

Illinois Prescribed Burn Manager Certification Board
Minutes of the 6th Meeting
(Approved at the 7th Meeting)

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

Wednesday, June 13, 2012

6-1) 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; Randy Heidorn, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC); Bob Szafoni, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Office of Resource Conservation (ORC), Division of Natural Heritage; and Tom Wilson, IDNR, ORC, Division of Forestry.

Members Absent: Paul Brewer.

Others Present: None.

Randy Heidorn welcomed Les Albert as the new member of the Illinois Prescribed Burn Manager Certification Board (IPBMCB). Mr. Albert replaces Mike Moos who retired from state service on May 31, 2012.

6-2) Adoption of Agenda

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

6-3) Approval of the Minutes of the 5th Meeting, March 14, 2012

It was moved by Wilson, seconded by Szafoni, and carried that the Minutes of the 5th meeting, March 14, 2012, be approved.

6-4) Proposed FY 2013 Meeting Schedule

September 25, 2012, IDNR Headquarters, 10:00 a.m.
December 11, 2012, IDNR Headquarters, 10:00 a.m.
March 12, 2013, IDNR Headquarters, 10:00 a.m.
June 11, 2013, IDNR Headquarters, 10:00 a.m.

It was moved by Szafoni, seconded by Wilson, and carried that the proposed FY 2013 meeting schedule be approved.

6-5) Status of Certification of Prescribed Burn Manager Process

Tom Wilson stated that applications were still coming in. To date, 426 applications have been processed, and there were approximately 12 that are waiting on additional support information that was not included in the original packet. Approximately 29 applications have been for the apprenticeship program. He stated that there still seemed to be some confusion on the apprentice burn manager recommendation from the existing burn manager. He suggested that a form letter or a check-off form be created to help with that process.

Randy Heidorn stated that the information Bob Szafoni put together could be posted on the website, and the applicants could be directed to the website for answers.

Mr. Wilson stated that the IPBMCB received \$1,400 in application fees in FY 2012.

Les Albert asked if there was an Illinois prescribed burn managers course scheduled.

Mr. Wilson stated that there has not been a lot of interest in this course, but the course is scheduled periodically. He was recently contacted by Quail Unlimited, and they would like to have the course in Vandalia this fall. Rock Island Soil and Water Conservation District also sponsors the course frequently.

Mr. Albert asked to be notified if the course is scheduled in Vandalia.

6-6) Request Pursuant to 17 Ill. Administrative Code 1565.70 e for Approval of the Midwest Prescribed Fire Crew Training as a Substitute for the Requirement of S130 and S190 for Certification of Prescribed Burn Managers under 17 Ill. Administrative Code 1565.20(a) (1)

Randy Heidorn stated that a cover letter, check-off sheet, and standards have been developed. That information was sent to Jim Anderson and Ed Collins; however, no comments were received from them.

6-7) Equivalent State Prescribed Burn Manager Certification Programs

Randy Heidorn asked if there have been any requests for the equivalency option.

Tom Wilson stated that he has had one that was from another state. After explaining the process to the applicant, the applicant decided to be grandfathered into the program.

6-8) Annual Report on Prescribed Burning Under Illinois Prescribed burning Act 525ILCS37

Randy Heidorn provided the IPBMCB members with an outline of the annual report. He suggested that assignments be made to complete the annual report. According to the Administrative Rule, an annual report is not required, but the Board has to meet at a minimum annually.

Tom Wilson stated that an annual report would be helpful for a historic record.

Mr. Heidorn stated that the annual report should list the members and include the Board's actions. For this period, it would be the rewrite of the Administrative Rules, the approval of the equivalency program, report of escaped prescribed burns, meeting dates, resolutions, and number of applications.

Bob Szafoni stated that he would be willing to prepare the report, but he would like to have an example of the format that should be used.

Mr. Heidorn stated that he would provide Mr. Szafoni with that format.

6-9) Modifications to the Administrative Rules: Status Update

Randy Heidorn provided a copy of the proposed modifications to the Administrative Rules. The modifications were published in the register on May 11, 2012 for the first notice, and it should go off first notice on May 25, 2012. Assuming the second notice is filed by June 27, 2012, it will be on the July, 2012 meeting of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules. The IPBMCB approved the language changes at its meeting on March 14, 2012. The basic changes include increasing the size of the IPBMCB to include someone outside of state government. That person would be appointed by the IDNR Director. The grandfathering in date would be changed to 2015 because there were a number of people doing prescribed burns that started well before the Administrative Rule was adopted. A person has to have been participating in prescribed burns prior to 2009 to be eligible for the grandfathering provision. A housekeeping change was done to refer to the IPBMCB as "Board" in the text. A procedural change was done to allow the IPBMCB to have meetings via electronic means. The schedule for the electronic meetings will need to be published, and the location will have to be open to the public. The quorum was also defined a four.

6-10) Illinois Prescribed Burn Manager Certification Board Web Page: Status Update

Tom Wilson stated that the list needs to be constantly updated on the website.

Randy Heidorn stated that the minutes from the March, 2012 meeting and agenda for this meeting were on the website. The minutes and agendas from previous meetings will be posted in the near future.

6-11) Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6-12) Other Business

Randy Heidorn stated that he would like to honor Mike Moos for his service to the IPBMCB. Mr. Moos retired from the Office of State Fire Marshal on May 31, 2012.

It was moved by Heidorn, seconded by Wilson, and carried that a formal resolution will be drafted to honor Mr. Moos' service to the IPBMCB.

Bob Szafoni stated that he has heard that some of the private prescribed burn contractors felt that the certification through the IPBMCB would reduce their liability insurance costs with their insurance vendors. Mr. Szafoni stated that this may not be the case. He asked if this would be something that this Board would have to address, or would that be an Illinois Prescribed Burn Council issue.

Mr. Heidorn stated that the insurance industry may need to be educated on the aspects of the Illinois Prescribed Burn Act.

Tom Wilson stated that the IPBMCB could do the educational aspect of this, and the Council would handle the lobbying side of the Act.

After much discussion, it was decided to contact other states that have a prescribed burn act to see how they handle insurance rates for prescribed burns.

6-13) Adjournment

It was moved by Wilson, seconded by Szafoni, and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 10:45 a.m.