

Alabama Prescribed Fire Council (APFC)
Steering Committee (SC) Meeting
Meeting Minutes: March 3, 2009
9:00 a.m. Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) Office Montgomery, AL

Proceedings:

- Meeting called to order at 9:15 a.m. by Andy Baril
- The main objectives of the meeting were to select a new Chairman and discuss how the organization is moving forward including the following: working group reports, the status of the website, recruitment strategies for new members, information and outreach opportunities, Governor Proclamation and County Resolutions, prescribed fire auto tour, and scheduling the next APFC “membership at large” meeting.
- 12 people in attendance, 10 members/proxies of the SC and 2 visitors

- Linda Casey (AFC) welcomed the group and discussed an update of the economic stimulus package in relation to prescribed fire and hazardous fuel reduction. Information is available at http://216.226.177.78/stimulus_package.aspx.
- The group was charged to ask questions of what could be done to help the APFC and to promote prescribed burning in the state.
 - Request by Paul Langford to release the real-time map of prescribed burning in Alabama to the public
 - The release of the real-time map is already in progress.
 - Request by Larry Ford to add a print to file feature to the online Prescribed Burn Permit Application
 - The print to file feature is available and was demonstrated to the group.

- Review of APFC Annual Meeting Minutes on 10.23.08
- Motion by Lou Hyman to accept the minutes as written
- Motion seconded by Paul Langford
- No discussion
- All votes in favor and 0 against
- Motion passed

- Selection of a new Chairman for APFC
- Keith Tassin resigned on 1.7.2009
- Motion by Keville Larson to elect Andy Baril as Chairman for APFC
- Motion seconded by Kent Davenport
- No discussion
- All votes in favor and 0 against
- Motion passed

- Request by Andy Baril for nominations for the vacant Vice Chair position
- No nominations or volunteers were presented.

- The request was tabled until the next Steering Committee meeting so members could think about nominations.
- Old Business
- Governor Proclamation and County Resolution and their progress
 - Governor Proclamation was submitted by John Stivers.
 - No action was taken by the Governor's Office.
 - Suggestion by Lou Hyman to resubmit this summer
 - Suggestion by SC to request February be labeled as Prescribed Fire Month
 - Motion by Lou Hyman for the Public Relations Working Group to work with AFC to get the proclamation signed
 - Motion seconded by Keville Larson
 - Discussion
 - Lou Hyman will be retiring this summer.
 - Frank Allen will be taking the lead on the Public Relations Working Group.
 - All votes in favor and 0 against
 - Motion passed
 - County Resolution was submitted to the Association of County Directors.
 - No action was taken by the Association of County Directors.
 - Suggestion by SC to proceed with the County Resolution after the Governor's Proclamation is signed
 - Motion by Lou Hyman to table the County Resolution until 2010
 - Motion seconded by Paul Langford
 - Discussion
 - Suggestion by Kent Davenport to contact the National Wild Turkey Federation
 - Suggestion by Robert Carter to contact county level forestry planning committees
 - Suggestion by Andy Baril to contact the Natural Resources Coordinating Council
 - All votes in favor and 0 against
 - Motion passed
- Prescribed Burn Demonstration
 - Motion by Lou Hyman to have the Public Relations Working Group develop a plan for the Prescribed Burn Demonstration to be presented at the next SC meeting
 - Motion seconded by Frank Allen
 - Discussion
 - Plans for a demonstration need to begin one to two years before the event.
 - Should demonstrations be focused on federal, state, or private lands?
 - Federal land might require an environmental impact statement.
 - State and private lands might require less time to setup.
 - Suggestions for potential sites

