

MINUTES
South Carolina Board of Registration for Foresters
Board Meeting
10:00 A.M., July 12, 2007
Synergy Business Park
Kingstree Building
110 Centerview Drive, Conference Room 111
Columbia, South Carolina

Hugh Ryan, Chairman, of Wedgefield, called the regular meeting of the SC Board of Registration for Foresters to order at 10:00 a.m. Other board members in attendance included: Virgil Wall, Vice Chairman of Greenwood; Patricia Straka, Secretary, of Pendleton; George Chastain, of Georgetown; Fred Gantt, of Columbia; and Amy L. McFadden, of Georgetown.

Raymond Boozer, of Gilbert, was not present for the meeting.

Staff members participating during the meeting included: Lenora Addison-Miles, Administrator; Sandra Dickert, Administrative Assistant; and Linda Owens, Administrative Assistant.

Meeting Called to Order

Mr. Ryan announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S. C. Board of Registration for Foresters office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. A quorum is present.

Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation

Mr. Gantt delivered the invocation.

Approval of Excused Absences

The Board members nor staff heard from Mr. Boozer.

Approval of the April 5, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Wall noted that Mr. Boozer was not listed as being present, although he was present during the meeting. Mr. Ryan noted a change on the last page in the paragraph above Public Comments. He stated the subcommittee is the Agricultural, Natural Resources and Environmental.

MOTION

Mr. Wall moved the Board approve the minutes of the April 5, 2007 meeting as amended. Mr. Gantt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chairman's Remarks – Hugh Ryan

Mr. Ryan welcomed Mr. George Chastain as the new Board member.

Mr. Chastain gave a brief professional background.

Mr. Ryan thanked Dr. Dunn for his service to the Board and stated he would write a note of thanks to Dr. Alan Dunn.

Administrator's Remarks – Lenora Miles

*Legislative Update, If Needed, Legislative Liaison Office
Advisory Opinions, If Needed, Office of General Counsel*

Mrs. Miles stated there are currently 698 foresters who are registered through June 30, 2009. She further stated 479 licensees utilized the on-line system, which is approximately 69%. She went on to say 107 foresters have not renewed as of July 12, 2007.

Mrs. Miles stated lapsed license letters would be mailed the first week in August. She went on to say the audit would be conducted in September 2007 and would be received for the Board to discuss during the October 2007 meeting. Discussion on the audit ensued. The Board asked Mrs. Miles to conduct the audit in October 2007 for discussion during the January 2008 meeting.

Unfinished Business

Mrs. Miles stated the Board had discussed the possibility of meeting at Horry-Georgetown Technical College during 2008. She further stated the Board would be able to meet at Horry-Georgetown Technical College next year.

The Board discussed possible meeting dates and determined it would hold its January 2008 meeting on Wednesday, January 23, 2008. An alternate date would be Tuesday, January 22, 2008.

Mrs. McFadden discussed the topics discussed during the ASBORF meeting held in Choctow, Mississippi in June. She noted ASBORF voted to have a \$100 annual membership fee for each state beginning in January 2008. She said other topics discussed included continuing education and exams. She stated the 2008 meeting would be held June 12-13, 2008 in Asheville, North Carolina.

New Business

Approval of Licensure via Examination

a. Phillip A Bowen

Phillip Bowen obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forest Resource Management from Clemson University in 2004. He passed the certified forester exam in April 2007. His file is complete.

MOTION

Mrs. McFadden made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wall and unanimously carried, the Board approve Mr. Bowen's license application.

b. James Brunson

James Brunson obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forest Resource Management from Clemson University in 2004. He passed the certified forester exam in April 2007. His file is complete.

MOTION

Mr. Wall moved the Board approve Mr. Brunson's license application. Mrs. Straka seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

c. Stephen Crown

Stephen Crown obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forest Resource Management in 2004 from Clemson University. He passed the certified forester exam in January 2007. His file is now complete. Staff received Mr. Crown's criminal history report after the agendas were mailed to the Board members. The report reflects no arrests.

