

MINUTES

South Carolina Board of Registration for Foresters

10:00 A.M., October 16, 2001
Synergy Business Park (formerly the Koger Business Park)
110 Centerview Drive, Kingstree Building, Room 111
Columbia, South Carolina

Mr. Don Handley, Chairman, of Florence, called the regular meeting of the S. C. Board of Registration of Foresters to order at 10:00 a.m., with a quorum present. Other members present included: Dr. Larry Nelson, Vice-Chairman, of Central; Ms. Marietta McConnell, Secretary, of Hemingway; Mr. Raymond Boozer, of Gilbert; Mr. Fred Gantt, of Columbia; Mr. Hugh Ryan, of Wedgefield; and Ms. Patricia Straka, of Westminster.

Staff members participating during the meeting included: Mr. Randall Bryant, Assistant Deputy Director; Ms. Sharon Dantzler, Deputy General Counsel, LLR-Office of General Counsel; Mr. Dwight Hayes, Interim Administrator; Ms. Sandra Dickert, Administrative Assistant; and Ms. Jackie Meggie, Administrative Assistant.

Members of the audience included: William O. Boykin, Keith H. Brown, Michael Doolittle, Richard A. Harper, Diedra C. Rankin, Jane Thesing, and Andrea Truitt.

Mr. Handley announced the meeting was being held in accordance with Section 30-4-80 of the S. C. Freedom of Information Act by notice mailed to The State Newspaper, Associated Press, WIS-TV and all other requesting persons, organizations, or news media. In addition, notice was posted on the bulletin boards at the two main entrances of the Kingstree Building.

Invocation

Mr. Boozer led everyone in prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the July 17, 2001 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Ryan noted one change to page two and Dr. Nelson noted one change to page one.

MOTION

Mr. Ryan moved the board approve the minutes of the July 17, 2001 meeting as amended. Mr. Boozer seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chairman's Remarks

Mr. Handley stated Mr. Hayes had indicated the Legislative Audit Council would be speaking to the board at 11:00 a.m.

Administrator's Remarks

Mr. Hayes stated 819 individuals have renewed their licenses, 56 individuals have allowed their licenses to expire. He further stated that the S. C. Forestry Commission had requested that staff insert a question asking for all foresters who wanted to be included in their directory as being available for consulting with the public. He noted that 310 foresters had requested to be listed in the S. C. Forestry Commission's directory. He noted that those names have been forwarded to the S. C. Forestry Commission for their directory.

Legislative Update, If Needed, Legislative Liaison Office

There was no legislative update given during the October 16, 2001 meeting.

Advisory Opinions, If Needed, Office of General Counsel

There were no advisory opinions given during the October 16, 2001 meeting.

Remarks from the Assistant Deputy Director

Mr. Bryant briefed the board regarding the budget restraints the statewide agencies have taken. He further stated that budget forecasters have indicated there would be another cut of two percent to five percent possibly within the next two weeks. He went on to say the cabinet level agencies have also been informed to expect a ten-percent to a twelve percent cut in the 2001/02 fiscal year. He noted that the agency has not had to have a reduction in force as of this date; however, it may come with the next round of budget cuts.

Mr. Bryant stated the agency has upgraded its security and indicated that the changes could be implemented in the next thirty days. He further stated that in the future the board members may be asked to produce an additional photographic identification and may have personal belongings searched when they enter the building.

Mr. Bryant stated he had recently met with representatives of the Legislative Audit Council and provided them with information they had requested along with additional information to show the board's validity. He further stated he had requested at that time that they meet with the board today to explain the Council's process, who had made the request regarding the legislative audit and some of the expectations that could result from the Council's findings.

Mr. Handley stated he understands the boards are raising money to support the agency. He asked how many employees are being paid from the General Fund and how many are being paid out of the fees generated from license fees. Mr. Bryant stated none of his employees are paid out of the General Fund. He noted that some boards have biennial licenses and that the agency has had to explain to the General Assembly that the money currently in the bank would fund the programs for next fiscal year.

Ms. Dantzer explained to the board how the funding could be cut at any time during the year.

At this time the board, as a whole, interviewed the individuals present who have submitted applications for examination. The individuals were informed the board would discuss their applications and the interviews in executive session prior to making a decision.

Applicants for Examination

Keith Harris Brown

Mr. Ryan recused himself from participating in the deliberations in this matter as he is acquainted with Mr. Brown.

