



**OKLAHOMA PRESCRIBED BURN ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING
November 15, 2012
12:00 PM – 2:30 PM
ROMAN NOSE STATE PARK**

DRAFT MINUTES – 11/15/12

LOCATION: Roman Nose State Park, Watonga, OK

PRESENT:

John Weir, OSU Extension
Darrel Dominick, OCC/OPBA – Sec/Treasurer
Ron Voth, OPBA
Karsen Davis, Roger Mills PBA
Paul Clark, NRCS
Alva Gregory, ODWC

ABSENT:

Verlin Hart, Crosstimbers PBA

Guests:

None

CALL TO ORDER: John Weir called the meeting to order and welcomed the participants. No handout agenda was available.

INTRODUCTIONS:

None

NOBLE FOUNDATION MEETING 10/23/12:

Weir updated the board concerning the meeting held with the Noble Foundation in Ardmore on 10/23/12. The meeting was attended by Ron Voth and Karsen Davis. It was a productive meeting where need for support was explained to the participants. Weir was invited back to meet with Bill Buckner, President and CEO. Highlights of this meeting include:

- The Noble Foundation (NF) wants to support the OPBA with a staff position, office, vehicle and travel support. Other support may include computers, secretarial support and other overhead items (newsletter; printing; web support). This could be for several years. The staff position would be one of their employees redirected to do this as a director. This offer would be worth approximately \$100,000/year and this could be matched with other grant opportunities.
- This possibility was discussed by the board and it was recommended that Weir go back to the NF with the following request to determine whether or not this partnership will be explored:
 - OPBA continue to be a stand-alone 501c(3) with a board of directors
 - The NF employee assisting would answer to the OPBA Board of Directors
 - This would free up grant funds to pay another director for NW OK
 - Divide the state into a northern and southern section but work as a team to support local burn associations
 - Need for support with a vehicle, fuel, and travel costs
 - Work with NF to explore liability insurance coverage for prescribed fire and the OPBA board
 - Work together to expand prescribed fire on the OK landscape

There was a motion by the OPBA Board to allow Weir to contact Buckner and explore this partnership opportunity with the conditions listed above. There was a first by Davis and a second by Paul Clark. This was approved by voice vote with no opposition.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION POINTS:

- There is the need for the OPBA Board members to continue to look for funding opportunities. We need to continue to visit with ODWC, PLJV, OCA (Voth and Hart will schedule and meet) and NRCS.
- Dominick updated the board that he has a rough draft of the PLJV grant opportunity due 12/15. Dominick will work with Christopher Rustay, PLJV Grants Coordinator, next week to finalize. OPBA will be asking for \$20,000/year for six years.
- Weir has scheduled two prescribed fire training sessions for producers and NRCS staff on 1/11-12/13 in Stillwater and 1/18-19/13 in Woodward. This is the beginning of fulfilling grant obligations.
- Weir indicated there will be a meeting of NE, KS, OK and TX representatives of statewide burn associations in Ft. Worth on 11/26.
- Voth indicated a need to get publicity out to the Sunup program and Ron Hayes about the OPBA. This will be done in January 2013.
- Weir indicated a need for a more detailed budget.
- Dominick provided the board with a handout of the Secretary/Treasurer's report. This was approved by the board with the approval of reimbursing Dominick for the State of OK \$25 charge for incorporation and the \$7.80 charge to send the nonprofit application to IRS via certified mail.
- Dominick also provided minutes of the September 25, 2012 meeting and these were approved (First – Davis; Second – Gregory; voice vote approval).
- Dominick highlighted current grants OPBA may be in line to receive: NFWF, PLJV
- OPBA has received support from USFWS, TNC, and NWTF – OK Chapter
- Action item for board members was issued – need to know who each have contacted for possible funding support
- Need to get liability insurance for the OPBA Board
- Weir discussed the progress with the online training course he is developing. Successful completion will result in a certificate. This will also be done with the seminar training.

MEETING WAS ADJOURNED

MINUTES APPROVED: 1ST _____

2ND _____

VOICE VOTE APPROVAL: YES NO

APPROVED MINUTES SUBMITTED: _____
M. DARREL DOMINICK DATE