

MINUTES
SC Board of Registration for Foresters
Board Meeting
10:00 a.m., February 9, 2017
Synergy Business Park, Kingtree Building
110 Centerview Drive, Conference Room 204
Columbia, South Carolina

Meeting Called to Order

Robert Drummond, acting-chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:58 a.m.

Mr. Drummond stated public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the SC Board of Registration for Foresters office, Synergy Business Park, Kingtree 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 Blair Baldwin

Approval of Excused Absences

There were no Board absences.

Correction to Agenda

Ms. Price noted that the posted agenda needed one correction from "Conference Call Meeting" to "Board Meeting".

Introduction of Board Members

Board members attending included: Christian Hendricks, secretary, Frazier Baldwin, Charles 'Chip' Maley, William Moody, and William Sligh.

Staff members participating during the meeting included: Molly Price, Administrator; Meredith Buttler, Program Assistant; and Georgia Lewis, Advice Attorney, Office of Advice Counsel.

Approval of the July 28, 2016 Meeting Minutes

MOTION:

Mr. Hendrick made a motion the Board approve the July 28, 2016 meeting minutes. Mr. Baldwin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Acting Chairman's Remarks – Robert Drummond

Mr. Drummond presented a plaque to Eric Smith in recognition of his years of service to the Board. Mr. Smith served for over 5 years, ending his term as Chairman of the Board. Mr. Smith has been appointed as a Commissioner for the South Carolina Forestry Commission.

Administrator's Remarks – Molly Price

a. Advisory Opinions, If Needed, Office of General Counsel

No advisory opinions were given during this meeting.

b. Legislative Updates, If Needed, Legislative Liaison Office

The Board's current fees are in the process of being moved from Regulation 53-16 to Chapter 10. This move is in keeping with other boards at LLR and serves to make fee information more centralized.

c. ODC Report – Office of Disciplinary Reports

ODC had no report for today's meeting.

d. OIE Report – Office of Investigations and Enforcement

Todd Bond reported that to date there has been one complaint logged and one active investigation.

Mr. Bond reported that the IRC met February 1, 2017, to discuss three cases, all dealing with unlicensed practice. Cease and Desist orders have been issued in all three cases.

MOTION

Motion to approve the IRC report was made by Mr. Baldwin and seconded by Mr. Sligh. Motion carried unanimously.

During her remarks, Ms. Price reported that the Board currently has 706 actively licensed foresters, with 11 individuals currently approved for examination. An additional 5 applications are pending awaiting further information or work experience. The Cash Balance Report for December 2016 reflected a balance of -\$108,665.50. It is a renewal year for the board, which will help to bring the cash balance back into the positive. She also discussed South Carolina State Examination results and has been very pleased with the results. Pass rates are going up and Ms. Price believes that has to do with people waiting closer to when their two years of experience is complete. There are five applicants that have been approved for licensure since the last Board Meeting on July 28, 2016. Four of these applications were licensure by examination with one licensure by reinstatement. A detailed list will be emailed out after the meeting for Board review.

The last newsletter was sent out Fall 2016 with another slated for Spring 2017. The goal is to release the newsletter in conjunction with renewals as another reminder to licensees. A "Meet the Board" section will be included and Ms. Buttler will be sending out follow up emails to board members who have not sent in their short bio and photo. Board members are encouraged to share with office staff any ideas or information that they would like to see included in the

newsletter. During the first week of April, renewal reminders will be sent out and a section in the newsletter will be included on how to retrieve username and passwords for renewals. In June a second round of renewal notices will be sent out to all non-renewed licensees via email.

The Statement of Economic interest is to be completed by each Board Member by March 20, 2017. If board members have questions, please contact Meredith Buttler or the Ethics Commission.

New Business

- a. Approval of Investigative Review Committee (IRC)

Board already approved earlier in the meeting

- b. Interpretation of experience credit (Section 48-27-130 (A)(1))

Staff requests board guidance relating to if an individual can apply summer related internship work towards their two years of experience required for licensure prior to obtaining a four year forestry degree. Ms. Price and advise council Hardwick Stuart previously discussed Section 48-27-130 (A)(1), pertaining to the an interpretation of the law which states “graduation from a curriculum in forestry of four years or more in a department, school, or college approved by the board and a specific record of an additional two years’ or more experience in forestry...” Former board chairman, Eric Smith, stated that the Board’s precedent has been completion of four year degree then two years of experience.

Executive Session

MOTION

Mr. Baldwin made a motion for the Board to move into executive session to seek legal advice regarding interpretation of Section 48-27-130 (A)(1). Mr. Maley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Return to Public Session

MOTION

Mr. Drummond noted for the record that no votes or actions were taken while in executive session. Mr. Maley made a motion the board return to public session. Mr. Hendricks seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Mr. Drummond stated that it is the feeling of the board to follow the precedent that has been set with the interpretation of graduation then two years of experience. Individuals are welcome to come before the board and make their case if they feel their experience prior to granduation is of a character satisfactory to the board’s expectation.

Election of Officers

MOTION:

Mr. Baldwin made a motion to elect Mr. Drummond as chairman. Mr. Moody seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

MOTION:

Mr. Maley made a motion the Board elect Mr. Hendrick as vice chairman. Mr. Baldwin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

MOTION:

Mr. Hendrick made a motion the Board elect Mr. Maley as secretary. Mr. Baldwin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Discussion Topic

a. ASBORF Annual Meeting – report

Ms. Price and Mr. Maley attended the ASBORF meeting held in Savannah, GA in August 2016. Mr. Price stated that it was a great meeting, but ASBORF is going to work on becoming more organized with planning in the future. There was a full day of presentations by attending states on the following topics: Functions of a Registered Forester, Recruitment, and Testing Goals. Ms. Price reported that over all recruitment is not a huge issue and that after hearing from the different states regarding their testing methods, she feels good with the use of the SAF examination here in South Carolina. In addition to the presentations, two speakers presented to the group and a tour of the Savannah Port was arranged. Overall the meeting was good and a great avenue in which to build connections with other states. Arkansas is to host the 2017 meeting and the board will vote on travel approvals at the next meeting. South Carolina is responsible for hosting in 2018 and Ms. Price has asked the board to be thinking about sites around the state in which to host. Typically host states are responsible for booking of the venue and hotel which will honor GSA rates. Tours are typically done and the location needs to be easily accessible by those traveling via airport and car. In total around 9 to 10 states participate, averaging 18-20 attendees. At the 2016 meeting Mr. Maley was elected ASBORF treasurer.

b. 2015-2017 Continuing Forestry Education Audit

After renewals have been completed, letters to those selected for the 2015-2017 Continuing Forestry Education (CFE) audit will be mailed out. Previously a 5% audit was conducted and Ms. Price would like to repeat that amount as it provided a decent sampling of licensees. In efforts to make the audit smoother this year, language will be strengthened regarding non-compliance. Information about CFE compliance and the upcoming audit will be in the Spring 2017 newsletter. The Board will review submitted audit materials at the November 9, 2017, board meeting.

Public Comments

There were no public comments made during this meeting

Adjournment

Mr. Hendricks made a motion the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Drummond seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The February 9, 2016 meeting of the SC Board of Registration for Foresters adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

The next meeting of the SC Board of Registration for Foresters is scheduled for May 18, 2017.