

**MINUTES**  
**SC Board of Registration for Foresters Board Meeting**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**July 23, 2020 at 10 a.m. by Virtual Video/Teleconference**

**Meeting Called to Order**

James Christian Hendricks, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:21 a.m. Other members participating in the meeting included: Charles J. Maley, of Moore; Robert A. Drummond, of Columbia; Michael Mills, of Newberry; William D. Sligh, Jr., of Hartsville; and Brannon M. Babb, of Honea Path.

Staff members participating during the meeting included: Hardwick Stuart, Office of Advice Counsel; Pam Dunkin, Administrator; and Sherri Moorer, Program Assistant.

Others participating in the meeting included: Nadine Garrett (Creel Court Reporting).

**Statement of Public Notice**

Mr. Hendricks said 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. In accordance with the Governor's directives regarding social distancing, the meeting is being held via video and teleconference. Members of the public who wish to attend may do so by telephone or the Internet.

**Invocation**

The invocation was given by Mr. Maley.

**Excused Absences**

**MOTION:** To excuse Frazier Baldwin from the meeting, due to a work emergency.  
Drummond/Sligh/approved

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** To approve the February 6, 2020, meeting minutes.  
Drummond/Sligh/approved.

**Staff Reports**

**a. Administrative and Financial Report – Pam Dunkin**

- Board meetings may be held by WebEx Webinar for the foreseeable future, due to COVID-19 precautions. Mrs. Dunkin thanked the Board members for accommodating a remote meeting. She reminded the Board members to mute themselves if they are not speaking to reduce background noise.
- Staff have been working remotely due to COVID-19, but operations have continued as normal.
- The next Board meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2020.

- Currently the Board has 674 licensed foresters.
  - The Cash Balance Report for May 31, 2020, reflected a balance of \$-148,332.54. A copy of the Cash Report is included in the meeting handouts.
  - Mrs. Dunkin reminded the Board members to refer questions from licensees or applicants to Board staff.
  - North Carolina will host the ASBOG Annual Meeting. It will be a four-hour virtual meeting on August 20 or 21. Mr. Maley and Mrs. Dunkin will participate in the meeting.
- b. **Advisory Opinions** – There were no Advisory Opinions.
  - c. **ODC Report** – There is no report for this meeting.
  - d. **OIE Report** – There is no report for this meeting.
  - e. **IRC Report** – There is no report for this meeting.

## **New Business**

### a. **CFE Reporting 2019-2021**

Mr. Hendricks said the Board might need to consider adjustments to continuing education for the 2019-2021 period, due to COVID-19 restrictions. Many classes have been cancelled. Mr. Mill said he has received calls from licensees with concerns about getting their hours for next year's renewal. Mr. Drummond said he obtained several hours on webinars. Mr. Maley agreed that he had also participated in webinars to maintain his SAF ranking, and these classes could count toward continuing education for license renewals. Mr. Stuart said the Governor's Executive Order 2020-10 gives the Board the authority to suspend or revise regulations while in a State of Emergency. Mr. Hendricks asked if it's possible to post something on the website to inform licensees that online opportunities are available to obtain continuing education. He feels it's too early to make a decision on modifying the requirements now, since course offerings could change if COVID-19 subsides. The Board agreed to monitor the situation and keep it on the agenda for upcoming meetings. Mrs. Dunkin will draft a notice for the website and an eblast to licensees encouraging them to take advantage of online opportunities for continuing education while the Board monitors the situation in the coming months.

### b. **Regulatory Review**

The study committee formed at the February 6 meeting presented a proposed draft of regulatory changes for review during the 2021 Legislative Session. Mr. Stuart reviewed the draft with the Board members and highlighted the proposed changes, which include:

- **Section 53-2 (Officers)** – strike some duties of Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and eliminate the Secretary position.

- Section 53-3 (Meetings) – clarify that notice of meetings will be given in accordance with the SC Code of Laws, Section 30-4-280.
- Section 53-6 (Committees) – strike this section, as it is redundant.
- Section 53-7 (Application for Registration) – add that payment of the application fee will also be accepted by electronic payment.
- Section 53-8 (Requirements for Registration) – rewrite this section to include two parts to cover the examination, education and experience requirement.
- Section 53-9 (Expiration and Renewal) – rename this section “Renewal of License, Lapse License, and Reinstatement.”
- Section 53-11 (Reciprocity) – change the word “person” to “applicant” to read consistently.
- Section 53-20 (Continuing Education Requirements) – change “annual” to “biennium” or “biennial,” adjust hours required for biennial renewal cycle, add sections under “Exemptions” to include hardship exemptions and a waiver of CE for individuals who are over sixty years old, and have thirty years of licensed practice.

Mr. Stuart said Chapter 53-3 needs to amend the citation for public notice of meetings from 30-4-280 to 30-4-80.

**MOTION:** To delete the last half of 53-8, which allows for years of experience granted for completion of the junior and senior years of education without graduation.  
Sligh/Drummond/approved.

**MOTION:** To move forward with the proposed regulation, with changes as presented.  
Sligh/Mills/approved.

#### **Executive Session**

No executive session.

#### **Return to Public Session**

No return to public session.

#### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

#### **Other Business**

Mr. Maley said his term expired this year, and he has requested a reappointment. He asked if he is still a member of the Board. Mr. Stuart said members are to serve until they are reappointed or their appointment is replaced. Reappointments are retroactive to the date the previous term expired.

Mr. Drummond asked if any Board members received a letter from Travis Cork regarding timber cutting disputes. Mr. Babb, Mr. Mills, and Mr. Sligh received a copy of this letter. Mr. Drummond will forward it to staff and the other Board members to discuss at the next Board meeting.

There being no further business:

### **Adjournment**

**MOTION:** To adjourn. Maley/Sligh/approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.