

Alabama Prescribed Fire Council (APFC)
Steering Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes: February 28, 2008
10:30 a.m. Sehoy General Store, Hurtsboro, AL

Proceedings:

- Meeting called to order at 10:30 a.m. by John Stivers.
- The main objectives of the meeting were for the Steering Committee to meet and to discuss how the organization should move forward including recruitment strategies, steering committee terms, working groups, information and outreach opportunities, and scheduling the next APFC “membership at large” meeting.
- 11 people in attendance

- Reviewed APFC purpose and direction in order to plot the course and listed top 3 tasks to build energy
- Provide a forum and facilitate information transfer
 - Increase the visibility of the organization (website, media)
 - Create a website that serves as a one-stop-shop
 - Provide focus through the website (information center)
 - Provide links to other websites
 - Create a discussion forum (include testimonials)
 - Create a network of site locations and picture for others to view the effects of prescribed fire
 - Create a link to find practitioners by county
 - TV, radio, and newspaper public announcements
 - Brochures
 - Letter writing and fliers
 - Pictures, cartoons, etc. with a positive message about prescribed fire
- Promote research
 - Website discussion forum
 - Testimonials
 - Emission discussions and projections
 - Legal questions (negligence, insurance, etc.)
 - Utilize working groups
- Promote and increase the number of acres burned annually
 - Focus on the purpose of the burn (not just black acres)
 - Provide information on air quality standards

- Discussed recruitment strategies for attracting members by contacting them through other organizations like:
 - Alabama Forestry Commission
 - Alabama Cooperative Extension
 - Society of American Foresters
 - Consultant foresters and landowner lists
 - Visit annual professional meetings (example: Invasive Plants Council)

- Set Steering Committee terms (2 and 3 year terms)
 - Lou Hyman 2
 - Keville Larson 2
 - Randy Roach 2
 - Kent Davenport 2
 - John Kush 2
 - Lud Hoffmann 2
 - Ken Lorek 2
 - Robert Carter 2
 - Keith Tassin 3
 - Frank Allen 3
 - John Stivers 3
 - Ted Devos 3
 - Paul Langford 3
 - Larry Ford 3
 - Andy Baril 3

- Officer terms
 - Chair: John Stivers (1 year term ends October 2008)
 - Vice Chair: Keith Tassin (1 year term ends October 2008)
 - Secretary/Treasurer: John Kush (1 year term ends October 2008)
 - Keith Tassin will be the Chair for October 2008-2009.
 - Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer will be elected at the October meeting.

- Scheduled APFC “membership at large” Fall Meeting
 - Scheduled for October 2008 (Day has not been set)
 - Possible location is the Alabama Power Company Conference Center, Clanton, AL.
 - Suggestion by Paul Lankford to advertise for speakers
 - Suggestion by Keith Tassin to create a display for the meeting

- Bylaw amendments
 - Membership fees 3.2
 - o Motion by Keith Tassin to change “shall” to “may” in the bylaws
 - o Motion by Andy Baril to leave the bylaws as written because the membership amount is not explicitly stated (i.e. the membership fee can be left at \$0)
 - o The Steering Committee decided to leave bylaws as written.
 - Refunds 3.2
 - o No change
 - Randy Roach posed the question “ How do you become a member?”
 - o Anyone with interest in prescribed fire that attends the APFC meetings is considered a member (see bylaws).

- Discussed working group assignment/status
 - Working groups are tasked to give 5 minute talks/updates at the October 2008 meeting.
 - o Group roster with locations
 - o Who are the representatives?

- What are the immediate needs?
 - What are you doing?
- Discussed proposed county resolutions and Governor Proclamation
 - Steering Committee and APFC members were tasked with reviewing existing resolutions and proclamations.
 - Send feedback to John Stivers (rxburning@aol.com).
- Photo gallery (pictures and testimonies of how prescribed fire minimized WLF effects or met other resource objectives)
 - Send pictures to John Stivers (rxburning@aol.com).
 - Photos will be moved to the future APFC website.
- APFC logo and icon (contest style), website rxburningalabama.com
 - John Stivers proposed the APFC use a contest approach to design a logo and icon. Request local colleges, high schools, arts and trade schools, etc. to submit designs. The winner will receive an award (to be determined).
 - The Steering Committee agreed that the contest was the best opportunity for a logo and icon.
- Contacts and Opportunities
 - Create list of potential opportunities and groups to contact (examples).
 - Newspaper editorial boards
 - Society of American Foresters
 - Association of Consulting Foresters
- Other Business
 - EPA Call update will be held July 2008.
- The next Steering Committee Meeting will be held on June 26, 2008 at the Alabama Department of Environmental Management in Montgomery, AL.
- The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m. by John Stivers.
- Minutes submitted by John Gilbert

ATTENDEES

Allen, Frank	AL DCNR
Baril, Andrew	ACES
Davenport, Kent	USDA-USFS
Ford, Larry	Westervelt Corp.
Gilbert, John	Auburn University (Proxy for John Kush)
Hoffmann, Lud	ADEM
Langford, Paul	Landowner
Larson, Keville	Larson & McGowin
Roach, Randy	USFW
Stivers, John	Enon-Sehoy
Tassin, Keith	The Nature Conservancy