



**OKLAHOMA PRESCRIBED BURN ASSOCIATION  
BOARD MEETING  
May 30, 2019  
12:35 PM – 3:42 PM  
H&H Shooting Sports Complex – Oklahoma City, OK**

**DRAFT MINUTES – 5/30/19**

**LOCATION:** H&H Shooting Sports Complex – Oklahoma City, OK

**PRESENT:**

John Weir, OSU Extension/Chairperson  
Russell Stevens, Noble Foundation/Vice Chairperson  
Harry Fritzler, Central OPBA Coordinator  
Bill Inman, Creek County PBA  
Karsen Davis, Roger Mills PBA  
Bud Patterson, North Central Range Improvement Assoc.  
Lisa Knauf, Oklahoma Conservation Commission  
Seth Coffey, Arbuckle Rangeland Restoration Assoc.  
Cooper Sherrill, KO PBA  
Darrel Putman, OPBA Coordinator  
John Mustain, OPBA Coordinator

**ABSENT:**

Dink Novotny, Pawnee PBA  
Allen Fulton, Pawnee PBA  
Verlin Hart, Cross Timbers PBA  
Chad Schiehing, Canadian Rivers PBA  
Kate Schiehing, Canadian Rivers PBA  
Ken Gee, Southern OPBA Coordinator  
Carl Bunch, North Central Range Improvement Assoc.  
Steve Glasgow, NRCS

**GUESTS:**

Leah Lowe, OPJV  
Laura McIver, QF  
Diana Scholtz, OK DEQ  
Tell Judkins, ODWC  
Russ Horton, ODWC

**CALL TO ORDER:** John Weir called the meeting to order at 12:35 PM and welcomed the participants. Agenda was provided.

## **INTRODUCTIONS:**

John introduced the guest from ODWC, QF, OPJV and OK DEQ.

## **DRAFT MINUTES REVIEW/APPROVAL:**

Minutes from previous board meeting (12-14-18) were distributed for review. Davis motioned that the minutes be approved and Inman seconded the motion. Motion carried and minutes were approved with minor edits.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Weir distributed a financial statement report to the board for review, discussion, and approval. Reviewed year-to-date transactions. Knauf made the motion to approve, Coffey seconded, Motion carried.

## **GRANT FUNDING UPDATES:**

- **NRCS:**
  - OPBA still has original equipment and training grant monies.
  - Will put in a request to NRCS soon to purchase more radios for LPBAs.
  - Gary O'Neill is pleased with the activities OPBA has conducted with the grant monies so far.
  
- **The Nature Conservancy:**
  - No news.
  
- **Quail Forever:**
  - Working on funding for a skid steer to be donated to a LPBA.
  
- **OCC/OSU:**
  - Monies coming from US Fish and Wildlife Service to OCC should be approved in June. Expect about \$45,000. These funds can be distributed to LPBAs or any statewide needs. This has been done in the past and is much appreciated.
  
- **NWTF:**
  - Need to complete Super Fund request that is due in July.
  
- **ODWC:**
  - Allen sent John paperwork to update the agreement with OPBA. Funds are subject to approval at the June ODWC Commissioner meeting.
  
- **Other grants:**
  - None.

## **COORDINATOR REPORTS:**

### **Seth Coffey:**

- Was a busy spring. Was able to conduct a burn for each plan written. The Cross Bar burn escaped but went out in a cedar break. Cross Bar wants to burn more; no complaints about the escape.

### **Cooper Sherrill:**

- Was constrained by thesis this spring. Had a training burn scheduled for FFA and 4-H groups but then lost access to the unit they planned to burn. Will keep working on it. Laura McIver said that local QF Chapter members may have property to burn and Harry Fritzler offered to help with training the FFA and 4-H groups.

### **Bud Patterson reporting for Carl Bunch:**

- Burned over 3,000 acres since January 2018.
- Currently have three burn plans in the planning stages.
- Had a new landowner join but they lost some members.
- The new sprayer is up and running.
- Expect another 8,000 acres to be requested for prescribed fire by end of year.

### **Harry Fritzler:**

- Conducted numerous burn site assessments, most of which won't burn. One landowner wanted to burn for sandbur control but that burn won't be conducted.
- Working on several leaf litter burns for this fall.
- Working with NRCS to get a LPBA formed in NE Oklahoma. Large property owners in that area can burn on their own and are not interested in helping on small burns. Small property owners are interested but no one will step up to lead an LPBA.
- Attended Concho and Woodward prescribed burn worksops.
- Conducted on burn on May 15.
- Really likes the skid sprayer OPBA supplied him with.

