

MINUTES

South Carolina Board of Registration for Foresters
Board Meeting
10:00 A.M., April 20, 2004
Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building
110 Centerview Drive, Conference Room 108
Columbia, South Carolina

Hugh Ryan, Chairman, of Wedgefield, called the regular meeting of the S.C. Board of Registration for Foresters to order at 10:00 a.m. Other members present for the meeting included: Fred Gantt, Secretary, of Columbia; Allen Dunn, PhD, of Central; Patricia Straka, of Westminster; and Virgil Wall, Jr., of Greenwood.

Marietta Singleton, Vice-Chairman, of Hemingway, and Raymond Boozer, of Gilbert, were granted excused absences.

Staff members participating at various times during the meeting included: Sharon Dantzler, Attorney, LLR-Office of General Counsel; Sandra Dickert, Administrative Assistant; and Lenora Miles, Administrator.

Members of the public attending the meeting included: Norris Cobb and Heath Corley.

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. He noted that a quorum was present.

Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation

Mr. Wall delivered the invocation.

Approval of the January 15, 2004 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Wall noted that one sentence should be struck under Adjournment on the last page.

MOTION

Mr. Wall moved to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Gantt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chairman's Remarks - Hugh Ryan

Mr. Ryan had no remarks at this time.

Administrator's Remarks - Lenora Miles

Ms. Miles stated she had no remarks at this time; however, she did have one item to discuss with the Board in executive session.

Legislative Update, If Needed, Legislative Liaison Office

Ms. Dantzler stated that virtually the entire restructuring bill has died in the Senate Judiciary Committee. She further stated that portions of the bill passed by the Committee do not affect the agency or any of the Boards. She went on to say that if the Board's proposed legislation is ready the bill could be pre-filed later this year.

Ms. Straka asked Mr. Ryan for a copy of the proposed legislation to submit to the SAF at its June 2004 meeting.

Advisory Opinions, If Needed, Office of General Counsel

There were no advisory opinions given during the April 20, 2004 meeting.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to be discussed during the April 20, 2004 meeting.

New Business

1. Licensure via Examination

a. Harry S. Morrison, IV

Mr. Morrison is requesting his license via examination. He passed the South Carolina Forestry exam on March 5, 2001. He has three years of experience documented under a registered forester. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Resource Management and a Masters Degree in Forest Resources Management from Clemson University. (Mr. Morrison's application is attached and hereby becomes a permanent part of the record retained at the Board's office.)

MOTION

Ms. Straka made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gantt and unanimously carried, that the Board grant Mr. Morrison a license.

b. Thomas A. Powell

Mr. Powell is requesting his license via examination. He passed the South Carolina Forestry examination, with a score of 70, on March 11, 2004. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Resource Management from Clemson University. He has thirty months experience listed on employment verifications. His criminal history report indicates that he was arrested in April 2003 for public drunkenness and public disorderly conduct. It was noted that he could have paid a fine, which the arrest record did not catch. His file is complete. (Mr. Powell's application is attached and hereby becomes a permanent part of the record retained at the Board's office.)

MOTION

Mr. Wall moved the Board grant Mr. Powell a license. The motion was seconded by Ms. Straka and unanimously carried.

2. Licensure via Reciprocity

a. Sterling A. Brothers

Mr. Brothers is requesting his license via reciprocity with the State of Alabama. The Alabama Board of Forestry has verified his license and written state examination. Staff has received his criminal history report. In 2000 he was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources from the University of South Sewanee, which is located in Tennessee. His file is complete. (Mr. Brothers' application is attached and hereby becomes a permanent part of the record retained at the Board's office.)

MOTION

Dr. Dunn moved the Board grant Mr. Brothers a license. Mr. Gantt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3. Individual Requests to Appear Regarding Re-examination

a. Norris Cobb

Mr. Norris Cobb, who is employed with Greenwood Timber Company, located in Greenwood, South Carolina, has requested to appear before the Board to discuss the forester's exam. (Mr. Cobb's letter is attached and hereby becomes a permanent part of the record retained at the Board's office.)

Mr. Cobb appeared before the Board at this time.

Mr. Cobb stated he has taken the exam on three occasions (August 2003, September 2003 and March 2004). He indicated his best score was 64. He is asking the Board for information on how to improve his score. He indicated his company is expanding and his immediate supervisor is pushing him to become registered. He has been in the forest industry for 30 years.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the exam review class.

