

Meeting Minutes
Texas Prescribed Burning Board Meeting
September 7, 2016 at 1:00 pm
Texas Department of Agriculture
Stephen F. Austin Building
11th Floor Executive Conference Room

Board Members Present:

Arnoldo Saenz
Larry J. Doherty
Rusty Ray
Justin Penick
Dale Scott
William Rogers
Justin Dreibelbis
Morgan Russell

TDA Staff:

Christopher Gee
Stuart Strnad

Advisory Board:

Ray Hinnant
Susan J. Kibbe
Mort Kothmann

Members of the Public:

Charles Tatton
Blake A. Stewart
Jeff Adatas
Glen Gillman
Mark Stinson
Jason Raines
Lucien Ball

The **first** item of business was the calling of the meeting of the Prescribed Burning Board (PBB) to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. by Chairman, Justin Penick, and recognizing that a quorum of members was found to be present.

The **second** item of business was Chairman Penick's opening remarks welcoming everyone to the meeting with general introductions of everyone including the introduction of Dr. William Rogers (appointed Agrilife Research board member) and Dale Scott (appointed Texas Department of Agriculture board member) as the newest members.

The **third** item of business was the swearing in of new board members William Rogers and Dale Scott by Christopher Gee from the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). After the completion of the swearing in, each new board member was welcomed and thanked for their service to the board.

The **fourth** item of business was approval of the minutes of the previous Board meeting held in Austin, Texas on July 14, 2016. A motion was made and seconded; the board unanimously approved the minutes as written.

The **fifth** item of business was the discussion and possible action of the board to review and nominate an applicant from the 4 applications submitted to TDA for the board's vacant land owner seat. A motion was made and seconded; the board unanimously recommended that all applications should be nominated by the board for the Commissioner's possible appointment.

The **sixth** item of business was a progress report on the Texas Forest Service (TFS) database for documenting prescribed burning in the state, but in the absence of board member Rich Gray, the report was tabled for the next quarterly board meeting.

The **seventh** item of business was the discussion of setting the number of PBB meetings annually led by Mr. Doherty. A motion was made and seconded; the board unanimously approved a semi-annual board meeting schedule be maintained as previously set at the July 14, 2016 meeting.

The **eighth** item of business was the discussion of relocating §229.5 Lead Burn Instructor Requirements to §226.4 Certified and Insured Prescribed Burn Manager Training. A motion was made and seconded; for the board to recommend that TDA develop an additional Chapter in the Texas Administrative Code for Lead Burn Instructor requirements.

The **ninth** item of business was the TDA report on the Prescribed Burning Board program:

- **Restructure and Reappointment of Prescribed Burning Advisory Board:** TDA had notified previous Advisory Board members of restructuring and re-appointment letters went out to new members in March 2016. Board also acknowledged that a new appointment would have to be made for Mr. B.J. Donaldson's retirement from Texas Farm Bureau.
- **Rule Update for Published Amendments to §229.1 & §229.3:** Stuart Strnad of TDA confirmed that the amendments had been adopted as proposed since no negative substantive comments had been received by TDA.
- **Eco-Region Map for Counties and Updated Regional Contacts:** Board approved the use of the Eco-Region map with Rich Gray's county overlay for use on the PBB webpage, and to make the Eco-Region 2 contact Dr. Morgan Russell. Additional discussion of listing Eco-Regions by counties in the PBB regulations continued with a recommendation for TDA to develop an Attachment A document for insertion into §226.4 for additional licensing clarity.
- **Results of Lead Burn Instructor feedback for training activities and recertification:** Stuart Strnad of TDA reported that approximately half of the 19 Lead Burn Instructors responded to an e-mail inquiring about their current training activities and their

acceptance of a re-certification program for Lead Burn Instructors. Certified and Insured Prescribed Burn Manager (CIPBM) training curriculum was also discussed as part of the Lead Burn Instructor certification, for consistency, and the board agreed to currently adopt the training materials and videos on the Prescribed Burn Alliance of Texas (PBAT) website for reference materials.

The board recognized that additional development was needed for CIPBM curriculum and for the Lead Burn Instructor re-certification process and opted to send these topics to the Rule Content Sub-committee. The following individuals will comprise the Rule Content Sub-committee: Morgan Russell, Robin Verble, Dale Scott and Ray Hinnant.

The **tenth** item of business was Public Comment and Justin Penick opened the floor for comment. Lucien Ball stepped forward to propose that the board accept the National Wildfire Coordinating Group training activities to qualify as approved PBB trainings in §229.1.

The **eleventh** item of business was for the board to set the location, date and time for the next board meeting. After some discussion, the board decided that the next meeting would be held at the Texas Department of Agriculture on March 2, 2017 at 1:00 PM.

The **twelfth** item of business was other business and items to be placed on the next agenda.

- Report from Rich Gray regarding TFS database possibilities.
- Rule Content Sub-committee report on CIPBM curriculum and Lead Burn Instructor re-certification.
- Report on the Prescribed Burning Advisory Board activity and vacancy due to B.J. Donaldson's retirement.
- Schedule Gary Tarter of Texas Department of Transportation for presentation of regulations for highway signage and flag-persons during prescribed burns.
- Report on proposed Legislation in response to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality proposed amendments to its regulations on Outdoor Burning.
- Appointment of landowner seat to PBB.
- Discussion of development of standards for burn managers and associations during burn bans to fight wildfires as related to the Natural Resource Code §153.004. - Larry Doherty.
- TDA report on developing additional chapter dedicated to Requirements for Lead Burn Instructors.

The **thirteenth** and last item was to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Penick asked the board for adjournment. A motion was made and seconded by the board to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Penick declared the meeting adjourned.