- Solon Dixon Forestry Education (Auburn University)
 - Autauga Demonstration Forest (Auburn University)
 - Site maintained by University of Mobile
 - Suggestions to have numerous events and different media
 - Alert media that the event is going to happen
 - Provide a spokesperson from APFC
 - All votes in favor and 0 against
 - Motion passed
- Membership Drive
 - Currently about 300 members
 - John Stivers maintains the membership list.
- EPA Air Quality Rules (Where do we stand?)
 - No response has been made public.
- Working Group Reports
- Policy and Legislation
 - No report
- Fire Effects
 - Robert Carter has taken the lead of the group and developed a list of websites about fire effects.
 - The list is being reviewed and will be released soon.
- Equipment
 - The group has not met yet
 - Frank Allen is taking pictures of stands with fire and equipment.
- Litigation, Claims, and Insurance
 - Presentation by Hugh Mobley
 - Presentation titled “Prescribed Burning Mitigating Risks of Lawsuits”
 - Provided a handout titled “Smoke Related Accidents”
 - Presentation and handout will be posted on www.pfmt.org/fire .
- Public Relations, Education, Outreach, and Grants
 - Frank Allen announced that he is charged to write articles about prescribed fire for his job.
 - Andy Baril requested that any articles found about prescribed fire or ideas for articles should be sent to this working group.
 - Presentation by Lou Hyman
 - Presentation titled “Rx Fire Messaging Campaign One Message Many Voices”
 - Funding provided by a cooperative grant between Tall Timbers Fire Ecology Center, Florida Division of Forestry, and AFC
- Website
 - Andy Baril received a request from Kent Hanby for someone to take over the website.
 - Motion by Paul Langford to request the Website Working Group search for a permanent site with an interface and structure for the future
 - Motion seconded by Lud Hoffman
 - Discussion

- The website needs to be independent of any one person to be sustainable.
 - Funds, which have been provided by Kent Hanby personally, will need to be acquired to pay for the website.
 - Keville Larson volunteered to help raise funds.
 - Does the APFC need to become incorporated?
 - All votes in favor and 0 against
 - Motion passed
 - Fuels/Fire Behavior
 - No report
 - Smoke Management
 - No report
 - Contractor/Vendors
 - No report
- New Business
 - Cooperator's Drive
 - 38 requests were sent out to various organizations.
 - 17 organizations responded.
 - Alabama Forest Owners Association declined the request.
 - Larry Ford is working with Westervelt.
 - Auto Tour
 - Handout provided
 - Suggestion to consider liability
 - Must be stipulated that individuals stay on public roads
 - Suggestion to revisit the topic at the next SC meeting
 - American Forest Foundation Prescribed Fire Partnership
 - Handout provided to SC
 - APFC needs to contact American Forest Foundation.
 - Andy Baril will draft a letter.
 - 2009 APFC "membership at large" Meeting
 - Meeting could possibly be 2 days.
 - One day would be for a recertification class for Certified Prescribed Burners.
 - Need to discuss with Kent Hanby
 - Second day would be the APFC "membership at large" meeting.
 - Suggestion to create an agenda in order to request Continuing Forestry Education (CFE) Credits
 - Other items
 - Mark Linhares has agreed to replace Ken Lorek on the SC and is receiving emails.
 - Request by Andy Baril to continue working on developing a logo, slogan, and letterhead
 - Request to discuss in detail if the APFC needs to be incorporated at the next SC meeting

- Request by Kent Davenport for the SC to select priorities and not try to do too many things at one time
 - Request from the consensus of the SC to have a business meeting to discuss organizational details and name priorities for the organization
 - Request by Andy Baril for SC members to send dates for the next meeting
 - Potential interval - April 19 – May 19, 2009
- The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m. by Andy Baril.
 - Minutes submitted by John Gilbert

ATTENDEES

Allen, Frank	AL DCNR
Baril, Andy	Consulting Forester
Casey, Linda	AFC
Carter, Robert	Jacksonville State University
Davenport, Kent	USDA-USFS
Ford, Larry	Westervelt Corp.
Gilbert, John	Auburn University (Proxy for John Kush)
Hoffmann, Lud	ADEM
Hyman, Lou	AFC
Langford, Paul	Landowner
Larson, Keville	Larson & McGowin
Mobley, Hugh	Forestry Consulting Services