



A Brief History

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2015/2016 MPFC Chair

Burning Issues Workshop, March 1-2, 2017

18 years and counting...

- The Council was formed in 1999 on the recommendation of the Michigan Interagency Wildland Fire Protection Association.
 - Composed of agencies dealing with wildland fires in the State of Michigan.
- The Council included partners from all levels of government, as well as partners from non-governmental organizations and interested private sector individuals.

PAST FIRE HISTORY/LEGISLATION

- 1980 – Mack Lake Fire
- 1995 – Shakey Lakes Burn
- 1995 & 1998 – House Bills No. 4002 and 4049 (Rx Fire Bills)
- 1999 – Senate Bill 981
- 2005 – SB 925
- January, 2017 – HIB 4082

1999

“Prescribed fire is increasingly being used across our State as a management tool on both public and private lands for fuel reduction, ecological maintenance or restoration of natural communities, and training. With this increased use of prescribed fire comes the increased need to address issues such as safety, burning techniques, liability, and public education. Failure to consider these issues could lead to the loss to us all of prescribed fire as a management tool.”

Mission



Protect, conserve and expand the safe use of prescribed fire on the Michigan landscape.

ORGANIZATIONAL BY-LAWS

(RATIFIED NOVEMBER 24, 1999 UPDATED FOR STATEWIDE 2004, AMENDED
WITH ARTICLE VI 2006)

- I: Objectives
- II: Participation
- III: Officers
- IV: Meetings
- V: Amendments
- VI: Training & Certification

Although considered, not a 501(c)(3)

OBJECTIVES

- Promote the safe and responsible use of Rx fire
- Improve public understanding of the benefits
- Promote fire as a natural resource and ecological management tool
- Anticipating Rx fire issues and concerns and suggesting courses of action
- Provide a communication framework for Rx fire objectives, techniques, and issues
- Disseminate technical information

PARTICIPATION

- Participants shall be any agency, organization, corporation, institution, or individual that uses or promotes prescribed fire as a land management tool.
- A Steering Committee was established to guide the organization and to develop position statements and coordinate meetings.
- Officers include: Chair (1 year term, usually rotates between "agency" and "non-agency"), Vice Chair (who becomes Chair in next annual cycle)
 - Treasurer (no time limit)
 - Secretary (no time limit)
 - Need to hire a permanent MPFC Coordinator again...

PARTICIPATION

- US Department of Agriculture – Forest Service
- US Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment – Divisions of Wildlife, Fire Management and Parks and Recreation
- Michigan Association of Conservation Districts
- Michigan United Conservation Clubs
- Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
- Michigan Department of Transportation, Environmental Section
- Michigan Sharp-tailed Grouse Association
- Michigan State Firemen's Association
- Michigan State University
- Michigan United Conservation Clubs
- Kalamazoo Nature Center
- The Nature Conservancy
- Tribal Governments
- Michigan State University Extension
- Grand Valley State University
- City of Ann Arbor

Prescribed Fire Council Statewide Stakeholders meeting

JULY 14, 2004

- There was overwhelming agreement that a State prescribed fire council was needed.
- A Statewide council would have more clout and recognition:
 - a statewide presence would enable the Council to address statewide needs
 - provide guidance for consultant-led burning on private land
 - provides more opportunities for agencies and groups to form alliances in order to advocate for the use of prescribed fire
 - allows for more opportunities to reach out to landowners
 - state agencies can form partnerships with private lands groups and a statewide fire council both could assist in building these partnerships and serve as a partner itself
 - major contemporary issues such as liability and smoke management require a statewide response.

MEETINGS

- At least one Council meeting and two Steering Committee meetings will be held annually
- 2017 - These locations offer conference call capability. We will provide the call-in information prior to each meeting
 - February, April, June, August, October, December
- Written notices of Steering Committee meetings shall be provided to representatives prior to all such meetings. Notice of Steering Committee meetings will include a meeting agenda – website now does this
- Meeting Minutes are Archived and available for review on website

ANNUAL MEETINGS

- One and two day events
- Meeting cancelled in 2016 – otherwise had range of 90 to 190 attendees since 1999
- Tried to combine with other groups a few times....
- Demo burns, hands-on training, & equipment expos
- Professional topics



COMMITTEES

- Annual Meeting
- Education and Outreach: brochure, displays, website, logo
- Training and Certification: course offerings, instructors, certification requirements
- Consultants
- Legislative

Accomplishments

- Informed the formation of other Fire Councils
- Member participation in the development of the MI Smoke Management Plan
- Many coordinated interagency and trainings open to non-agency students
- Support and participation in educational activities of other groups – workshops & presentations

Current & Future Actions

- MPFC Website Update
- MI Fire Needs Assessment review & assessment
- HIB 4082
- CRWB Academy - October 1-11, 2017
- Other trainings
- Intermittent workshops
- Updating of contractor list
- Increased social media presence
- Rx fire blog/forum
- Other as they become evident



Thank you!

www.FireCouncil.org

And now... another passing of the torch.

New MPFC Chair:

Dan Zay – State Biologist, USDA-NRCS