? Ryan will talk to Lori and Michele will talk to JSM to see if there is someone we could fund minimally to take some of Lara’s responsibility.
* **Upcoming Trainings? (RYAN/MICHELE/ALL)**
  + **2017 CRWB** Jack is in with cadre and planning. Try to put on S131 and S133
  + **Continue 130/190 discussion** classroom only full week, lower cost. Potentially doing 130/190 2-day event hosting this fall or next spring. Chris and Darwin could co-chair the training. Ryan will touch base with Chris and Darwin for this training either at FCTC or CG. Steve will warn Chris this convo is coming. Called Crew Boss Academy, but maybe change the nomenclature. Consider doing it at Grayling as an option, broader time window where we can get fire on the ground. Preferred time of year. Michele will find out with Lara would work for her, probably early fall would be best. Michele will talk Chris P about working with CG as a site.
  + **Hosting a landowner specific event** – having a field day/meeting about Rx fire. Anna is willing to take the bulk of the organizational work. Stand alone event 2017 spring/early summer (or even late winter). Anna will come up with topic list and dates, and we’ll get her speakers. CD annual meetings always looking for speakers - we should go talk to them. CD’s with farm bill biologists are a great place to start. Basic intro to prescribed fire for these audiences. Mike Smalligan spoke to MACD in Bay City this week. Contractors would be willing to speak to private landowners. Need to re-up the contractors. Send email out to contractors to see if they still want to be on the list.
* **Additions?** Drones might be an emerging issue in wildland fire. Has impacted structural fire folks. Drones might be a helpful thing, but could also be a hindrance with large aircraft in the airspace. Airspace restrictions and laws…might be a good annual meeting topic. Drone use in fire assessment.

Michigan Interagency Fire Prevention Association meet annually in St. Ignace and it’s well attended. They’re about making sure accidental fire doesn’t happen. Coordinate training efforts with them? (all agency). Setting up a Vendor’s table at Fireman’s Memorial event good outreach. Big fire expo in Midland (lot of equipment, but we’ll see more of southern tier at that one). <http://smafc.org/VendorShowRSVP.php> Michigan Fireman’s Association we could booth at, too.

**1230** – **Adjourn**

Put historical topics from annual meetings up on MPFC website. Jack will get us presentations.

Next meeting 10 August NRCS meeting 3001 Coolidge 1000.