

Approved on 1/23/08

Texas Forest Service Employee Advisory Council
Minutes From
October 31, 2007
College Station, Texas
Website: [TFS Employee Advisory Council](#)

Members Attending:

Eric Copeland	DeAndra Grizzle	Sherri Noack
Sandy Santana	Bobby Weaver, Jr.	Carrie Chesbro
Linda Alford	Mike Brock	Phillip Gates
Meredith Carrell	Clay Bales	Doris Long

Members Absent with Notification: Susan Cornett, Kenneth Myrow, Russell Lykins, Shane Brown

Members Absent without Notification: None

Ex-Officio Members Present: Tom Owen

Guests Present: John Murphy, Brad Rekuc (Lion Apparel)

Carrie Chesbro, EAC Chair, called the EAC meeting to order at 9:00am.

1. **Approval of minutes from the July 25, 2007 EAC Meeting:** The minutes from the July 25, 2007 EAC meeting were approved, by unanimous vote.
2. **Updates to Working Issues:**

The Council reviewed the following working issues:

- a. **Uniform Survey:** Brad Rekuc, Lion Apparel Regional Sales Manager, was introduced to the Council and discussed various issues regarding Lion Apparel's uniform products. He specifically discussed the key issues identified in our recent uniform survey (sizing and quality). Generally speaking, Brad was very open to the issues we have and wants to meet our needs. One of the key issues discussed was the quality of the "jeans" fabric. Brad hopes things will improved in this area. The Council wants to invite Brad back next year to see if any improvements have been seen.
- b. **Employee Contribution Award:** The TFS Awards Committee recommended to the Director that a new award not be created but rather employees making signification recommendations to the EAC

be nominated for one of our current Director's Awards. The Council decided to table this issue right now but still has the ability to communicate with the Director at a later date and recommend an employee for appropriate recognition if warranted.

- c. **Firefighter of the Year Award:** This recommendation is still tabled pending selection of the Associate Director, FRP.
- d. **Other Uniform Updates:** The Council agreed to recommend the Director approve the low-profile hat option for employee purchase using the uniform allowance.

3. **New Items:**

- a. **Announcements about internet, phone service, etc:** The Council felt emails announcing power outages, no internet or phone service are helpful and did not feel they clogged up the email inbox.
- b. **Tobacco Free Environment:** The Council discussed a recommendation from an employee that we begin to more aggressively enforce our no smoking policy in state vehicles and expand our policy to include smokeless tobacco. The current TFS rule regarding tobacco use is found at: http://tfsfinance.tamu.edu/modules/finance/admin/rules/smoke_free_enviro.htm The Council will discuss this matter further at its next scheduled meeting. A recommendation was made to discuss this issue with the chain of command now in an effort to resolve this issue at the lowest level possible.
- c. **Members Cycling Off EAC:** The Chair recognized and thanked the following members for their service to the Council:
 - i. Clay Bales
 - ii. Sherri Noack
 - iii. Sandy Santana
 - iv. Carrie Chesbro
 - v. Meredith Middlebrook
 - vi. Kenneth MyrowElections will be conducted in early December to fill these newly vacant slots on the Council.

4. **Next Meeting Date: January 23, 2008 (Lufkin-tentative)**

5. **Future Meeting Dates:**

April 23, 2008—College Station

July 23, 2008—Lufkin

October 29, 2008—College Station

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6. Carrie Chesbro adjourned the Council meeting at approximately 11:45am.