Mr. Ryan stated Mr. Cobb's remarks are well taken and will be received as information.

Ms. Straka stated Mississippi State and Georgia would sometimes offer review courses. She further stated the Georgia review courses are generally held in Athens.

b. Heath Corley

Mr. Heath Corley, who is employed with Milliken Forestry Company, located in Columbia, South Carolina, has unsuccessfully taken the forester's exam on four occasions within the past year. He has requested to appear before the Board to discuss his concerns regarding the examination. (Mr. Corley's letter is attached and hereby becomes a permanent part of the record retained at the Board's office.)

Mr. Corley appeared before the Board at this time.

Mr. Corley stated he graduated from Clemson University with a degree in Forestry in 2002. He indicated he too, has been unable to pass the exam. He first took the exam in January 2003 and has taken every exam since. He went on to say that his score has gotten worse with every exam. He further stated he is unfamiliar with the language on some of the questions. He is also looking for advice on how to pass the exam. He went on to say that just before he graduated some students had attempted to have Dr. Straka conduct a review course, however, there was not enough interest generated to have the class. He believes his highest score was 60 or 65.

Mr. Ryan stated the Board appreciates Mr. Corley and Mr. Cobb attending the meeting.

Ms. Straka stated the Board would notify Mr. Corley and Mr. Cobb of the Board's decision regarding this matter.

c. Wade O'Kelley

Ms. Miles stated Mr. O'Kelley contacted staff on Tuesday, April 19, 2004 and indicated he would not be attending the meeting. (Mr. O'Kelley's letter is attached and hereby becomes a permanent part of the record retained at the Board's office.)

Discussion Items

There were no discussion items to be discussed during the April 20, 2004 meeting.

Documents for Board's Information

1. North Carolina Board of Registered Foresters Letter

Mr. Clifford R. Lewis, of the North Carolina Board of Registration for Foresters, submitted a letter to the South Carolina Board of Registration for Foresters, regarding an extensive self-review of their registration act and issues the Board faces in administering the act. Attached with the letter was a report regarding the Board's self-review (The letter and report are attached and hereby becomes a permanent part of the record retained at the Board's office.)

A brief discussion ensued regarding the Board's issues with urban forestry.

2. ASBORF 2003 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Michael L. Thompson, secretary/treasurer, submitted the minutes from the August 22, 2003 meeting. A letter included with the minutes stated that the next ASBORF meeting would be held on May 10-11, 2004 in Tifton, Georgia. (The ASBORF minutes and the letter from Mr. Thompson are attached and hereby becomes a permanent part of the record retained at the Board's office.)

Ms. Straka will be attending the ASBORF meeting.

Ms. Straka stated there is a possible solution to the exam. She asked if the Board could accept the SAF exam. Ms. Dantzer stated the regulations do not indicate which exam must be taken. She further stated that if the Board voted to accept the SAF as an exam, the Board would accept individuals who gave passing scores on either exam.

Public Comments

There were no public comments made during the April 20, 2004 meeting.

Executive Session

MOTION

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

Return to Public Session to Report on Executive Session

MOTION

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

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

Qualification of a Certified Forester Exam Requirement

MOTION

Ms. Straka moved the Board accept successfully passing grades of the South Carolina registered forester exam or the SAF certified forester exam as fulfilling the examination requirement of the law. Dr. Dunn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Case Dismissal

MOTION

Mr. Wall moved the Board accept the investigator's recommendation to dismiss the case against Timber Brokers, Inc. and Fred Carter. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gantt and unanimously carried.

Forester's Exam and Review Course

MOTION

Dr. Dunn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wall and unanimously carried, that the Board work with Clemson to set up a review course as soon as possible, that the Board postpone the June 3, 2004 exam and that the exam be rescheduled for approximately two weeks after the review course.

A brief discussion ensued regarding on-line continuing education courses.

Ms. Miles asked the Board if they would consider allowing individuals who apply for licensure in April to hold a license through the following license year.

MOTION

Mr. Wall moved that any person licensed after March 31st their license would be valid until June 30th of the following year. Dr. Dunn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be discussed by the Board at this time, the April 20, 2004 meeting of the SC Board of Registration for Foresters adjourned at 11:56 a.m.