

BET Executive Committee Meeting
TAMUS-Overton Center
November 21, 2003

MINUTES

Presiding Wayne Lacy, Chairman

Present: Phil Sadler, Glenn Richardson, Robert Bruner, Dr. Charles Long, Tony Douglas, Horace McQueen, Albert Purnell, Mary Clements, Ron Hufford, Dr. Scott Ludwig, Indre Pemberton, Rebecca Parker, Wayne Lacy, Ted Conover

Wayne Lacy welcomed those present. Tony Douglas provided a financial report: BET TALL Account, \$3,359.45; BET Regular Checking Account, \$937.65.

Douglas spoke about the reorganizational changes in Texas Cooperative Extension during the past few months and introduced Mrs. Rebecca Parker, the new Regional Program Director for Agriculture & Natural Resources in East Region, which covers the BET area. Ms. Parker covered her new responsibilities as Regional RPD, which will include providing leadership to both the BET and BIG Programs. She is a native East Texan, earned her BS degree from Texas A&M, an MS degree from Florida State University, and is currently working on her PhD in Ag Education through TAMU distance education. Ms. Parker has 16 years of work experience as a county Extension agent and teacher.

Wayne Lacy explained the current goals of BET and shared copies of amended BET Bylaws adopted in September 2003.

Jerry Lucy, a vital member of BET, passed away recently. BET donated monetarily to a local scholarship fund the Lucy family had established in his memory. Phil Sadler moved that, in Mr. Lucy's memory, a scholarship/assistance fund for TALL enrollees from our area be established and that a plaque be presented to the Lucy family during the TALL meeting January 20, 2004, in Tyler; Mary Clements seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously; Ron Hufford, with assistance of Glenn Richardson, will secure the plaque.

Following discussion on the memorial scholarship/assistance fund, Albert Purnell moved that a selection committee be formed to review TALL applicants to determine their needs of financial assistance (minimum of \$500 per selectee) in order to participate in TALL; Ron Hufford seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously. Albert Purnell, Phil Sadler and Ted Conover volunteered to form the Selection Committee. Ron Hufford stated that other producers in East Texas need to be notified of the scholarship fund and that it should be mentioned at the TALL meeting in Tyler, as well. Initial donations will be deposited in the existing TALL account, with a separate account set up in the future.

BET Awards - Chairman Lacy reminded the group that no BET awards have been presented since 2001 due to the reorganization of BET. Due to new BET bylaws excluding an annual meeting, awards for 2002 will be presented in Tyler in January at the TALL meeting. The committee felt that recipients would feel honored, being recognized in front of

that audience. Mary Clements, Ron Hufford and Phil Sadler met to review nominees for the 2002 awards.

BET Website - Indre Pemberton provided a brief overview of the new BET website developed in April 2003. She explained that the website's homepage has six sections, including a membership form, BET bylaws, awards, a contacts page, a programs page, and a resources page with links to specialists and researchers. Since Greg Clary maintains the website, members should notify him of needed changes. Suggestions for the website included adding some history on Jerry Lucy and information on the memorial(s) established in his honor; posting notices of BET committee meetings; and reviewing/modifying the statement at the bottom of the page.

TALL Class VIII Tour to East Texas - The East Texas tour of TALL Class VIII will take place January 20-23, 2004, with supper on January 20th in Tyler. The tentative tour agenda includes arriving Tuesday morning, the 20th, at the Holiday Inn in Tyler; an overview of the rose industry during lunch at Lone Star Nursery; tour of a packing operation; tour of Rampro's greenhouse operation; tour of Dr Prud'homme's cattle operation; return to Holiday Inn for reception and dinner. On Wednesday morning the class will tour Parsley's dairy, greenhouse, deer farming, beef cattle and trucking operation; proceed to Nacogdoches to tour poultry operation. Other tour sites will include Pineywoods Conservation Center for information/tour on forestry industry and space shuttle recovery, US Forest Service management programs, and Stephen F. Austin forestry programs. Several TAMUS administrators will attend the reception/dinner; dinner speaker has yet to be secured.

Local fundraising to offset East Texas tour expenses has netted \$3000 to date toward the targeted \$10,000. Glenn Richardson moved that BET sponsor the chartered bus for the tour, as was done last year; Charles Long seconded the motion; motion carried. Ted Conover stated that, after meeting the \$7000-\$7500 hotel/reception/dinner expense, enough money should be left from funds raised to cover the bus expense. It was noted that many TALL recipients pick East Texas as their best tour and are usually surprised at the amount of agriculture in this area.

TALL IX - Members are asked to contact Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz, TALL Coordinator, with names of potential candidates for TALL Class IX. The age requirement has been relaxed, allowing special consideration to candidates over 45 years of age. Nominees from our area for the next TALL class will need to be invited to the Tyler reception; provide Tony Douglas immediately with names and addresses. Information on TALL can be found at website <http://TALL.tamu.ed>.

Ron Hufford explained in detail House Bill 1904 (Healthy Forest & Restoration Act), changes in ownership of timberlands, and major upcoming changes in the timber industry; group discussion followed. A committee of Ron Hufford, Robert Bruner and Rebecca Parker was appointed to consider topics and speakers for BET-sponsored meeting(s) in 2004. Hufford was recognized for his 20 years of service with Texas Forestry Service.

Meeting adjourned.