

TAPBA

Texas Alliance of Prescribed Burn Associations, Inc.

President—Larry Joe Doherty
Vice Pres.—Jim Kenton
Secretary—Dave Redden
Treasurer—Stan Graff

Minutes of Meeting
December 2, 2011
Texas A&M Institute of Natural Resources
2632 Broadway, Suite 301 South
San Antonio, Texas 78215

Representatives from eleven prescribed burn associations met in the IRNR office in San Antonio to review proposed bylaws and policies for the new organization. The meeting started about 1:00 PM. Jim Kenton, EPPBA chaired the meeting and followed the attached agenda.

Attendees at the meeting are listed below:

<u>PBA</u>	<u>Attendee</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
CBPBA	Lynn Drawe	dld1942@directv.net
	Charles Tatton	ctatton@yahoo.com
EPPBA	Allan Ersch (1)	agritech@ctesc.net
	Ray Hinnant	ray.hinnant@gmail.com
	Jim Kenton	jimkenton@hotmail.com
	Butch Taylor (1)	angora@sonoratax.net
HCPBA	Alan Robbins	ajrobbins@satx.rr.com
	Rob Sandidge (1)	rrs@hctc.net
NCTPBA	Brent Durham	brentd127@aol.com
NETPFI	Stan Graff (1)	graffboomer@aol.com
	Jason Hardin (1)	jason.hardin@tpwd.state.tx.us
PWPFC	Rusty Woods (1)	rusty.wood@tpwd.state.tx.us
SCTPBA	Larry Joe Doherty	ljdlaw@texasbb.com
	Dave Redden	dredden00@gmail.com
STPBA	Susan Durham	susan@stpra.org
	Lavoyger Durham	lavoygerjd@gmail.com
	David Kelly	david.kelly@laborcitascreek.com
TCPBA	Bob McCarson	mcranch@swtexas.net
	Jim Tom	catranch458@gmail.com
TPPBA	Andrew Bivens (1)	andrew@bivins.org
WNBRI	Gary Price (1)	77ranchgp@earthlink.net
	Jay Whiteside (1)	jay.whiteside@tpwd.state.tx.us

Notes:

(1) Attendees by way of conference call.

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In addition to the representatives from the members, IRNR staff (Roel Lopez, Maria Gutierrez, and Brian Hayes) assisted in the meeting. Bob Stobaugh, USDA NRCS also attended.

Jim Kenton gave a brief presentation of the history of the Alliance and the current status. He introduced Bob Stobaugh from NRCS who showed an 8-min video recently produced in cooperation with TFS and other organizations, including EPPBA. The video is intended to be used for education of county commissioners and others who are associated with making and enforcing rules that affect prescribed burning. The video was well received, with one exception. Butch Taylor pointed out that there appeared to be an error in the dialogue that implied Certified Prescribed Burn Managers needed to get a permit from county judges to burn during a burn ban. Stobaugh agreed to re-edit the video and remove or modify this portion of the soundtrack.

Dave Redden, SCTPBA, presented a summary of the proposed bylaws and policies. The full draft bylaws and policies had been distributed earlier by email. Attached is a copy of the presentation Redden made. The following changes were proposed and voted unanimously to accept the bylaws with the proposed changes.

Bylaws

- Allow for electronic communication in voting and meeting attendance. See III. 9-10, pg. 5.
- Clear up duplicate reference to meetings as member meeting and BoD meetings. They are both the same thing. Deleted IV. 4-7, pgs. 6-7.
- Remove requirement for President and VP to be landowners. See V. 1, pg. 7.
- Clear up reference to members and potential conflict with individuals under Financial Controls. See VI. 5, pg. 9.

Policies

- Use the term “prescribed burns” for all references to burns.
- All PBAs to use the same procedures for review and approval of burn plans. See II. 1, pg 1
- Remove statements that refer to burn boss being able to make changes onsite in burn plan prior to burn. See II. 6, 9, 11, pg. 2.
- Burn plans must be submitted to the PBA for review at least 10 days before target burn and posted on TAPBA website at least 24 hrs. before the burn. See II. 7. Pg.2. and deletion of old paragraph 9.
- Minimum liability insurance for landowner Farm and Ranch policy is \$500,000. See II. 8, pg. 2.
- Remove requirement for liability release forms. No longer necessary. See II. 12, pg. 2.

There was also a request (Lynn Drawe) to insure that the requirements for the burn boss as well as the reviewer of the burn plans be specified in the policies. These items are currently not

included in the policies but can be addressed in the Operating Handbook that will be developed by the Board.

Attached are revised Bylaws and Policies showing the changes requested during the meeting.

Larry Joe Doherty, SCTPBA, presented a brief report on the Insurance and Finance Committees' activities. Doherty, Jim Kenton and Allan Ersch have been working with Doug Rigdon of Gemini Insurance to develop an acceptable policy. Completion of our bylaws, policies, and operating practices is necessary to reach a final agreement. Standardized rules that apply to all member PBAs are necessary for us to be able to get an insurance policy that covers all of us. Doherty has plans for covering the cost of the insurance through fundraising once we are incorporated and have 501(c)(3) status with the US Treasury.

Ray Hinnant, EPPBA, reported on the Training Committee activities. There is progress in planning the online training curriculum. One good source is John Weir from Oklahoma. His recently released book could potentially be modified for Texas and become the training manual we will use.

Stan Graff, NETPFI, submitted a proposed letter to Texas Dept of Agriculture to encourage his department develop a clear and comprehensive fire policy for the state. Jim Kenton asked Susan Durham (STPBA) and Ray Hinnant to work with Graff to explore options and insure the letter did not violate our restrictions on lobbying.

The bylaws approved by the members earlier in the meeting call for election of officers. Jim Kenton opened the floor for nominations. The following offers were nominated and elected unanimously.

President - Larry Joe Doherty, SCTPBA

Vice President – Jim Kenton, EPPBA

Secretary – Dave Redden, SCTPBA

Treasurer – Stan Graff, NETPFI

Maria Gutierrez reminded all members to turn in contact information for their directors as well as a list of officers with their contact information. Information can be sent to Maria at mrgutierrez@ag.tamu.edu or Dave Redden at dredden00@gmail.com.

The meeting was adjourned at 5 PM.



Dave Redden

TAPBA Secretary