

MINUTES

South Carolina Board of Registration for Foresters
Board Meeting
10:00 A.M., October 28, 2003
Synergy Business Park
110 Centerview Drive, Kingstree Building, Room 111
Columbia, South Carolina

Hugh Ryan, Chairman, of Wedgefield, called the regular meeting of the S.C. Board of Registration for Foresters to order at 10:05 a.m. Other members present for the meeting included: Marietta Singleton, Vice-Chairman, of Hemingway; Fred Gantt, Secretary, of Columbia; Raymond Boozer, of Gilbert; and Virgil Wall, Jr., of Greenwood.

Allen Dunn, PhD, of Central and Patricia Straka, of Westminster were granted excused absences.

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

Members of the public present for the meeting included Christopher Carter.

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, Room 111 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. He noted that a quorum was present.

Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation

Mr. Ryan delivered the invocation.

Approval of the July 10, 2003 Meeting Minutes

MOTION

Mr. Wall moved the minutes be approved as presented. Mr. Boozer seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chairman's Remarks - Hugh Ryan

Mr. Ryan deferred his remarks at this time.

Administrator's Remarks - Lenora Miles

Ms. Miles presented the members with a budget report, which was through September 30, 2003 and a cash flow report, which reflects the cash flow through August 31, 2003.

(These reports are herewith attached and hereby become a permanent part of this record.) A brief discussion on the reports ensued.

Legislative Update, If Needed, Legislative Liaison Office

There was no legislative update given during the October 28, 2003 meeting.

Advisory Opinions, If Needed, Office of General Counsel

There were no advisory opinions from the Office of General Counsel for the October 28, 2003 meeting.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to be discussed during the October 28, 2003 meeting.

New Business

1. Approval to Take Examination

a. Chris L. Carter

Mr. Carter is requesting permission to sit for the forestry examination. He holds an Associates Degree in Forestry Management Studies from Horry-Georgetown Technical College. He has documented five years of verified employment with Corbett Timber Company. His file is complete. (This application is herewith attached and hereby becomes a permanent part of this record.)

The Board determined it would discuss this matter in executive session.

2. Approval of Reciprocity Applicants

a. Greg L. Hay

Mr. Hay is requesting his license via reciprocity with Arkansas. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry Management from Stephen F. Austin State University. Mr. Hay received his license via grandfather clause from Arkansas in 1980. His file is incomplete. He is missing a criminal history check from Arkansas. (This application is herewith attached and hereby becomes a permanent part of this record.)

The Board determined it would discuss this matter in executive session.

b. David L. Malone

Mr. Malone is requesting his license via reciprocity with Georgia. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry from Mississippi State University and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Mississippi State University. His file is missing one personal reference and a Georgia criminal history. (This application is herewith attached and hereby becomes a permanent part of this record.)

The Board determined it would discuss this matter in executive session.

c. Mitchell A. Buckner

Mr. Buckner is requesting his license via reciprocity from Georgia. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry from University of Georgia. His file is complete. (This application is herewith attached and hereby becomes a permanent part of this record.)

The Board determined it would discuss this matter in executive session.

3. Approval of Licensure by Examination

a. Edward W. Mauritz

Mr. Mauritz is requesting his license be issued via examination. He passed the SC Forestry examination in June 7, 1999 with a score of 81%. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forest Resource Management from Clemson University. He has documented two and one-half years of full time work experience at Chesapeake Forest Products. In 1998 Mr. Mauritz put aside his Forestry work to pursue his Christian faith. He has numerous recommendations from Church leaders and members. (This application is herewith attached and hereby becomes a permanent part of this record.)

The Board determined it would discuss this matter in executive session.

b. Gary E. Springer

Mr. Springer is requesting his license be issued via examination. He passed the SC Forestry examination on March 5, 2001 with a score of 71%. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry Management from Clemson University. He has over four years documented experience as a Forest Assistant with Milliken Forestry Company. His file is complete. (This application is herewith attached and hereby becomes a permanent part of this record.)

The Board determined it would discuss this matter in executive session.

Executive Session

MOTION

Mr. Gantt made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wall and unanimously carried, that the Board enter executive session.

Return to Public Session to Report on Executive Session

MOTION

Mr. Wall moved the Board return to public session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gantt and unanimously carried.

Mr. Ryan noted for the record that no motions were made and no votes were taken during executive session.

Chris Carter

MOTION

Mr. Wall moved the Board approve Mr. Carter to take the exam. The motion was seconded by Mr. Boozer and unanimously carried.

The Board indicated Mr. Carter needs to clarify his work experience to include the full six years of experience.

Greg Hay, Mitchell Buckner, David Malone

MOTION

Mr. Boozer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wall and unanimously carried, to approve Mr. Hay's application and Mr. Buckner's application and to approve Mr. Malone's application, pending receipt of the criminal history report from Georgia and one personal reference.

Edward Mauritz, Gary Springer

MOTION

Mr. Wall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Boozer and unanimously carried, to approve the applications of Mr. Mauritz and Mr. Springer.

4. Approval of Request for CFE Extension

a. L. Bruce Curtis

Mr. Curtis submitted a letter to the Board indicating he would not be able to obtain his required CFE by September 30, 2003. He plans to obtain the hours by October 15, 2003, and is requesting the Board grant an extension.

MOTION

Mr. Wall made a motion, seconded by Ms. Singleton and unanimously carried, that if Mr. Curtis can furnish adequate documentation that he received his continuing education credits by October 15, 2003 the Board approve him to be renewed after payment of the fine.

5. Approval of Request for CFE Exemption

a. David Holliday

Mr. Holliday submitted a letter to the Board indicating he had been unable to obtain all of the required CFEs in order to renew his registration as a forester. He ruptured a disk in his back in October 2002 and subsequently was placed on short-term disability due to intense pain. He returned to work in September 2003.

MOTION

Mr. Gantt moved the Board approve an extension of time to acquire the seven hours of CFEs for last fiscal year and the ten CFEs for this fiscal year until June 30, 2004 and that the Board allow him to be registered as of this date. Mr. Boozer seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Discussion Items

Proposed Legislation

Mr. Wall stated he met with the Enoree Chapter of the SAF at which time they noted that they oppose allowing technicians to be board members. A brief discussion on the proposed legislation ensued. It was noted during the discussion that the ACF would oppose the bill. Mr. Ryan indicated he would be speaking with SAF on the legislation.

Registered Forester Exam

Mr. Ryan stated that there have been several failures on the exam; however, several individuals failed the exam prior to it being changed.

Ms. Miles stated the new exam has been administered twice and that one individual out of ten passed the last exam.

A discussion on the exam ensued. It was noted that a professional review board should first review the exam prior to its administration. The review board could be the board or a committee of professionals. Mr. Wall suggested the Board review the exam with a representative from ACF and a representative from SAF. It was also suggested that exams be obtained from Georgia, Mississippi and North Carolina and that a work session meeting be planned to review those exams.

The Board asked that the exam not be given in December 2003 and that the individuals be informed that the Board is in the process of reviewing the exam.

The Board reviewed written information from SAF, submitted by Ms. Straka, regarding the SAF Certified Forester exam. The Board received this document as information. (This document is herewith attached and hereby becomes a permanent part of this record.)

Public Comments

There were no public comments made during the October 28, 2003 meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be discussed at this time, the meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.