

**Texas Forest Service  
Employee Advisory Council**

Minutes From

January 22, 2009

College Station, Texas

Website: [TFS Employee Advisory Council](#)

**Members Attending:**

**West Zone:**

Rob Grotty: Urban/Oak Wilt  
Shane Brown: West Zone, Regional Fire  
Andy Larson: At-Large

**East Zone:**

Russell Lykins: North Region  
Susan Cornett: North Region  
Twanisha Bennett: Central Region  
John Rush: Central Region  
Preston Williams: East Zone, South Region  
Jake Donellan: At-Large  
Philip 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:**

Doris Long: East Zone, South Region  
Jason Keiningham: At Large, West Zone

**Members Absent without Notification: None**

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** Stacy Overby  
Sam Lewis

**Guests Present:** None

James Polasek, EAC Chair, called the EAC meeting to order at 10:00am.

1. **Review of minutes from the October 30, 2008 EAC Meeting:** The minutes from the October 30, 2008 EAC meeting were reviewed by the Council. These minutes were approved on 11/08.

2. **Updates to Working Issues:**

The Council reviewed the following working issues:

- a. **Uniform Items:** It was reiterated that all uniform item issues and discrepancies would be brought directly to Lesa Childer's for her to work.
- b. **New Members:** The new members of the EAC; Jason Keiningham, Andy Larson, Twanisha Bennett, John Rush, and Jake Donellan were welcomed.

3. **New Items:**

- a. **Introduction of Sam Lewis:** Stacy Overby introduced Sam Lewis, Environmental Health and Safety Specialist to all the EAC members, minus those that were absent. All EAC members invited Sam to attend all the EAC meetings if he is available.
- b. **Toolbox on new TFS trucks:** Council agreed the issue should be transferred to safety to work. New trucks that came with toolboxes cause a detrimental blind spot when trying to see out the back window when backing the vehicle. Profile of toolbox combined with the height of the rear of truck creates very limited visibility to the rear. In addition to the toolbox, the headrest on the new trucks are either turned around or removed by a majority of the operators. Profile of new headrest pushes head forward when driving.
- c. **TFS Honor Guard:** Shane Brown recommended that TFS look at the idea of identifying / establishing a group of TFS members that could be called upon to act as an Honor Guard in the event one of our employees died in the line of duty. Recommended that dress uniform also be provided for the members.
- d. **Chair Elect:** Rob Grotty from West Zone, Oak Wilt was voted by the council to be the Chair-elect for the EAC.
- e. **EAC Meeting Location:** Council overwhelmingly agreed that all EAC meetings should be held in College Station. College Station is the most central for all members.
- f. **Reminder for the Request for HR:** Stacy Overby reminded everyone that if an area wants Martha Alexander, HR-College Station, for a Retirement Meeting/Workshop in April 2009, they need to send the date and numbers to Martha or Stacy.

g. **Posting of EAC minutes**: Philip Gates reminded me to ensure IR posts the October 30, 2008 minutes and the new EAC member roster on the TFS website.

4. **Next Meeting Date**: April 23, 2009, 10:00am, College Station

5. **Future Meeting Dates**: July, 23, 2009, 10:00am, College Station

James Polasek **adjourned** the Council meeting at approximately 11:30am.