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**OKLAHOMA PRESCRIBED BURN ASSOCIATION**

**BOARD MEETING**

**December 14, 2018**

**12:20 PM – 2:53 PM**

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

**MINUTES – 12/14/18**

**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

Ken Gee, Southern OPBA Coordinator

Bill Inman, Creek County PBA

Verlin Hart, Cross Timbers PBA

Alva Gregory, ODWC

Carl Bunch, North Central Range Improvement Assoc.

Steve Glasgow, NRCS

Brandon Reavis, NRCS

Chad Schiehing, Canadian Rivers PBA

Kate Schiehing, Canadian Rivers PBA

Seth Coffey, Arbuckle Rangeland Restoration Assoc.

Cooper Sherrill, KO PBA

Darrel Putman, OPBA Coordinator

John Mustain, OPBA Coordinator

Dustin Lamoreaux, QF

**ABSENT:**

Lisa Knauf, Oklahoma Conservation Commission

Karsen Davis, Roger Mills PBA

Bud Patterson, North Central Range Improvement Assoc.

Dink Novotny, Pawnee PBA

Allen Fulton, Pawnee PBA

**GUESTS:**

Gene T. Miller, NWTF

Luke Lewis, NWTF

Leah Lowe, OPJV

Diana Scholtz, OK DEQ

**CALL TO ORDER:** John Weir called the meeting to order at 12:20 PM and welcomed the participants. Agenda was provided.

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

John introduced the guest from NWTF, OPJV and OK DEQ.

**DRAFT MINUTES REVIEW/APPROVAL:**

Minutes from previous board meeting (5-25-18) were distributed for review. Glasgow motioned that the minutes be approved and Inman seconded the motion. Motion carried and minutes were approved.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Weir distributed a financial statement report to the board for review, discussion, and approval. Reviewed year-to-date transactions. Weir mentioned that funds for the Great Plains Fire Summit were deposited in the OPBA account to cover expenses for the event. Not all expenses for the event have been invoiced to OPBA at the time of this board meeting. Discussed the cost/value of burn trailers and equipment OPBA provides to LPBAs. John said the trailers cost about $5,500 and adding 6 radios adds another $2,500/trailer. Gregory made the motion to approve, Verlin seconded, all approved.

**GRANT FUNDING UPDATES:**

* **NRCS**:
  + Equipment agreement runs through 2020.
* **The Nature Conservancy:**
  + Jay Pruett no longer works at the Nature Conservancy. John visited with Katie Gillies and invited her to the OPBA board meeting to meet everyone and learn more about our efforts.
* **Quail Forever:**
  + Carl Bunch acquired a Grace Industries 65 gallon sprayer from funds donated by QF to the North Central Range Improvement Association.
* **OCC/OSU:**
  + Have not learned anything about OCC partners funds for 2019.
* **NWTF:**
  + NWTF awarded OPBA $7,000 for equipment purchases. OPBA matched these funds with another $4,000 to purchase 20 new radios and bank chargers.
* **ODWC:** 
  + Alva will visit with Scott Perry regarding the renewal of their $20,000 grant to OPBA.
  + OPBA needs to attend the ODWC Commissioner meeting to provide an update on OPBA activities. We should target the summer or early fall Commissioner meeting.
* **Other grants:** 
  + None.

**COORDINATOR REPORTS:**

**Ken Gee:**

* Prescribed burning activity has been slow, most likely due to extremely wet conditions this fall.
* Ken and Seth met with the Lake of the Arbuckles Watershed Association regarding the use of prescribed fire to control eastern red cedar.

**Seth Coffey:**

* Working with three ranches to plan prescribed fires but otherwise, pretty slow.

**Harry Fritzler:**

* Attended NRCS Tribal OTAC meeting in northeast OK. Cherokee tribe may form a LPBA.
* Conducted on site evaluations in McClain and Hughes Counties and worked on the plans for a prescribed burn on those sites.
* Worked on a radio interview with KGOU about prescribed fire, OPBA and wildfire. Not sure if it aired or when.

**Darrel Putman:**

* Met with a landowner in Weatherford, OK that might lead to meetings with several other landowners in the area and possibly the formation of another LPBA.
* Met with two other landowners about planning prescribed burns on their property.

**John Mustain:**

* Visited with NRCS wetland coordinator about burning wetland areas at various locations in the state.
* Has several landowners he is working with on prescribed burning as identified through NRCS programs. Has developed some burn plans. One landowner is planning on patch burning beginning in January.
* Working with Verlin on planning and conducting a burn very soon.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **NRCS Grant:** John and Katie summarized OPBA activities and distributed for review. This is a report of what we did during the year in order to comply with NRCS grant requirements. Steve Glasgow said he would like us to indicate which burn plans are in coordination with NRCS program participants as well as how many people attended training events. To do that, Katie mentioned that she prefers Harry’s regional coordinator reporting format. The July 1 – Dec. 31 payment will be made to OPBA in January. This will be the first payment of the $250,000 5 year grant from NRCS.

* **KOPBA/NWTF:** Cooper Sherrill reported that the KOPBA and NWTF local chapter partnered on another gun bash. This was yet again a successful fund raiser for the KOPBA and membership drive for NWTF.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **LPBA Activities:**
* Bill Inman has two prescribed burns planned.
* **Affiliation Agreement:** Weir proposed dropping the affiliation agreement process between OPBA and LPBAs across the state. No LPBAs have taken advantage of the affiliation and OPBA is spending a lot of money each year to hire an accountant to keep up with filing the paperwork with the IRS. LPBAs can still work any donations through OPBA to ensure that they are tax deductible for the donor. Dues will stay the same and will be required in order to take advantage of working tax deductible donations through OPBA and OPBA officers and directors insurance. Inman motioned to approve and Sherrill seconded: motion approved.
* **Purchases:**
* Spent $11,000 on purchasing additional radios and chargers from a different company than we used in the past called “Total Radio”. Inman suggested inquiring about replacement batteries as well as discounts on additional batteries.
* Planning purchasing 10 UTV slip-on sprayer units at a cost of about $1,799 each before discount to disperse to LPBAs and for OPBA coordinator use. Bill, Chad, Seth, Carl, and Cooper can use one each.
* Planning to purchase a 200 gallon skid unit sprayer for the Canadian Rivers PBA.
* **Communication between LPBAs and other groups:**
* NRCS said that under their new structure, individuals in local counties will still work with LPBAs. No major changes expected as a result of developing resource teams that will cover from 2 to 6 counties.
* County Extension – we need to work on developing more involvement with LPBAs if possible.
* There will be a training in Concho, OK for RVFDs, agencies, and landowners on how to use fire to protect communities from wildfire.
* ODWC Private Lands Biologists as well as QF and PF biologists are good contacts for LPBAs and individual landowners interested in using prescribed fire.
* We need to work on getting QF and PF biologists on the OPBA contact list and GroupMe list serve.
* **Bird study:**
* Ken mentioned an OPJV/PLJV collaborative study seeking landowners that are willing to participate in regarding mechanical and prescribed burning to control cedar for the benefit of grassland birds. Kyle Taylor will lead the study and is looking for about 30 landowners or sites in western OK. Ken is helping coordinate landowner contacts and is seeking input from OPBA and LPBAs on possible landowner contacts.
* **Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality:**
* Diana Scholtz discussed Oklahoma’s voluntary smoke management plan. She distributed a brochure that explains the plan. She is an advocate for prescribed fire and thinks landowners should self-police in regards to fire and smoke management and not be regulated.
* **Other items:**
  + - None

**Adjourn:** Seeing no other business or discussion needed, Weir asked for a motion to adjourn. Alva made a motion to adjourn at 2:36 PM with a second from Hart, all approved.

**Next Meeting:** TBD

MINUTES APPROVED: 1ST\_\_\_Karsen Davis\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2ND\_\_\_\_Bill Inman\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

VOICE VOTE APPROVAL: YES NO

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

Russell Stevens DATE: 11-14-19