

Texas Prescribed Burning Board Minutes

Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center

San Angelo, Texas

Friday, November 03, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Pursuant to a notice posted on October 23, 2023, the Prescribed Burning Board meeting was called to order at 8:04 am. by Chairman Justin Penick. The roll was answered as follows:

Present: Justin Penick, Dale Scott, Wayne Pfluger, Dr. Morgan Treadwell, Charles Tatton, Chris Schenck, Mitch Conine, Jason Ellis, Dr. Douglas Tolleson, Dale Smith, Roxanne Hernandez, Heather Brister

Absent: Dr. Nathan Gill

Guests: Patrick Dudley (TDA), Victoria Rivera (TDA), Rick Bacon, Danielle Mitchell (TDA), Susan Maldonado (TDA), Angela Lopez (TDA), Ken Weidenfeller (TDA), Loyd Whitehead, Chuck Linton, Grant Teplicek, Sam Jetton, Andy McCrady (TFS), Bobby Schat, and Heath Starns.

The Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. Chair Penick asked Patrick Dudley to swear in the new board member. Dudley administered the oath to Dale Scott.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chair laid out the minutes from the meeting held on May 4, 2023, in Austin, Texas. Wayne Pfluger made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Roxanne Hernandez. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE PROPOSAL TO CREATE AN ADDITIONAL CERTIFIED AND INSURED PRESCRIBED BURN MANAGER CATEGORY

The board discussed a proposal to create an additional CIPBM category which was presented by members of the public. After discussion, the board proposed TDA report back to the full board with a cost analysis for the fees and cost of the prescribed burning program. Chris Schenck made a motion to table the topic for further discussion at the next meeting. Dale Smith seconded the motion, 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 applications to be considered. After discussion Wayne Pfluger made a motion to approve Jared Kartye contingent upon completing his required field day. Jason Ellis seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

The board reviewed the application of Steve Goertz. Wayne Pfluger made a motion to accept the application contingent upon receiving the required five burn plans and moved to keep Mr. Goertz's license type as Not-for-Profit. Roxanne Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The board reviewed the application of Luke Ledwig. Dr. Douglas Tolleson moved to deny the application on the basis that each applicant is required to turn in five burn plans of which the applicant was the burn boss and should not submit identical burn plans from another applicant. Wayne Pfluger seconded the motion, the motion was approved unanimously. The board reviewed the application of Mason Ledwig. Wayne moved to deny the application on the basis that each applicant is required to turn in five burn plans of which the applicant was the burn boss and should not submit identical burn plans from another applicant. Roxanne Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Justin Penick called a recess at 9:45 am.

The meeting reconvened at 10:04 am. with quorum present.

REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ADOPTION OF BOARD'S PROPOSED CHANGE OF PBB-601 APPLICATION PROCESS AND RELATED FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The board reviewed the CIPBM PBB-601 application and made recommended changes for TDA staff to complete and bring back for approval at the next meeting. Wayne Pfluger made a motion to table the discussion regarding the PBB-601 application changes until the next meeting, when TDA staff could present the

changes in front of the full board. Jason Ellis seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

UPDATES

HB 162 relating to minimum standards for prescribed burns and SB 510 relating to the confidentiality of certain information maintained by state licensing agencies passed during the 88th Legislative Session.

The Texas Forest Service is hosting workshops for CIPBMs and is looking to create more resources for Continuing Fire Training opportunities with its agency partners.

Texas Parks and Wildlife reported that the Texas Department of Emergency Management will be receiving grant money for fuel mitigation and reduction.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

MEETING DISCUSSION AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The board would like to add a co-chair for the Lead Burn Instructor Committee, review PBB-601 application changes, review program cost analysis, insurance availability, and potential training availability for CIPBMs. The next meeting will be in Bastrop, Texas at the Refectory at Bastrop State Park on Friday, February 9th, 2024, at 8am.

AJOURNMENT

With no additional business, Morgan Treadwell motioned to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20pm.