

Texas Prescribed Burning Board Minutes

Refectory at Bastrop State Park

Bastrop, Texas

Friday, February 09, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Pursuant to a notice posted on January 22, 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, Dr. Douglas Tolleson, Dale Smith, Roxanne Hernandez, Heather Brister

Absent: Dale Scott

Guests: Patrick Dudley (TDA), Victoria Rivera (TDA), Rick Bacon, Danielle Mitchell (TDA), Susan Maldonado (TDA), Andy McCrady (TFS) Kyle Carrington (Tall Timbers), Greg Pleasant (TPWD), Heath Starns, Bruce Harrison, Brian Treadwell, and Chuck Linton.

The Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chair laid out the minutes from the meeting held on November 3, 2023, in San Angelo, 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 Dr. Douglas Tolleson made a motion to approve Mark Brown as a Private CIPBM. Wayne Pfluger seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. There were no LBI applications for review.

REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING AREA TRAINING CONTACTS

The board reviewed TDA's web page regarding area training contacts. Chris Schenck made a motion to include all Lead Burn Instructors on the training page of the Prescribed Burning Board Website and recommended TDA staff contact all CIPBM and LBI for approval to release their contact information to be added to the current web page for the public to view. Wayne Pfluger seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. Jason Ellis then made a motion to list the Board members on a separate webpage. Wayne Pfluger seconded the motion. The motion 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 TO THE COORISPONDING APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The board reviewed the recommended changes of the CIPBM PBB-601 application TDA staff completed and brought back for approval. Charles Tatton made a motion to accept the changes made on PBB-601 application from TDA. Wayne Pfluger seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

The board requested that there be another change/addition to the PBB-601 application in accordance with the release of contact information. Chris Schenck made a motion to add to the PBB-601 application a check-off box for any contact information to be released on the Prescribed Burning Board webpage. Roxanne Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Chair Justin Penick called a recess at 9:41 am.

The meeting was reconvened at 10:00 am. with quorum present.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RELATING TO PROPOSAL FOR ALTERNATIVE, AVAILIBLE TRAINING CURRICULUM FOR PRESCRIBED BURNING COMMUNITY

The board proposed TDA make a formal request for the state agencies involved in prescribed burning, provide advance training education for the public to have access to. Wayne Pfluger made a motion to have TDA legal team draft a formal request letter for Justin Penick to review and sign. Dr. Morgan Treadwell seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. Dale Smith made a motion to have TDA Legal draft a letter for the federal agencies asking for them to coordinate with the states agencies to help provide advance training education. Dr. Morgan Treadwell seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

LEAD BURN INSTRUCTOR COMMITTEE UPDATE

The board discussed the status of LBIs who did not attend the Lead Burn Instructor committee meeting. Chair Justin Penick made a motion for the Board to excuse Eric Gramman's absence from the February 8th LBI meeting. Wayne Pfluger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The board voted for Eric Gramman to keep his LBI status upon watching the recorded meeting. Wayne Pfluger moved to remove LBI status from Lee Knox, Keith Blair, and Bob Watson for not having an excused absence. Jason Ellis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RELATING TO APPOINTMENT OF LEAD BURN INSTRUCTOR COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR

The board discussed the LBI committee nomination of Andy McCrady as the committee vice-chair. Dr. Nathan Gill made a motion to approve Andy McCrady as the committee vice-chair. Wayne Pfluger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

UPDATES

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 they are assisting Tall Timbers in East Texas strengthening the prescribed burning culture. Chris Schenck is working on a proclamation recognizing a week in March for fire education, which would be sent to the Governor during the next legislative session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

MEETING DISCUSSION AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The board would like to see any updates or changes to the PBB-606 and 605. LBI and CIPBM applications for review. Any updated contact information is to be put on the prescribed burn web page on TDA website. The next meeting will be held in Canyon, TX, Thursday, August 15th, 2024, at 8am.

AJOURNMENT

With no additional business, Dr. Morgan Treadwell motioned to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 12:04 pm.