

ILLINOIS PRESCRIBED BURN MANAGER CERTIFICATION BOARD
MINUTES OF THE 10TH MEETING
(Subject to the approval at the 11th Meeting)
Heron Room, Illinois Department of Natural Resources Building
One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL, 62702.

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

10-1) Call to Order, Roll Call and Introduction of Attendees

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

Members Present: Les Albert, Office of the State Fire Marshal; Mike Weefer, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Division of Wildlife; Randy Heidorn, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission; Bob Szafoni, IDNR, Division of Natural Heritage; and Tom Wilson, IDNR, Division of Forestry.

Member Absent: Jack Pizzo, Pizzo and Associates.

Presiding Officer Heidorn stated that there was a quorum. He also indicated that Jack Pizzo was listening to the meeting on the phone, however since his location was not previously published consistent with the Board's administrative rules, he could not participate in the meeting.

10-2) Adoption of Agenda

Szafoni motioned to approve the agenda, second by Albert and approved.

10-3) Approval of Minutes of the December 10, 2013 Meeting

Szafoni motioned to approve the Minutes of the December 10, 2013 (9th) Meeting of the IPBMCB, second by Albert and approved.

10-4) Approval of Meeting Schedule for FY 2015

Wilson motioned to approve the following meeting schedule for FY2015

December 9, 2014, IDNR Headquarters (Mallard Room unconfirmed), 10:00 AM

June 9, 2015, IDNR Headquarters (Mallard Room unconfirmed), 10:00 AM

Seconded by Weefer and approved.

10-5) Status of certification of prescribed burn manager process

Wilson reported that applications continue to come into the IDNR 2-3 per week. Several are using the apprentice path for certification. The rate of them coming in has been steady and greater than he expected.

Heidorn asked if there were many using the grandfathering in process anymore?

Wilson stated that there were few of these, that however this path is being used by folks coming in from other states where they were certified.

Heidorn indicated the demand for state equivalency will likely increase when the grandfather provision expires.

Need to consider ways to weed out folks who are no longer burning was discussed

Old Business

10-6) Equivalent State Prescribed Burn Manager Certification Programs: Status Update.

Heidorn indicated that he had received one request after the Illinois Prescribed Burn Council (IPBC) meeting at McHenry County College. Nicky Obenauf, Davey Resource Group NRC, 700 McHenry Ave., Woodstock IL 60098 is considering developing a course of study for their staff and were interested in the equivalency matrix. That was sent to her on February 13, 2014.

Heidorn also reported that at a recent IPBC Board meeting he was informed that Chicago Wilderness has decided not to pursue equivalency for their Midwest Prescribed Burn Crew Member training. They felt that that course should remain primarily for volunteers and professionals or volunteers wanting a higher level of training should take the current courses prescribed in the Administrative Rule.

10-7) IPBMCB Web page: Status update: Including the number of acres burned.

Wilson reported that we currently do not have the capability post the number of acres of burns as current regulations do not require prescribed burners to provide the acres burned to the State of Illinois.

10-8) Discussion on incorporating burn complexity in the evaluation of apprentice applications: Status

Heidorn introduced the topic as a carry-over discussion from a previous meeting.

Concern that some of the applications are for folks who have done burns on small simple sites vs complex large areas.

Heidorn need to encourage more training beyond the basic apprenticeship. Consider CEU system.

Wilson: Consider annual updates/recertification. Consider a second level of certification "Master burner".

Heidorn Does IDNR have the capacity to do recertification?

Weefer: What would be the incentive for the extra training.

Albert: Is the state liable if we do not require new course work or additional retraining. Suggested a 5 year schedule.

Need to check with attorneys about liability

Group should go back to organizations and discuss concept of recertification and CEU and report back to entire group at December meeting.

New Business

10-9) 2014 Report on Prescribed Burning under the Illinois Prescribed Burning Act 525 ILCS 37

Heidorn reminded the Board that under the administrative rule we must submit a report annually to the Director of IDNR. Wilson volunteered to provide Szafoni with the data for the annual report. Szafoni will compile and get it out to the members. Final action on the report will be at the meeting in December.

10-10) Public Comment

None

10-11) Other Business

None

10-12) Adjournment

Moved by Szafoni, seconded by Weefer and approved. Adjourned at 10:48 a.m.