

Texas Prescribed Burning Board Minutes

West Texas A&M Life Science Building

Canyon, Texas

Thursday, August 15, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Pursuant to a notice posted on August 1, 2024, the Prescribed Burning Board meeting was called to order at 8:00 am. by Chairman Justin Penick. The roll was answered as follows:

Present: Justin Penick, Wayne Pfluger, Dr. Morgan Treadwell, Charles Tatton, Chris Schenck, Mitch Conine, Jason Ellis, Dale Smith, Heather Brister, Dr. Nathan Gill

Absent: Dale Scott, Roxanne Hernandez, Dr. Douglas Tolleson

Guests: Patrick Dudley (TDA), Victoria Rivera (TDA), Danielle Mitchell (TDA), Susan Maldonado (TDA), Andy McCrady (TFS), Heath Starns, Chuck Linton (PBAT), Sean Kelly (SDSU Extension), Pete Bauman (SDSU Extension), Tom Grahmann (PBAT)

The Chair welcomed everyone in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chair laid out the minutes from the meeting held on February 9, 2024, in Bastrop, Texas. Wayne Pfluger made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Morgan Treadwell. The motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF CIPBM APPLICATIONS

The Chair recognized Patrick Dudley to present the Board with any Certified and Insured Prescribed Burn Manager (CIPBM) and/or Lead Burn Instructor (LBI) applications to be considered. After discussion Charles Tatton made a motion to approve Dylan Thompson as a Commercial CIPBM. Jason Ellis seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. Dale Smith made a motion to approve the next applicant Gerardo Salinas contingent upon submitting his training verification and verifying his license type as a Commercial CIPBM instead of a Private CIPBM. Dr. Morgan Treadwell seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Chris Schneck made a motion to approve the last applicant Jared Hall as a Government CIPBM.

Wayne Pfluger seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. After discussion, Chris Schneck made a motion to accept Lee Knox as Lead Burn Instructor contingent upon re-submitting his updated application and watch the previous LBI meeting. Wayne Pfluger seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION RELATING TO FINAL APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO THE APPLICATION FOR CERTIFIED AND INSURED PRESCRIBED BURN MANAGER (PBB-601) AND THE APPLICATION FOR LEAD INSTRUCTOR (PBB-600) COORESPONDING WITH THE RELEASE OF CONTACT INFORMATION.

The board reviewed the recommended changes of the PBB-601 and PBB-600 applications corresponding with the release of contact information. There was a motion by Dale Smith to approve the revisions and to keep formatting consistent between both the PBB-601 and the PBB-600. The motion was seconded by Wayne Pfluger and passed unanimously.

PRESCRIBED BURNING COMMUNITY

The board reviewed the formal request letter drafted by TDA Legal to send to state agencies in an effort for the agencies involved with prescribed burning to work together. Chris Schenck made a motion to accept the letter as written, Dr. Morgan Treadwell seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

UPDATES

Heather Brister with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) informed the board that the new *Outdoor Burning in Texas* manual, which is used in field operations is being updated. The updated *Outdoor Burning in Texas* manual will be made available as soon as updates are completed.

Chris Schenck with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), informed the board he had been selected by TPWD to testify at this summer's special committee hearing investigating this year's Panhandle wildfires. Chris brought the solution of prescribed fire to the committee's attention.

Chris Schenck also began a discussion with regards to a potential lawsuit that could be brought against TPWD regarding an escaped prescribed fire. Chris discussed the event in question and informed the board that TPWD had been given an arson warning by the Texas A&M Forest Service Law Enforcement Division. After discussion, the board asked Jason Ellis, the board's Texas A&M Forest Service representative, if he could reach out to the Law Enforcement Division of the Forest Service and invite them on the board's behalf to the next meeting. Jason agreed to invite the Law Enforcement Division to the next meeting so they could give the board a review of the Texas A&M Forest Service Law Enforcement process and standards.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

MEETING DISCUSSION AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The board reviewed agenda items for the next meeting and discussed times and locations for the next meeting. The board chose to hold the next meeting somewhere on the Texas Coast January 24 at 8:00 am.

AJOURNMENT

With no additional business, Dr. Morgan Treadwell motioned to adjourn the meeting. Charles Tatton seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.