MOTION

Mr. Wall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gantt and unanimously carried, the Board approve Mr. Crown's license application.

d. James Miller

James Miller obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forest Resource Management from Clemson in 2003. He passed the certified forester exam in October 2006. His file is complete.

MOTION

Mr. Wall moved the Board approve Mr. Miller's license application. Mrs. McFadden seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

e. Holly Welch

Holly Welch obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Urban Forestry from University of Wisconsin Stevens Point in 2003. She passed the certified forester exam in May 2007. Her file is now complete. Staff received an additional reference after the agendas were mailed to the Board members.

MOTION

Mrs. McFadden made a motion, seconded by Mr. Chastain and unanimously carried, the Board approve Mrs. Welch's license application.

Society of American Foresters Exam Agreement - Renewal

Ms. Miles stated the agreement with SAF was a one-year agreement, which expired on June 30, 2007. She further stated the terms of the agreement could be renewed on an annual basis by written mutual agreement of the parties. She said staff has sent SAF documentation in regard to 28 candidates approved by the Board. She went on to say 12 of the 28 candidates have taken the exam, of which eight have passed. She asked the Board members if they wanted to renew the agreement for 2007/2008.

MOTION

Mr. Wall moved the Board approve a one-year extension of the SAF exam agreement and that the cover letter contain verbiage asking SAF to increase the pool of questions. Mrs. Straka seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Reciprocity Residence Issue

Mrs. Straka asked what the South Carolina law says about reciprocity residence. Mrs. Miles read the statute regarding reciprocity residence.

A discussion ensued regarding how the issue began and how the Board could prevent “test shopping”. The Board agreed to handle this matter at a later time.

Letter from Guy Thurmond, Thurmond & Associates, Inc.

The Board reviewed and discussed a letter from Guy Thurmond brought to the meeting by Mr. Ryan.

The Board determined a letter should be sent to the appraiser, with a copy sent to the Appraiser’s Board and Guy Thurmond, informing them the appraisal should come from a qualified appraiser or a licensed forester, however, the appraisal should not be conducted by a timber cruiser. Mr. Ryan stated he would draft a letter for the Board’s approval.

Foresters Council of South Carolina

The Board reviewed a letter to Mr. Ryan from Bill Boykin, Chairman, SC Foresters Council of South Carolina. The letter addresses three issues:

- 1) The Council wants the Board to develop/post an annual roster of registered foresters with their places of business as addressed in the Board’s regulations and a separate listing of newly registered foresters;
- 2) The Council is concerned with how the licensee database is updated;
- 3) The Council is concerned with the lack of formal communication between the Board and the forestry programs at Clemson and Horry-Georgetown Technical College.

The Board determined it would address the issues as follows:

- 1) The Board agreed the printed roster is outdated when printed. Mrs. Straka suggested adding the newly registered foresters to the Board’s website. She also suggested adding a paragraph to the website that a licensee list is available on CD for a fee and that the individual must sign a Statement of Compliance with the South Carolina Family Privacy Protection Act prior to receiving the list.
- 2) The Board’s staff updates the database when the licensee notifies the Board of a change of address or when the renewal form is received with change of address information included on the form.
- 3) The Board feels this item is a personal matter. The Board noted the change in the exam was placed on the Board’s website as well as in the forestry newsletter.

Legislative Issues

Mr. Ryan stated the proposed legislation reached the full Senate floor; however, was held up by one Senator. He further stated the proposed legislation would go before the full Senate in January 2008.

Public Comments

There were no public comments made during the July 12, 2007 meeting.

Executive Session

MOTION

Mr. Wall moved the Board enter executive session. Mr. Gantt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Return to Public Session

MOTION

Mr. Gantt made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Straka and unanimously carried, that the Board return to public session.

Mr. Ryan noted no motions were offered or made during executive session.

Adjournment

MOTION

There being no further business to be discussed by the Board at this time, Mr.

The July 12, 2007 meeting of the SC Board of Registration for Foresters adjourned at 12:15 p.m.