Mr. Brown has an Associate of Science Degree in Forestry and six years of work experience. He is requesting the board's approval to take the examination.

Charles Michael Doolittle

Mr. Doolittle has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and has ten years of work experience as a Procurement Forester. He is requesting the board's approval to take the examination.

Diedra C. Rankin

Ms. Rankin has an Associate of Science Degree in Computer Technology, fifteen years of experience as a Forester's Technician and two years of experience as a Resource Technician in Procurement. She is requesting the board's approval to take the examination.

The board, at this time, heard from the Legislative Audit Council.

1. *Legislative Audit Council*

Ms. Jane Thesing and Ms. Andrea Truitt of the Legislative Audit Council discussed their objectives and process with the board. During their presentation it was noted that an audit request was made in February 2001 by five legislators to the Council that an audit be made of the Board of Foresters. It was also noted that the Legislative Audit Council did not approve the audit request until their meeting on September 25, 2001.

The board asked several questions of Ms. Thesing and Ms. Truitt.

Lunch

The S. C. Board of Foresters adjourned for lunch at 12:20 p.m.

Return to Public Session

The S. C. Board of Foresters returned to public session at 1:10 p.m.

Action Items

Old Business

Mr. Handley asked for committee reports at this time.

Continuing Education Committee

There was no report from the continuing education committee.

Legislative Committee

There was no report from the legislative committee.

Newsletter Committee

Dr. Nelson stated Mr. Handley and he met with Mr. Hayes during the summer regarding the

newsletter. Following a brief discussion regarding whether or not the board had the funds to disseminate a newsletter, Mr. Boozer moved the newsletter be distributed immediately.

Dr. Nelson asked to meet with Mr. Handley and Mr. Hayes after the meeting today.

Policy, Procedure and Regulation Committee

There was no report from the policy, procedure and regulation committee.

New Business

2. Applicants for Registration Approval

Rhett Marshall Bost

Mr. Bost has a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry, however he has not submitted proof that he has taken an exam.

MOTION

Mr. Gantt moved the board approve licensure for Mr. Bost pending successful completion of the exam. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Stephen Edward Eaddy

Mr. Eaddy has a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry and passed exam with a score of 81.

MOTION

Mr. Nelson moved the board approve registration to Mr. Eaddy. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gantt and unanimously carried.

Larry Ron Herring

Mr. Herring has an Associate of Science degree in Forest Technology and has passed the exam. He is applying for licensure by reciprocity.

MOTION

Mr. Boozer moved the board approve Mr. Herring for registration. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Colby Dewayne Jernigan

Mr. Jernigan has an Associate of Science degree in Forestry and passed the exam on December 13, 1996; however, he does not have six years of experience under a registered forester. He is applying for registration by reciprocity

MOTION

Ms. McConnell made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nelson, the board approve Mr. Jernigan for registration contingent upon proof he has six years of work experience under a registered forester. The motion carried unanimously.

Brian Eugene Medlock

Mr. Medlock has a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry Management; however, he has not shown proof that he has taken an exam. He is applying for registration by reciprocity.

MOTION

Mr. Gantt moved the board approve Mr. Medlock for registration pending successful passage of the exam administered by the State of South Carolina. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Michael Leigh Prescott

Mr. Prescott's application indicates he has a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resource Management; however, he has not provided the board with proof that he has obtained the four-year degree.

MOTION

Mr. Ryan moved the board defer a decision in this matter pending receipt of a college transcript from Mr. Prescott. The motion was seconded by Dr. Nelson and unanimously carried.

David Thomas Pritchard, Jr.

Mr. Ryan recused himself from voting in this matter.

Mr. Pritchard has a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry and a master's degree in Forest Management. He passed the exam with a score of 78.

MOTION

Mr. Boozer made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nelson to approve Mr. Pritchard for licensure. The motion carried with a majority vote.

Byron E. Rominger

Mr. Rominger has a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry and passed the exam with a score of 71.

MOTION

Dr. Nelson moved the board approve Mr. Rominger for registration. Mr. Boozer seconded carried unanimously.

Shane Ashley Sprouse

Mr. Sprouse has a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry and passed the exam with a score of 85.

MOTION

Mr. Boozer moved the board approve Mr. Sprouse for registration. The motion was seconded by Dr. Nelson, and unanimously carried.

