

Alabama Prescribed Fire Council
First Annual Meeting
Meeting Minutes: October 31, 2007

1:00 p.m. Alabama Power Company Conference Center, Highway 31 South, Clanton, AL

Proceedings:

- Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Kent Hanby.
- Plan for the day was stated as voting on By-Laws and electing a Steering Committee for the Alabama Prescribed Fire Council (APFC).
- The main objective of the meeting was to conduct the first annual meeting of the new APFC (The APFC was originally started in 2001).
- 30 people in attendance

- Motion by Lou Hyman to approve By-Laws as written.
- Motion seconded by Keville Larson
- No discussion
- 18 votes in favor with 0 against
- Motion passed and By-Laws approved

- Kent Hanby read the nominees for the APFC Steering Committee:
 - John Stivers Forestry Consultant – (Chair)
 - Ted Devos Forestry Consultant, Wildlife Biologist
 - Larry Ford Westervelt Company
 - Andy Baril Alabama Coop. Ext Service
 - Lou Hyman Alabama Forestry Commission
 - Kent Davenport USDA Forest Service
 - Dr. John Kush The Longleaf Alliance
 - Keith Tassin The Nature Conservancy
 - Dr. Robert Carter Jacksonville State University
 - Randy Roach US Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Lud Hoffman Alabama Department of Environmental Management
 - Paul Langford Private Landowner
 - Keville Larson Landowner and Forestry Consultant
 - Frank Allen Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
 - Open

- Motion by David Frederick to approve the nominees for the steering committee
- Motion seconded by Paul Langford
- No discussion
- 23 votes in favor with 0 against
- Motion passed and steering committee created

- David Frederick requested the group add someone from the National Weather Service to the steering committee.
- Kent Hanby called for suggestions.

- Keville Larson recommended increasing the representation from Southwest Alabama on the steering committee.
- Motion from John Stivers to add the 15th member to the steering committee from the National Weather Service
- Motion seconded by Keith Tassin
- No discussion
- 23 votes in favor with 0 against
- Motion passed and a member of the National Weather Service was added to the steering committee.

- Andy Baril requested the group decide how officers will be chosen. The officers potentially include (President elect, Past President, Secretary, and Treasure).
 - Motion from Keville Larson for the steering committee to elect officers
 - Motion seconded by David Frederick
 - No discussion
 - 23 votes in favor with 0 against
 - Motion passed

- There was a break at 10:45 a.m., and the meeting resumed at 11:00 a.m.

- Presentation by Lane Green, Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy
 - The presentation highlighted the recent “60 Minutes” broadcast about fire, the importance of the National/International Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils, and examples of organizational structure and projects from successful fire councils in Georgia and Florida.
 - Examples included: be inclusive for membership, keep track of acres burned yearly in Alabama, review certification requirements, have meetings once or twice a year (Florida meets twice a year), keep meetings interesting (research topics, current events, and testimonial), and increase public relations (examples website, brochures, and bumper stickers).
 - There will be a meeting about the Future of Fire at Tall Timbers in January 2008.

- Presentation by Mark Melvin, Conservation Management / Education Technician, Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center, President Georgia Prescribed Fire Council, National /International Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils
 - The presentation highlighted the National/International Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils and the Georgia Prescribed Fire Council.
 - Topics addressed include the following: progress of the National /International Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils (first meeting Fall 2008), a need to elect a governing board (one member from each council) for the Coalition, and a need to increase education about national/international problems and issues (air quality issues).

- Presentation by Lou Hyman, Assistant Fire Division Director, Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC)
 - Topics included AFC’s interaction with the Alabama Prescribed Fire Council including prescribed fire certification training and advances at the AFC.

- The AFC is involved with the following: media work and press releases dealing with fire, intensive work with landowners (prescribed burning and constructing fire breaks), and revising the prescribed burn permit system (web based).
- The revised the prescribed burn permit system will include a web based opportunity for certified prescribed burn managers, printouts for permits, and updated weather and fire weather forecasts. Contact Lou Hyman for any comments or suggestions
- Presentation by Tim Albritton, NRCS
 - The presentation highlighted “Prescribed Burning Opportunities in EQIP” – Environmental Quality Improvement Program.
 - Topics included guidelines and eligibility
 - For more information visit www.al.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip08/for_health-init_08.html
- John Stivers highlighted some potential future working groups for the APFC. Anyone interested should contact him. The following are examples of the working groups proposed:
 - Fire effects
 - FEIS
 - Policy, legislature
 - Tools
 - Fuels
 - Contractors
 - Grants
 - Website
- Kent Hanby informed the group about a website of interest to prescribed burners including information from Hugh Mobley and Dale Wade. The website can be found at www.pfmt.org/fire
- John Stivers identified some ideas about the future of the APFC.
 - Create a brand or logo for the APFC
 - Create a motto
 - Develop an approved county resolution about prescribed fire
 - Get news media out on a fire
 - Have tours and school visits to improve prescribed fire education
- The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m. by John Stivers.
- Minutes submitted by John Gilbert

ATTENDEES

Keith Tassin, The Nature Conservancy
 Brian Martin, The Nature Conservancy

John Stivers, consulting forester
Frank Allen, AL DCNR, Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries
Tim Albritton, NRCS
Kent Hanby, retired
Lou Hyman, AFC – Fire Division
Ken Lorek, National Weather Service
Dale Hurst, ADEM
Richard Cox, consultant
John Gilbert, The Longleaf Alliance
Shannon White, Sizemore & Sizemore Consultants
David Frederick, SGSF
Larry Ford, Westervelt
Paul Langford, landowner
Keville Larson, consultant/landowner
Doug Lury, landowner
Andy Baril, ACES
Jeremy N. Brand, USFS
Doug Gantt, USFS
Lee Laechelt, AFOA, Capitol Ideas
Steve Guy, ALFA
Jeff Thurmond, NRCS
Arthur Hitt, AFC
Scott Langford, USFS
Kent Evans, USFS
Lane Green, Tall Timbers
Robert Carter, Jacksonville State Univ.
Mark Melvin, Jone Ecological Research Center
Stephen May, AFC