

Texas Prescribed Burning Board Minutes

Stephen F. Austin Building

Austin, Texas

Thursday, May 04, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Pursuant to a notice posted on April 12, 2023, the Prescribed Burning Board meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. by Chairman Justin Penick. The roll was answered as follows:

Present: Justin Penick, Perry Cervantes, Wayne Pfluger, Dr. Morgan Treadwell, Charles Tatton, Chris Schenck, Dr. Nathan Gill, Mitch Conine, Jason Ellis, Dr. Douglas Tolleson, Dale Smith, Roxanne Hernandez.

Absent: Heather Brister

With 12 members in attendance and 1 member absent, a quorum was present at 1 pm.

Guests: Patrick Dudley (TDA), Miranda Robertazzi (TDA), Skyler Shafter, Danielle Mitchell, Susan Maldonado, Chuck Linton, and Charles Maley

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chair laid out the minutes from the meeting held on February 9, 2023, in Austin Texas. Wayne Pfluger made a motion to accept the minutes with one spelling change, correcting "Stephen". The motion was seconded by Chris Schenck. 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 Chris Schenck made a motion to approve Matt McCaw as a CIPBM. Nathan Gill seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The board reviewed the application of Chris Bartley. The board stated they would like to see a more in-depth after-action review for each burn presented. Once Miranda Robertazzi receives these documents, the documents will be sent to Vice-Chair Morgan Treadwell for review. Dale Smith made a motion to approve Chris Bartley's application contingent upon receiving additional post-burn evaluations that have been reviewed and approved by Vice-Chair Morgan Treadwell. Wayne Pfluger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The board also reviewed documents submitted by John T. Woods for approval of CFTs. The board agreed that because there was not a certificate signed by a Lead Burn Instructor and the rules and regulations were done in a different state, they will not be approved. They suggested that he obtain documentation with the AgriLife's 2-hour online course which goes over Texas laws and regulations or takes the Burn School on AgriLife website which covers all needed subjects.

REVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ADOPTION OF BOARD'S PROPOSED RULE AMENDMENTS TO 4 TAC PART 13, CHAPTERS 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, AND 230, PUBLISHED IN THE TEXAS REGISTER MARCH 31, 2023 ISSUE (48 TEXREG 1685)

Morgan Treadwell motioned to accept the adoption as presented. Wayne Pfluger seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW, POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS, AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SCHEDULE OF DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

The board reviewed recommended changes to the Schedule of Disciplinary Sanctions. Dr. Douglas Tolleson motioned to approve changes. Charles Tatton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Morgan Treadwell motioned to move forward with adoption if no comments were received and to publish the changes in the Register. Wayne Pfluger seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Recess at 3:42 pm.

Reconvened at 3:53 pm. with quorum.

REVIEW OF LETTER TO COUNTY JUDGES AND UPDATE ON THE DATE OF THE COUNTY JUDGES CONFERENCE

Patrick Dudley introduced changes to the draft letter to the County Judges for review. The board decided to move forward with the letter as previously written, with minor changes. Once the letter has been revised by Morgan Treadwell, the letter will be distributed to all County Judges in Texas.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chuck Linton proposed to create a Landowner Certified and Insured Prescribed Burn Manager category. The board recommended the proposal be on the next agenda with a cost analysis completed with adding 20 additional Certified and Insured Prescribed Burn Managers in this category.

DETERMINE NEXT MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

The next meeting will be held in San Angelo, Texas at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center on Wednesday August 17th, 2023, at 8am.

AJOURNMENT

With no additional business, Justin Penick motioned to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 4:48 pm.