Kevin Eugene Williams

Mr. Williams has a Bachelor of Science degree in forest Resource Management. He has passed the exam with a score of 76. He is applying for registration by reciprocity.

MOTION

Mr. Boozer moved the board approve Mr. Williams for registration. Dr. Nelson seconded by and unanimously carried.

Kevin Grady Patterson

Mr. Patterson has a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry; however, he has not shown proof of taking an exam. He is applying for registration by reciprocity.

MOTION

Ms. McConnell moved the board approve Mr. Patterson's application pending passage of exam. Mr. Gantt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. Applicants for Reinstatement

Jacob Franklin Almond, Jr.

Mr. Ryan recused himself from voting in this matter.

Mr. Almond's license has been expired since June 30, 1999. He has met all of the continuing forester education and fee requirements for reinstatement.

MOTION

Mr. Boozer moved the board approve Mr. Almond's application for reinstatement. The motion was seconded by Dr. Nelson and passed with a majority vote.

David Wayne Coker

Mr. Coker allowed his license to expire June 30, 2000. He has met all of the continuing forester education and fee requirements for reinstatement.

MOTION

Ms. Straka moved the board approve Mr. Coker's application for reinstatement. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Joseph Leon Ellen

Mr. Ellen allowed his license to expire June 30, 1997. He has met all of the continuing forester education and fee requirements for reinstatement.

MOTION

Mr. Boozer moved the board approve Mr. Ellen's application for reinstatement. The motion was seconded by Dr. Nelson and unanimously carried.

Joseph Cary Floyd

Mr. Floyd allowed his license to expire June 30, 2000. He has met all of the continuing forester education and fee requirements for reinstatement.

MOTION

Mr. Ryan moved the board approve Mr. Floyd's application for reinstatement. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

William Don Rackley

Mr. Rackley allowed his license to expire June 30, 2000. He has met all of the continuing forester education and fee requirements for reinstatement.

MOTION

Mr. Gantt moved the board approve Mr. Rackley's application for reinstatement. The motion was seconded by Dr. Nelson and unanimously carried.

4. Applicants for Examination

William F. Milliken

Mr. Milliken has a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry. He is requesting the board's approval to take the examination. Mr. Milliken was not required to appear before the board since he has a four-year college degree.

MOTION

Mr. Boozer moved the board approve Mr. Milliken's request to take the exam. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Jason Corey McMillan

Mr. McMillan did not appear at today's meeting.

Discussion Items

There were no discussion items to be discussed during the October 16, 2001 S. C. Board of Foresters meeting.

Public Comments

There were no public comments made during the October 16, 2001 meeting of the S. C. Board of Foresters.

Executive Session

Dr. Nelson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gantt and unanimously carried, the board enter executive session to deliberate on applications and to discuss disciplinary matters.

Return to Public Session to Report on Executive Session

Mr. Handley noted for the record that no motions were made and no votes were taken during the time the board was in executive session.

Mr. Gantt left the meeting at this time.

MOTION - Keith Harris Brown, Charles Michael Doolittle, Diedra C. Rankin

Mr. Boozer moved the board approve Keith Harris Brown, Charles Michael Doolittle and Diedra C. Rankin to take exam. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Consent Order

During executive session the board was briefed on a consent order. The board members were not informed of any names involved in the case should the board conduct a hearing in the matter.

Mr. Ryan moved the board not accept the consent order as presented. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion, which carried with a majority vote. Ms. Straka voted nay.

MOTION - Legislative Audit Council

Mr. Ryan moved the board direct the chairman to file a response with the Legislative Audit Council offering assistance of the board in all fact gathering and requesting to participate fully in the exit process. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Election of Officers

Mr. Handley stated he had asked Mr. Boozer to serve on the nomination committee to nominate a slate of officers for 2002.

Mr. Boozer stated the committee is nominating Mr. Ryan as chairman, Ms. McConnell as vice-chairman, and Mr. Gantt as secretary. He further stated and apologized for not having had a chance to speak with these individuals.

MOTION

Mr. Boozer moved the nominations be closed and that the slate of officers be elected by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Dr. Nelson and unanimously carried. The slate of officers was elected by acclamation.

Adjournment

MOTION

There being no further business to be brought before the board at this time, Mr. Ryan moved the meeting be adjourned. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The October 16, 2001 meeting of the S. C. Board of Registration of Foresters adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the S. C. Board of Registration of Foresters is scheduled for January 10, 2002.