

Illinois Prescribed Burn Manager Certification Board
Minutes of the 13th Meeting
(Subject to approval at the 14th Meeting)

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

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

13-1) Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introduction of Attendees

The meeting was called to order by Randy Heidorn at 10:10 a.m.

Members Present: Randy Heidorn, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC); Mike Wefer, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Division of Wildlife; Les Albert, Illinois State Fire Marshall (SFM); Tom Wilson, IDNR, Division of Forestry; Bob Szafoni, IDNR, Division of Natural Heritage.

Members Absent: Jack Pizzo, The Pizzo Group

Others Present: Marni English and Bob Edgin, INPC; Chad Bartman, IDNR, Division of Wildlife

Randy Heidorn announced his and Bob Szafoni's retirement at the end of the year.

13-2) Adoption of Agenda

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

13-3) Approval of the Minutes of the 12th Meeting, July 21, 2015

It was moved by Les Albert, seconded by Mike Wefer, and carried that the Minutes of the 12th meeting, July 21, 2015, be approved.

13-4) Remaining Meeting Schedule for FY 2016

June 14, 2016, IDNR Headquarters, 10:00 AM

13-5) Status of Certification of Prescribed Burn Manager Process (Wilson)

Tom Wilson reported there are 556 Certified Burn Managers. Thirty-eight were certified in FY15 and \$1,350 in fees collected. There are six pending approval and we have already collected \$650 in fees for FY16. Josie Walter is working on a fillable PDF form for the Burn Manager's application. We have added a couple things including email address, which should be up on the Burn Manager's Website in the next week.

Randy Heidorn asked if it would have the form for the apprentice evaluation.

Tom answered no they did not do that but that they could do that.

Old Business

13-6) Equivalent State Prescribed Burn Manager Certification Programs: Status Update. (Wilson/Heidorn)

Tom Wilson reported that there have not been any certifications for FY16 and that FY15 was the last year for grandfathering certification.

Randy indicted this is the last year to be grandfathered in.

Tom said they have done a few this year.

13-7) IPBMCB Webpage: Status update: Including the number of acres burned.

Tom Wilson reported they have a request in to Sheryl Oliver to add the most recent list of burn managers. Kym Wycoff is working to redo the database by adding more information, as well as working on having it update the website quarterly, automatically.

Randy announced Marni English will continue to record and type the minutes from IPBMCB meeting after his retirement.

Randy commented that at the last meeting everyone was asked to talk to their organization about how to collect data on how many acres are burned at sites.

Chad Bartman gave a presentation and answered questions about the WHPTS (Wildlife Habitat Planning and Tracking System) that was created to collect data for the Division of Wildlife to track and assess what they do on the ground.

Randy asked what is the next step for the committee to figure out how much burning is being done.

Tom answered if we could develop a central depository for information with general locations, acres and vegetation type would be an improvement to what we have now.

Mike suggested a text form as simple as survey monkey with plan number, county, township, number of acres burned, cover time and date. This would be something that could be put into a spreadsheet.

Tom felt this was a good idea. He suggested as we collect email address, sending emails annually to collect this information.

Randy commented it needed to be made clear it be the prescribed burn manager reporting rather than the agency.

Mike suggested once it was worked out maybe it could be put in the ad rules as a requirement.

Randy said it would have to be looked at if we have the authority to do that, or maybe look at getting the authority to.

Randy asked Les Albert if prescribed fires were included in the SFM's database.

Les answered no, only when it becomes non-prescribed.

Tom commented that it is not required to report wildland fires.

Les commented that we encourage them to report them.

Tom said he would have Kym Wycoff go back through to see if we can assemble an email trail on these people, maybe even send out a letter to gather their burn information.

Randy commented that as WHPTS develops, it might be nice to come back to it and see what part of it we could put out there to the prescribed burn managers to capture information. He told Chad since the last time he had seen WHPTS, it has come a long way.

13-8) Request for Approval of equivalent programs training course: Request by Jack Pizzo (Report by Heidorn)

Randy Heidorn reported this had been approved by Director Rosenthal and Jack Pizzo is scheduling training in the fall.

13-9) Crystal Lake Prescribed Fire Damage: Update and discussion

Randy commented they have not received a report from the prescribed burners and that we need to follow up. This reporting mechanism is all we have to enforce the administrative rule.

13-10) FY 2015 Report on Prescribed Burning under the Illinois Prescribed Burning Act 525ILCS 37

Bob Szafoni agreed to provide the report by the end of December 2015.

13-11) Burn Ban Notification: Fact Sheet Project with Illinois Prescribed Fire Council

Randy stated he is still treasurer of the Illinois Prescribed Fire Council and will see if they will work with IPBMCB to create a fact sheet.

Randy commented that we have seen prescribed fires shut down just short of red flag warnings. We agree we do not want to do burns during a red flag warning. In those times when conditions will do it, more caution is used, burns are more affective during these elevated times. Prescribed burn professionals get lumped in with people burning in their backyard.

Tom Wilson commented that when people see IDNR burning they figure why can't they.

Les Albert commented that we discussed on September 13, 2012, putting burn bans on the SFM's website to identify where and when burn bans are in effect.

Tom Wilson commented a central location for this to get the word out would be affective.

Les Albert commented if you get the fact sheet it can be put on the SFM's website to go along with burn bans.

Tom commented once this is up and running to we can add links from multiple places.

New Business

13-12) Discussion of future vacancies and transitions for the members and presiding officers for the IPBMCB

Randy indicated he will be leaving state service at the end of December and that Commissioners would appoint a replacement for him at the INPC's January meeting. Bob Edgin and Angella Moorehouse have expressed interest. There will need to be an appointment to replace Bob Szafoni as well as a presiding officer for the IPBMCB. He indicated he had spoken with the INPC Chair and they agreed to keep recording and doing the minutes for the IPBMCB. The new presiding officer will need to become the new Open Meetings Act coordinator for the IPBMCB and has to take that training every year.

It was moved by Tom Wilson, seconded by Les Albert, and carried that Mike Wefer would be the new Presiding Officer for the IPBMCB.

Mike Wefer indicated he was happy to serve. He stated if new replacements with more time and energy to commit were appointed, he would be willing to step down.

12-13) Public Comment

No public comment.

12-14) Other Business

No other business

12-15) Adjournment

It was moved by Randy Heidorn, seconded by Bob Szafoni, and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 11:38 a.m.