### **Darrel Putman:**

- First season working with LPBAs. Has discovered that most are very conservative with conducting prescribed fire.
- Katie Blunk and the Freedom group is very busy conducting a lot of prescribed fires.
- Helped Canadian Rivers LPBA some but they really didn't need his help.
- Helped Roger Mills LPBA with a burn.
- Darrel is impressed with the ability of the LPBAs.

**John Mustain:**

- Wrote 32 plans totaling 5,600 acres. 12 have burned so far. Many are planned for the growing season.
- Attended 11 burns this spring and 6 LPBA meetings.
- Working with Cross Timbers LPBA president, Mark Hildabrand, to keep the LPBA active.
- Helping form new LPBA in Alfalfa Co. Chad Roach is president.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- John summarized all activities of the OPBA regional coordinators for the past several months. It was an impressive amount of effort.
- John and Russell attended the ODWC Commissioners meeting in March and reported on OPBA activities as well as highlighted and thanked ODWC for their support of OPBA.
- The Fighting Fire with Fire meeting at Concho, OK coordinated with Clay Pope had 79 attendees, 5 LPBAs represented, as well as 18 volunteer and paid fire departments. The event was copied at Woodward where 40 people attended, 12 of which were landowners. Eight or ten attendees were Woodward fire department staff. Woodward has a new fire chief that is very supportive of prescribed fire. Could not burn at the Woodward event due to no wind and excessive dew. But, there were more questions and interaction than at Concho. More events like this are being discussed for this fall.
- Working on trying to schedule a meeting with County Commissioners that support prescribed fire.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **LPBA Activities:**
  - John distributed an OPBA burn entry summary. There were 107 burns reported from January 1 to May 29 totaling 24,796 acres by 11 LPBAs. The number of burns and acres burned appears to be increasing as there were more of both reported this year than ever before. The size of burns has increased as well. No doubt that adding regional coordinators has increased these efforts across the state.
- **New LPBAs:** A new LPBA is being formed in Alfalfa County. John Proctor is forming the Land Run LPBA in the Norman area. They received Quail Forever funds for a new slip-in sprayer.
- Harry Fritzler would like a fully equipped prescribed burn trailer to use as needed on burns for landowners.
- **Purchases:**
  - Need to spend about \$5,000 each on the two new LPBA for purchase and equipping burn trailers. May also need to purchase about two more slip-in sprayers to have as needed.

- Bud Patterson requested funds to replace their UTV. Can a system be developed to provide funds to replace UTVs operated by LPBAs every few years? Lengthy discussion regarding this subject. Grants are to OPBA and are not guaranteed every year. OPBA is not formed to supply every need of the LPBAs. LPBAs can seek grants or donations under the OPBA 501c3 status.
- The Texas A&M University grant was funded and will be continued next year.
- John introduced the Forbes Magazine's 6 ways to measure small business success and discussed the application of each to OPBA:
  - Look at your financial statements (OPBA monitors theirs twice per year)
  - Check customer satisfaction (OPBA BoD, members, partners are satisfied for the most part)
  - Average how many new customers (2010 OPBA had 12 LPBAs. Now there are 23)
  - Conduct performance reviews (OPBA checks to see how LPBAs are doing, assists with equipment, and has a burn entry report that indicates an increase in the number of burns over time)
  - Stay current on the market (weather). Number of burns influenced by weather, too hot or too cold.
  - Assess your own expectations (do we expect too much or too little)

➤ **Other items:**

- Verlin Hart retired from the OPBA board of directors today. Verlin has been a great ambassador for prescribed fire in Oklahoma and has been the leader in the Cross Timbers LPBA for many years. OPBA appreciates all of the hard work and dedication he put in over the years and wishes him the best of luck. Will work on nominations for his replacement(s) and conduct a vote at or by the December board meeting.
- **Increase in LPBA coordinator pay.** Current pay is \$25/hour. Proposal is for after every two years of service, increase \$5/hour up to the cap proposed by Cooper/Seth???? It was agreed that coordinators have a 5-year vested time frame before being eligible for the increase. Knauf changed the proposal to a motion and made a motion to approve. Inman seconded. Motion passed. Weir will check on the tenure of each coordinator.
- **New OPBA gloves.** John had new work gloves made with the OPBA logo on them. Passed them out at the meeting for distribution to LPBAs and for promotional use.

**Adjourn:** Seeing no other business or discussion needed, Weir asked for a motion to adjourn. Knauf made a motion to adjourn at 3:42 PM with a second from Putmam, all approved.

**Next Meeting:** TBD

MINUTES APPROVED: 1<sup>ST</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>ND</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

VOICE VOTE APPROVAL: YES NO

APPROVED MINUTES SUBMITTED: \_\_\_\_\_

Russell Stevens

DATE: