

Approved May 19, 2008

Texas Forest Service Employee Advisory Council
Minutes From
April 30, 2008
College Station, Texas
Website: [TFS Employee Advisory Council](#)

Members Attending:

West Zone:

Rob Grotty: Urban/Oak Wilt
Eric Copeland: At-Large
DeAndra Grizzle: At-Large

East Zone:

Russell Lykins: North Region
Mike Brock: Central Region
Susan Cornett: North Region
Linda Alford: At-Large
Phil Gates: At-Large

College Station:

Lisa Heffer: Finance & Administrative Division/Dir's Office
James Polasek: Finance & Administrative Division/Dir's Office
Michelle Gonzales: FRD
Curt Stripling: FRP

Members Absent with Notification:

Shane Brown: West Zone, Regional Fire
Bobby Weaver: East Zone, Central Region
Doris Long: East Zone, South Region
Preston Williams: East Zone, South Region

Members Absent without Notification: None

Ex-Officio Members Present: Tom Owen

Guests Present: Mark Ilg, Brenda Mooney

Phil Gates, EAC Chair, called the EAC meeting to order at 9:05am.

1. **Review of minutes from the January 23, 2008 EAC Meeting:** The minutes from the October 31, 2007 EAC meeting were reviewed by the Council. These minutes were approved on 2/8/08.
2. **Updates to Working Issues:**

The Council reviewed the following working issues:

- a. **Uniform Items:** The Council discussed, at length, issues with regard to TFS uniforms.
 - i. James Polasek discussed his efforts in regard to possible uniform vendors should TFS decide to change vendors. One of the vendors contacted provided samples for the Council to preview.
 - ii. Philip Gates recommended the Council create a uniform subcommittee comprised of the Chair, Chair-Elect and Professional Development Coordinator. The group would also consult with the TFS Uniform Coordinator, Brenda Mooney. The Council agreed to form this subcommittee.
 - iii. The Council affirmed the need to re-survey the agency in June and use those results to determine future recommendations.
 - iv. Philip asked that all uniform issues be directed to Brenda Mooney for communication to Lion Apparel.
- b. **Smoke-Free Environment:** The Council affirmed the recommendation to monitor enforcement of the current TFS tobacco policy.
- c. **Communication of EAC Activities:** The Council affirmed its previous decision to approve meeting minutes as rapidly as possible and share the minutes with the entire agency.
- d. **TFS Holiday Schedule:** The Council decided to close this item with no action recommended.

3. **New Items:**

- a. **Safety Update:**
 - i. Mark Ilg provided a quarterly safety update to the Council.
 - ii. Mark will begin attending quarterly EAC meetings and provide safety updates each meeting. Mark and Philip Gates with insure communication channels are open between the EAC and the TFS Safety Council.
- b. **Personnel Meeting Planning:** Tom Owen suggested that the EAC create a subcommittee to assist the personnel meeting planning committee. Linda Alford and DeAndra Grizzle volunteered to assist in the planning effort.

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- c. **Departure of Tom Owen:** Tom Owen announced to the Council his departure date of May 16th. Mark Ilg will serve as the interim EAC facilitator until Tom's replacement is in place.
4. **Next Meeting Date:** July 23, 2008 (9:00am, Lufkin (Cudlipp Facility))
5. **Future Meeting Dates:**
October 29, 2008—College Station
6. Phil Gates adjourned the Council meeting at approximately 11:45am.