

Alabama Prescribed Fire Council (APFC)

Steering Committee (SC) Meeting

May 8, 2009

9:00 a.m. Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) Office Montgomery, AL

Proceedings:

- Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Andrew Baril
- The main objectives of the meeting were to select a new Vice Chairman, discuss working group reports, plan the Annual Meeting, and discuss our organizational structure.
- 11 people in attendance, 10 members/proxies of the SC and 1 visitor

Lou Hyman, AFC

Kent Hanby, visitor, NIPF

Randy Roach, FWS retired, NIPF

John Stivers, consultant

Brian Martin, proxy, TNC

Dan Jackson, proxy, AFC

Frank Allen, AL DCNR

R. Larry Ford, Westervelt

Keville Larson, consultant

Andrew Baril, consultant

Lud Hoffmann, ADEM

- Baril opened the meeting with prayer.
- Baril called attention to SC 030309 Meeting Minutes previously approved via email, to remind Steering Committee of motions and tasks assigned at last meeting.
- **Selection of a new Chairman for APFC**
 - Frank Allen offered to serve
 - Motion / Second, Receive Frank as Vice, No discussion, Motion passed
- Stivers mentioned the need for new members on Steering Committee. He reminded the committee that half of the members would rotate off in October, and that the at large membership needs to consider serving on steering committee
- Baril asked about APFC membership and if we had a membership database. Stivers stated that he had an email list of about 300 names, but the database was incomplete. Baril volunteered to build a database, if Stivers would email the membership and encourage them to email him (Baril) with their contact information
- Committee felt this was a good idea.
- **Working Groups & Old Business**
 - *Policy & Legislation WG*
 - Keville Larson; chair, Ted Devos, Lou Hyman, Dan Jackson-replacing David Frederick, and Randy Roach
 - Discussion about burning law pursued. Focus on the terms “gross negligence” and “simple negligence”. Governor’s Proclamation (Public Relations WG), and the three-day permit were mentioned.

- Motion, K. Larson / Second, L. Hoffman – P&L WG to write a recommendation to the Alabama Forestry Commission to eliminate the ‘three-day’ burning permit; discussion, motioned passed
- *Fire Effects WG*
 - Robert Carter; chair, John Gilbert, Sharon Herman, and Eric Spagenske
 - No report
- *Equipment WG*
 - Larry Ford; chair, Frank Allen, and Daniel Powell
 - Ford and Allen both stated that they have pictures and need to post them on website. Also to have vendors sponsor Annual Meeting and post their website link on our site.
- *Litigation, Claims, and Insurance WG*
 - Hugh Mobley; chair, Kent Hanby, and Keville Larson
 - Suggestion to add Chris Rigdon to the WG, need to post some of Hugh’s cases on the website, and for the National Coalition to pursue liability insurance for better group rates for its members were mentioned.
 - Premiums of \$1,500 & 1,000/year are available through ACF’s insurance underwriter. Baril stated ALFA covered him for \$278/year, including burning.
- *Public Relations, Education, Outreach, and Grants WG*
 - Frank Allen; chair, Andrew Baril, Lou Hyman, Daniel Powell, and Jason Walley
 - Hanby stated that Alabama needed a strategic plan to promote Rx burning. Jackson mentioned the *One Message – Many Voices* campaign in FL, GA, & SC, and encouraged the APFC to get involved in this.
 - Motion, L. Hyman / Second, ? – The APFC would ‘partner’ with the AFC on the One Message – Many Voices campaign in Alabama; discussion, motioned passed
 - Allen stated that WG had drafted proclamation for governor and the AFC is working with us to have it signed Nov-Dec 09 (February 2010 – Prescribed Fire Month). Stivers has a nice nomex shirt to present to governor.
 - Stivers is working on County Resolutions (tabled to 2010) with a fill-in-the-blank form and PowerPoint presentation to make before local commissions. Possible to get local SWCD’s interested in this?
 - Allen advised SC that the WG is working on multiple Rx Demo Burns for the 2009-10 burning season. Hopefully we will have a burn in the Huntsville, Birmingham, Montgomery, and Mobile areas. Baril stated that he is contacting Birmingham TV. Jackson stated that there is an Rx burn @ Oak Mountain on 11/19/09. Stivers mentioned he is continuing his work with the USFS in Clay County for a burn on the Talladega NF. Baril also mentioned that Emily Cooper, with the American Forest Foundation, might be interested in collaborating with us in these Demo Burns.

