

Greater Santa Fe Fireshed Coalition  
Quarterly meeting  
New Mexico State Library, Pinon Conference Room  
October 18th, 2023, 10:00 – 12:30

Meeting called to order at 10:05

## **Agenda & Notes**

### **Welcome and introductions (Sage)**

- Attendees: Alan Hook, Sandy Hurlocker, Porfirio Chavarria, Mike Feulner, William Joy, Matt Miller, Mori Hensley, Brandon Glenn, Julie Hasty, Teresa Seamster, Gabe Kohler, Esme Cadiente, George Ducker, Erin McElroy, Ariel Patashnik, Sage Mountainflower, Chris Tafoya, Nadav Soroker, Alyssa Mineau

### **Committee updates**

#### **Monitoring and Implementation committee**

- The most recent Monitoring and Implementation meeting took place on 26 SEPT 23.
- There are two planned Prescribed burns in Tesuque.
  - Aspen ranch broadcast burn, 120 acres
  - Pile burn near the village
- Another upcoming pile burn is for the Nature Conservancy pile, Sam Berry of FSG is the burn boss.
  - Sandy is working on a press release.
- North Aztec Springs broadcast burn is postponed for now until 2024, press release to be sent out.
  - Community meeting 13 OCT 23, many folks expressed fear of escaped burns in the surrounding communities.
  - The next Rx in the North Aztec will likely burn present slash piles before the next broadcast burn.
  - There is a need for more coordination amongst Coalition partners for future burns to prevent the public from receiving any mixed messages.
- There is a thinning project in the SFNF beginning this fall.
  - 200 acre thinning project in development.
- There is a need to continue trying to fund monitoring, potential funding avenues have fallen through as some contacts in other organizations have left.
  - Jacob will try to continue to work with others in the FS to get funding.
  - Jacob is meeting with Defenders of Wildlife for field tours.
    - Ortiz Mountain Open Space thinning project for bird conservation
      - This region could potentially be a model for future thinning projects in similar fuel types.
- Sierra Club soil research has a lab at St. John's College for soil sample analysis
  - 120 sampling sites in the SFMLRP
  - Pilot sampling will begin next month, they will check soils in both treated and untreated areas
  - Teresa will send more information to Sage to send out to folks who are interested.

## Communication Committee

- The community meeting on 13 OCT 23 for the North Aztec Public was well attended and gave good feedback.
  - Local newspaper also released an article about the burn on 13 OCT 23
  - This presents an opportunity going forward to discuss with the public the reasons why the burn is postponed, highlighting how agencies adjust timelines when conditions aren't right.
- A week ago, Mori and Jacob both had a radio interview to discuss the burn.
  - Actions like this showcase coordination across our boundaries through the Coalition.
  - There is a need for greater coordination across entities for press releases, as different organizations hold different contact lists, with varying levels of overlap.
- Currently trying to brainstorm ways to give updates to the community in real time.
  - One potential avenue is utilizing the Alert Santa Fe, to quickly notify communities of go/no go decisions.
- Working with FSG on a common folder (Box) to create a common calendar, subject matter expert list, etc.
  - The current goal is to have a presentable shared space for this information by the next quarterly meeting.
- Currently, members are prepping for the Cohesive Strategy Workshop.
  - Sandy, Alyssa, and Jacob will present about the Coalition.

## Executive Committee

- In the previous quarterly meeting, we discussed assembling a group to outline a potential “Executive Committee” to present to the Coalition.
  - In the developmental phase of the proposal, there was much research into how other collaboratives structure their committees, the 232 Cohesive Strategy Partnership as one example.
  - The full committee amendment proposal will be shared after this meeting.
- Attendees discuss some of the justifications for the Executive committee, such as continuity of leadership.
  - Chairs come and go, participation fluctuates, new people join—the Executive committee forms a “collective memory” of the coalition.
- In discussions during the development of the proposal, the team spent much time deliberating on both broad and finer topics, often “getting into the weeds”, and felt that bringing the proposal to the Coalition for feedback would be beneficial in finalizing the document.
- Attendees discussed the dangers of “overengineering” the committee, and express the benefits of keeping the committee flexible, adaptive, and organic—to serve more as “thought leaders.”
- One participant suggests naming the committee the “Steering Committee”, as the name is more partnership directed rather than “corporate.”
- Another suggests “Coordination Committee”, to highlight the collaborative and consensus of the Coalition.
- Attendees discussed the specific responsibilities that could fall under the Executive/Steering/Coordinating committee.

- Generating the annual report.
  - Development of updated Operating Principles
- There is a need for the Operating Principles to be updated and better reflect the Coalition.
  - One attendee suggested the Executive/Steering/Coordinating committee creates an updated document and presents it to the Coalition at a future meeting.
  - The Communications committee helped develop the original Operating Principles back in 2015, and the Operating Principles have not been updated since 2018.
  - One attendee provided a historical perspective on the development of guiding principles and emphasized the importance of reshaping and defining them for the coming years.
- Questions were raised about who is invited to the quarterly meetings, committee participation, voting rights, and the boundaries of involvement.
  - One participant emphasized that agreement on the “why” of the Coalition Mission, rather than the “how,” should be the defining line.
  - Another participant stressed the importance of flexibility in collaborative participation, avoiding excessive rigidity and formality.
  - One attendee emphasized the importance of building relationships, sharing information, and avoiding potentially alienating folks with “sign-ons.”
  - Another questioned why there aren't more wildlife groups involved in the Coalition and highlighted the challenges related to partnership and membership changes due to turnover.
- Discussion centered around setting realistic expectations for collaboration and participation within the coalition.
  - It was recognized that the group lacks the authority to enforce decisions and relies on organization representatives to implement them.
  - Communication was highlighted as a key aspect of effective collaboration.
  - One suggested updating the email list on an annual or biannual basis to ensure continuity of relationships across different organizations.
    - It was proposed that organizations could be asked if they want to remain on the list in the long term.
- Attendance at meetings was considered as a factor that could determine an organization's status as a partner or advisor within the coalition.

### **Cohesive Strategy Workshop**

- The event is expected to host 200-300 participants, including Washington leadership.
- The Guild (FACNM) has assisted in planning the two field tours
  - One tour in Hyde Park and another to SF Municipal Watershed.
  - Each tour includes three sub-sites, with speakers at each.
  - There will be a discussion about the Coalition, the 232 Partnership and collaboration with tribal entities.
  - There will also be discussions on cross-boundary projects, state and federal coordination, and the region's fire history and its impact on fire response.
- There's interest in involving the local press to showcase how the Coalition and cross-boundary coordination are being nationally recognized at this event.
- There is a scholarship available to assist with registration costs.  
 (<https://cohesivestrategyworkshop.org/registration/>)

**Final partner updates**

- Forest and Watershed Health Group is hosting a meeting on 20 OCT 23
- A suggestion was made for more groups to have AARs post-Rx to discuss with outside agencies the things that went right and wrong during their prescribed burns.
  - This collaboration already exists across districts, but there is a need to facilitate these discussions across agencies as well.
  - These collaborations help agencies to continuously improve fire management across the region.

**Adjourn**

- Next meeting: January 17th, 2024.