

MINUTES
SC Board of Registration for Foresters
Board Meeting
10:00 a.m., August 3, 2017
Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building
110 Centerview Drive, Conference Room 204
Columbia, South Carolina

Meeting Called to Order

Robert Drummond, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Other members participating in the meeting included: Blair Frazier Baldwin., of Lancaster; J. Christian Hendricks, of Columbia; Charles J. Maley, of Moore; William Moody, of Lexington; and William D. Sligh, Jr., of Hartsville.

Staff members participating during the meeting included: Molly Price, Administrator; Meredith Buttler, Program Coordinator; and Hardwick Stuart, Office of Advice Counsel. Carla Dominick, Creel Court Reporting, was also present.

Mr. Drummond stated public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the SC 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.

Pledge of Allegiance

All attending recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation

The invocation was given by Robert Drummond

Approval of Excused Absences

No absence to approve

Approval of the May 18, 2017 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: To approve the May 18, 2017 meeting minutes as amended by the Board.
Baldwin/Hendricks/approved.

Chairman's Remarks – Robert Drummond

Mr. Drummond did not have any remarks.

Staff Reports

a. Administrative and Financial Report – Molly Price

Ms. Price reported that the Board currently has 663 actively licensed foresters, 52 foresters are active in renewal until September 30, 2017. The online renewal system will remain open until

September 30th. Last renewal cycle 94% of licensees renewed online, while this renewal cycle is currently at 89%. While this is still a good percentage, it is her belief that the absence of the password printed on the renewal notification is the cause for the decrease in online renewals. The Cash Balance Report for June 2017, reflected a balance of -\$66,704.64. Ms. Price estimates that the total revenue for renewals this cycle is around \$50,000. She assured the Board that the cash balance should hopefully return to the positive during the next renewal cycle. The cause of the negative balance being the reversion to the old fees during the prior renewal cycle but as the fees have since been correct, they will reverse in the near future.

She also discussed South Carolina State Examination results and stated that she has been very pleased with the results. The average passing score is currently 81. To date, only one person has failed the state examination, but was able to pass it the second time. Over the past year and a half, a total of 21 applicants have taken the exam. Ms. Price believes that the higher passing rates are a direct result of applicants waiting closer to completing their two years of experience before taking the exams. There are nine applicants that have been approved for licensure since May 18, 2017. Six of these applications were licensure by examination, one by reinstatement and two by reciprocity. Ms. Price thanks board member Charles Maley for his continued help with the application approval process.

CFE audit notifications were sent July 24, 2017, to 30 registered foresters. Individuals who have been sent audit notification are being asked to submit their proof of 20 CFE hours by August 25, 2017. Licensees who fail to turn in documentation by the 25th, will then be sent a follow up letter and given till August 31, 2017. Deficiencies are returned when they are received and are given till the August 31st deadline for corrections. Ms. Price will bring all audit results for Board review at the November meeting.

The proposed 2018 dates were shared with the Board. Mr. Maley noted that the January 25th date is in conflict with the SAF meeting in South Carolina and should be moved. Mr. Hendricks noted that the annual Forestry Association meeting might fall on the November date. Staff will double check both of these meeting dates and will alert the Board to any changes.

Mrs. Price stated that the next Board meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2017, at the Kingstree Building.

b. Advisory Opinions, If Needed, Office of Advice Counsel

No advisory opinions were given during this meeting.

c. Legislative Updates, If Needed, Legislative Liaison Office

A Notice of drafting has been proposed to move the fees from the Board Regulations to Chapter 10 and subsequent removal from the Regulations.

d. ODC Report – Office of Disciplinary Reports

ODC had no report for today's meeting.

e. OIE Report – Office of Investigations and Enforcement
OIE had no report for today's meeting.

f. IRC Report – Investigative Review Committee
IRC had no report for today's meeting.

New Business

a. Regulatory Review Pursuant to Executive Order 2017-19
Advisory Council, Hardwick Stuart, informed the Board that per Executive Order from the Governor that all Boards are to review their Regulations and submit a report of the Boards intent to repeal, amend or add to the regulations. In 2012, the Board attempted to amend their regulations and a copy of the draft was made available to all members as part of this review. After thorough review by the Board, the following report has been submitted to the Governor's Office:

Proposed New Regulations: none

Regulations the Board Intends to Repeal or Withdraw:

53-6 – Committees - Redundant

Regulations the Board Intends to Amend:

53-2 Officers-Delete position of secretary, and delete certain duties of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

53-3 Meetings-Add regular meetings will be held a minimum of twice per year and special meeting may be called by majority of Board members; add notice as required by §30-4-80.

53-7 Applications-Add application fees may be paid electronically

53-8 Registration- delete "Beginning June 1, 1991."; add applicants must pass examination and add reference to state examination. Rewrite requirements.

53-9 Licenses- Amends section title to include lapsed license and reinstatement; reword for clarity; give timeline for renewal and reinstatement

53-11 Reciprocity - Correct typographical error

53-20 Continuing Education - Change annual references to biennial; adjust continuing education hours and credits: clarify requirements; delete categories; renumber for clarity; correct for typographical error; age and/or experience waiver for Continuing Education

Regulations that Appropriately Protect the Public's Interest as Currently Written:

53-1

53-4

53-5

53-10

53-12

53-13

53-14

53-15

MOTION: To authorize the Board Chairman to sign the report as discussed at the meeting.
Hendricks/Sligh/approved.

Discussion Topic

a. 2017 ASBORF Meeting Agenda Review and Discussion

The ASBORF meeting, August 16-18, 2017, is being held in Bentonville, AR with Board Chairman, Robert Drummond and Board Administrator, Molly Price attending. The conference agenda and discussion questions have been sent out for attendees to review prior to the conference. Ms. Price gave the board the discussion topics for this year:

- Recruitment/Retention: Some states are having difficulty recruiting enough foresters to meet their state's needs. This is especially true for state forestry agencies. Does this issue affect your Board? In what ways does it affect it and how are you addressing it?
- Title Protection: In some states, like Arkansas, the title "forester" is protected. However, we are seeing quite a bit of use of the term forester in job advertisements/position titles for positions such as urban managers, etc. Is this issue occurring in other states? What have you done to proactively manage this?
- Exam Refresher Courses: Does your state offer a refresher course for the exam? Is there a fee? How has this affected your test scores?
- Reciprocity: How do you foresee these earlier discussed topics effecting reciprocity in your state? Specifically 2 year programs, new graduates who have passed exam but not experience requirements.

The Board would like the following to be brought to the ASBORF discussion table:

- Do any other licensing agencies conduct open forums at colleges for students preparing to graduate?
- Do other states have and age or experience exemption for Continuing Education? If so, what is it?

Ms. Price also stated that she will be requesting that the ASBORF financial responsibilities be left with South Carolina for the time being, instead of changing over next year. There was a lot of unnecessary difficulties in switching over the banking information and until the process can be streamlined, the fiscal responsibilities would be best left with the same entity.

Executive Session

No executive session needed.

Return to Public Session

No return to public session needed.

Public Comments

There were no public comments made during this meeting

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.
Maley/Baldwin/approved.

The August 3, 2017, meeting of the S.C. Board of Registration of Foresters adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

The next meeting of the S.C. Board of Registration of Foresters is scheduled for November 9, 2017, in room 204.