- *Website WG*
 - o Kent Hanby; chair, Andrew Baril, Paul Langford, and John Stivers
 - o Larson & Roach suggested to add a sample burning plan to the website, make it a pdf, and water mark “Draft” with a disclaimer on the form.
- *Fuels & Fire Behavior WG*
 - o John Stivers; chair, Robert Carter, John Gilbert, Sharon Herman, and Dan Jackson
 - o No activity
- *Smoke Management WG*
 - o Lud Hoffmann; chair, Larry Ford, Kent Hanby, and Paul Langford
 - o Problem with trash burning. Hoffmann stated many who burn illegally get a permit before they burn. How can the AFC better police the permitting process? Baril mentioned going through the local Forestry Planning Committees. Get them to help teach law enforcement and volunteer fire department members how the permit process works, and how to recognize a non-agricultural/silvicultural fire. AFC stronger set of questions? Discussion continued.
- *Contractors & Vendors WG*
 - o Ted Devos, Daniel Powell, and Ed Travis
 - o No activity
- *Letterhead & Logo*
 - o Baril stated this issue must be completed. He also stated, for the logo, simpler is better. Stivers showed some letterhead from Georgia, Mississippi, and some his has been working on. Stivers stated that he would complete the task ASAP. Committee agreed

- **New Business**

- *Annual Meeting*

- *Committee*

- o Frank Allen, Andrew Baril, Larry Ford, and Dan Jackson
- o Two day meeting: Day 1 Re-certification Workshop, Day 2 Annual Meeting
- o Possible Topics & Speakers

Fire Benefits to Forestry	Rhett Johnson or Keville Larson
Fire Benefits to Wildlife	Joel Glover or Dagmar Thurmond
Fire Benefits to Agriculture	Steve Guy or local Tallapoosa Cattlemen’s
Fire Benefits to Housing	Bill Sweet
National Rx Fire Coalition	Mark Melvin
Litigation	Hayes Brown
Smoke Management	USFS Region 8 – Atlanta
Air Quality	Lud to pick someone
Permitting & AFC	Dan Jackson or his proxy
Insurance & Equipment	Chris Rigdon
Techniques	Scott Layfield
Legislation	Chad Fincher
Awards & Business Meeting	

- Location
 - Five Rivers, 4H Center – Columbiana, Guntersville or other State Park
 - Suggestion to poll the membership, Stivers will send it out if committee picks some locations.
- Time
 - October, check football schedules; Thursday & Friday so families could make a long weekend? CFE's –six hours each day; 8:30am – 4:00pm.
- *Organizational Structure & Priorities*
 - Stivers emailed everyone in April laying out why the WG model works for the APFC. Remember, “We are all volunteers.” Priorities come out of the WGs and the Steering Committee.
 - Top Three Working Groups in Importance
 4. Litigation
 5. Public Relations
 6. Website
 - Baril reminded the SC of Tassin's request at last year's annual meeting: “*Name three things you would like to see the APFC do in the next 1 ½ years*”. If this had been followed-up, we would have some priorities from the at-large membership.
- *501(c) 3 Status*
 - Question was asked, what would we benefit from going non-profit? Jackson stated we would be able to receive funding and grants. Baril asked if we could do this by January, and stated we would need to submit our Constitution and Bylaws with a budget to the IRS. Other questions discussed pertained to establishing a permanent mailing address.
 - Motion, Stivers / Second, Jackson – PR WG will conduct a feasibility study and report at the Annual Meeting; discussion, motioned passed
- *Next Meeting*
 - 9:00am Friday, August 14, 2009 @ ADEM's Montgomery office
- The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.
- Minutes respectfully submitted by Andrew Baril. Thank you to Kent Hanby & Dan Jackson for use of their notes.