

Illinois Prescribed Burn Manager Certification Board
Minutes of the 11th Meeting
(Subject to approval at the 12th Meeting)

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Illinois River Room
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

11-1) Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introduction of Attendees

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Les Albert, Office of the State Fire Marshal; Mike Wefer, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Division of Wildlife; Bob Szafoni, IDNR, Division of Natural Heritage; Tom Wilson, IDNR, Division of Forestry, Jack Pizzo, The Pizzo Group.

Members Absent: Randy Heidorn, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC).

Others Present: Marni English, INPC

11-2) Appointment of Presiding Officer for meeting.

Tom Wilson announced for this meeting the need for a temporary, presiding officer due to Randy Heidorn being out on medical leave.

It was moved by Les Albert, seconded by Bob Szafoni, and carried that Tom Wilson be appointed the presiding officer for this meeting.

11-3) Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Bob Szafoni, seconded by Jack Pizzo, and carried that the agenda be adopted.

11-4) Approval of the Minutes of the 10th Meeting, June 10, 2014

It was moved by Les Albert, seconded by Bob Szafoni, and carried that the Minutes of the 10th meeting, June 10, 2014, be approved.

11-5) Remaining Meeting Schedule for FY 2015

June 9, 2015, IDNR Headquarters, Mallard Room, 10:00 a.m.

11-6) Status of Certification of Prescribed Burn Manager Process

Tom Wilson reported the numbers are low but applications are coming in and still being batched. As of December 9, 2014, the Comptroller's receipts show: FY2015 - \$450.00, FY2014 - \$1,650.00 and FY2013 - \$1,250.00; and the current number of certified burn managers is 517.

Bob Szafoni asked if applicants get a letter or an email to let them know they are certified before they get the physical card and certificate.

Tom Wilson answered that it is not routine but they have done that if someone calls and asks because they have a job and need it.

Tom Wilson reported that they try to get these done as much as possible during the fall and spring burn season.

He also reported that they are still experiencing problems with incomplete application packets. It might be an ID or a check and we contact them and they will scan and fax it to us.

11-7) Equivalent State Prescribed Burn Manager Certification Programs: Status Updated

Tom Wilson reported he has had few requests for this and the few he has had, instructed them with their experience, it would be a lot easier to do the grandfathering clause.

11-8) Discussion on incorporating burn complexity in the evaluation of apprentice applications: Status

Tom Wilson still felt it is a good idea for the complexity.

Jack Pizzo agreed it should be in there so that we are not certifying applicants only burning three-quarters of an acre the same as those burning one hundred to one-thousand acres. He suggested it include burn maps, conditions, direction, photos, video documentation.

Mike Wefer asked how hard is it to get the adequate number of burns in across the state if you are in central Illinois and all you have is a large prairie with a nice fire line around it, are you excluding those folks from being certified just by being a nature observer.

Tom Wilson was unsure and has been asked this before.

Jack Pizzo commented that if all they are ever going to do is that type of prairie, then that is their level of complexity.

Mike Wefer asked how we define such complexity, by the number of bodies on the burn, topographs, etc.

Jack Pizzo stated that TNC and NWCG have complexity models in place and asked members if they would like him to look into with TNC.

Tom Wilson answered that it would be good to have a model to look at to get an idea which way to go.

11-9) 2014 Report on Prescribed Burning Under Illinois Prescribed Burning Act 525ILCS 37

Bob Szafoni reported and a copy of the report is attached.

The figures reported may be one more or fewer which might be under the grandfather clause.

It was moved by Jack Pizzo, seconded by Mike Wefer, and carried that the 2014 report on prescribed burning be approved as presented under Item 9 of the Agenda for the 11th Meeting.

11-10) Request for approval of equivalent programs training course: Request by Jack Pizzo.

Tom Wilson asked that it looked Jack Pizzo took the S-130/S-190 and adopted it as your own.

Jack Pizzo answered yes.

Tom Wilson commented that under the NWCG rules, they have instructor qualifications and asked Jack how he will address other instructions since he listed his experience. He said he would like to see documentation as to what kind of experience/qualifications would be required for support and lead instructors.

Jack answered that this would not be a problem. He had reviewed NWCG and they require an instructor course.

It was moved by Wilson, seconded by Albert, and carried that an equivalent programs training course be recommended for approval.

(Resolution 11-12)

11-11) Public Comment

There was no public comment.

11-12) Other Business

Tom Wilson reported, on the state side, they are getting a lot of people interested.

Jack Pizzo commented that there does not seem to be a lot of cooperation between public burns and private burns. He commented that maybe there are opportunities when IDNR staff are burning that IDNR staff are burning, his staff could assist as well as when his staff is burning, IDNR staff could assist. Perhaps they could post on their Facebook page when they will be burning for anyone who might want to assist with a burn.

Tom Wilson commented that maybe the State Fire Marshall's office could be a location where, if a county, city or township has a burn ban in affect, we can contact to get that information

Les Albert stated we discussed this September 13, 2012, and it is. We can put it on our website, Facebook page and any other means necessary.

Tom Wilson asked if there was any way we could use the fire chiefs, township and city officials to participate in this.

Les Albert commented that he could send something out.

11-13) Adjournment

It was moved by Bob Szafoni, seconded by Jack Pizzo, and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

DRAFT