

South Carolina Board of Registration for Foresters MINUTES

Board Meeting

10:00 A.M., January 10, 2002

Synergy Business Park

110 Centerview Drive, Kingstree Building, Room 108

Columbia, South Carolina

Mr. Hugh Ryan, Chairman, called the regular meeting of the S. C. Board of Foresters to order at 10:00 a.m., with a quorum present. Other members present during the meeting included: Ms. Marietta Singleton, Vice Chairman, of Hemingway; Mr. Fred Gantt, Secretary, of Columbia; Dr. Larry Nelson, of Clemson; Ms. Patricia Straka, of Westminster; and Mr. Virgil Wall, Jr., of Greenwood.

Mr. Raymond Boozer, of Gilbert was absent from the meeting.

Staff members participating during the meeting included: Sandra Dickert, Administrative Assistant; Dwight Hayes, Administrator; Jackie Meggie, Administrative Assistant.

Members of the public included: Jason Corey McMillan.

Mr. Ryan 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. Gantt delivered the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the October 16, 2001 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Ryan asked the members if they had the committee appointments available from the last meeting. It was determined the appointments would be retrieved for the members at a later time.

Motion

Mr. Gantt moved to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2001 meeting as presented. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Under Old Business, the board discussed the motion regarding Mr. Michael Leigh Prescott's transcript from the last meeting.

Motion

Dr. Nelson moved the board amend the minutes to state 'Mr. Ryan moved the board defer a decision in this matter to the next meeting pending receipt of a college transcript from Mr. Prescott.' The motion was seconded by Ms. Straka and unanimously carried.

Chairman's Remarks

Introduction of New Board Member - W. Virgil Wall, Jr.

Mr. Ryan introduced and welcomed Mr. Virgil Wall, a new board member, to the board. He further stated Mr. Wall is a past chairman of the Forestry Association and is a graduate of Clemson University.

Administrator's Remarks

Mr. Hayes stated that there are currently 836 registered foresters. He further stated that staff has licensed eight individuals based on the board approvals from the last meeting.

Mr. Hayes if the board desires for staff to conduct the ten-percent samplings of the renewals for the last period then staff would begin the audits soon by requesting documentation on continuing education documents and reviewing those documents. He noted the ten-percent would be approximately eighty individuals.

Mr. Hayes stated he was in contact with the auditors of the Legislative Audit Council in December 2001. He further stated that staff provided case files from the past three years for the auditors' review at that time. He indicated the auditors are still gathering information from all interested parties. He expects to hear from the auditors within the next thirty days, however, there has been no official indication of any meetings at this time.

Mr. Hayes stated staff has received a request from the State of Maine for the board's discussion regarding reciprocity. He presented this information to the members. He further stated that should the board decide to discuss the issue it would be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Hayes stated Ms. Dantzler is attending a board meeting, however, should the board need advice regarding an issue, she would enter the meeting at that time.

Advisory Opinions, If Needed, Office of General Counsel

There were no advisory opinions given during the January 10, 2002 meeting of the S. C. Board of Foresters.

Legislative Update, If Needed, Legislative Liaison Office

There was no legislative update given during the January 10, 2002 meeting of the S. C. Board of Foresters.

Action Items

Old Business

Michael Leigh Prescott

A brief discussion ensued regarding Mr. Prescott's transcript. Mr. Hayes stated Mr. Prescott does have a four-year degree in Forestry.

New Business

Applicants for Examination or Registration Approval

McMillan, Jason Corey

Mr. Ryan stated Mr. McMillan was scheduled to appear at the October 2001 meeting but was unable to attend at the last minute.

Mr. Ryan recused himself from participating in the discussion and vote in this matter as he is an independent contractor with Shaw, McLeod, Belser and Hurlbutt, which is the company Mr. McMillan is currently working for.

Mr. McMillan has a two-year degree in Forestry. He appeared before the board for a question and answer period.

Phillips, Wayne Jay

Mr. Phillips received a four-year Forestry from the University of Georgia. He worked in procurement for Georgia Pacific from March 1995 to June 2000 and has been a Resource Forester for Georgia Pacific – The Timber Company since June 2000.

Motion

Mr. Gantt moved the board proceed with Mr. Phillips application. Mr. Wall seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

McMillan, Jason Corey (continued)

The board briefly discussed Mr. McMillan's application.

Motion

Dr. Nelson moved the board accept Mr. McMillan's application for examination. The motion was seconded by Ms. Singleton and unanimously carried.

Grant, Carl David

Mr. Hayes presented the members with an application for Carl David Grant. He further stated this application was just completed. He noted it is for the board's consideration if they decide to discuss the application today. He indicated Mr. Grant is an employee of the S. C. Forestry Commission.

Mr. Grant obtained a four-year degree from Clemson University. He passed the exam and is approximately three weeks short of his experience.

Motion

Mr. Wall moved the board accept the application pending completion of the one-month experience. Dr. Nelson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Exam

Mr. Gantt asked the members if they are comfortable with the current foresters' exam. Dr. Nelson stated he had reviewed the exam with Mr. Don Handley and Mr. Kenney Funderburke a few years ago. A brief discussion regarding the exam ensued. During the discussion Mr. Hayes suggested the board consider allowing an outside company, such as Experior, proctor the exam. Mr. Ryan suggested the board call a special meeting to discuss the exam.

Proposed Legislation

Mr. Ryan stated the board has been attempting to get proposed legislation passed over the past several years. He went on to say it is a bad time to submit proposed legislation with the Legislative Audit Council conducting its review of the board. He thinks it would be prudent to attempt anything this year. He asked the members if they would agree to hold the legislation until a later time as it is not practical at this time to attempt to get new legislation passed.

Discussion Items

Ms. Straka questioned the members about the hearing discussed at the previous meeting. Mr. Hayes stated staff is not yet ready to bring that matter before the board. He hopes to have a Memoranda of Agreement done instead of a full evidentiary hearing.

Public Comments

There were no public comments made during the January 10, 2002 meeting.

Executive Session

The board did not enter executive session during the January 10, 2002 meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the board, Mr. Wall moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

The next meeting of the S. C. Board of Foresters will be held on April 16, 2002.