

MINUTES
SC Board of Registration for Foresters Board Meeting
Board Meeting
November 19, 2019 at 10 a.m.
Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building
110 Centerview Drive, Conference Room 105
Columbia, South Carolina

Meeting Called to Order

James Christian Hendricks, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:07 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; Maurice Smith, Office of Investigations and Enforcement; and Sherri Moorner, Program Assistant.

Others present included: Tiffany Evans (Creel Court Reporting).

Others present by telephone conference call included: Benjamin Taylor Lane, and Michelle Varmant Cobb.

Statement of Public Notice

Mr. Hendricks stated public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the SC Board of Registration for Foresters office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building and on the board website 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

Approval of Excused Absences

MOTION: To excuse Blair Frazier Baldwin, due to a schedule conflict. Mills/Drummond/approved.

Chairman's Remarks – Christian Hendricks

Mr. Hendricks thanked everybody for attending the meeting. He thanked Mrs. Dunkin and Mr. Stuart for their assistance.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOTION: To approve the July 25, 2019, and September 23, 2019, meeting minutes with a modification adding Mr. Drummond's attendance at each meeting.
Sligh/Mills/approved.

Staff Reports

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

- Mrs. Dunkin stated there are currently 677 licensed foresters.
- The cash balance for the Board is -\$127,199.41, as of October 31, 2019.
- The State exam has been taken 62 times, with an average score of 77.
- Johnnie Rose is working on a newsletter for the Board, and requests that Board members send him ideas for content. The newsletter will be posted on the website, and distributed by email, Facebook, and Twitter.
- Mrs. Dunkin will work with Mr. Stuart on the proposed regulatory changes for the 2021 legislative session.
- Mrs. Dunkin requested that the Board members let her know if they want a specialty license plate by November 27, 2019.
- The next scheduled meeting is February 6, 2020.

b. **Advisory Opinions** – There were no Advisory Opinions.

c. **Legislative Updates** – There was no report.

d. **ODC Report** – There was no report.

e. **OIE Report** – Mr. Smith stated there are two active cases in the Office of Investigations and Enforcement.

f. **IRC Report** – Mr. Smith stated there is one case on the November 5, 2019, Investigative Review Committee Report.

MOTION: To accept the November 5, 2019, Investigative Review Committee report.
Drummond/Babb/approved.

Invocation

The invocation was given by Mr. Maley.

Application Hearing

1. Mr. Benjamin Taylor Lane participated in an Application Hearing by telephone conference call. He was not represented by Council. The hearing was recorded by a certified court reporter in the event a verbatim transcript is necessary.

Executive Session

MOTION: For the Board to enter into executive session for legal advice.
Drummond/Maley/approved.

Return to Public Session

MOTION: For the Board to return to public session. Maley/Drummond/approved.

MOTION: To approve Mr. Lane's licensure, upon verifying that he passed the state exam.
Maley/Sligh/approved.

New Business

a. **2019 ASBORF Meeting Report – Charles Maley**

Mr. Maley gave a report from the ASBORF Meeting in Nanchez, MS, on August 28-30, 2019. The Thursday morning meeting addressed current licensure requirements and exemptions for each state. The main issue discussed is how to address the needs of foresters who would like to remain licensed, but aren't working in the industry full-time. Some states have exemptions for foresters who are retired that includes reduced fees and continuing education hours. The Friday business meeting included reports from each state, which will follow as soon as Georgia submits their written report to Mr. Maley. Elections were held during the afternoon session, and Mr. Maley agreed to serve as Secretary/Treasurer for an additional year. The 2020 ASBORF meeting will be held in North Carolina in late August.

b. **CFE Audit Review**

The Board reviewed continuing education audits for the following individuals: William Baughman, Bradley Brammlet, Robert Calhoun, Rodney Chandler, Timothy Evans, Robert Ford, Silas Cox, Kenneth Ilderton, Kevin Johnstone, Daniel Mann, Samuel Montgomery, Clinton Pellum, Charles Ramsey, Gretchen Spaulding, and Janet Steele.

MOTION: To approve all audits as satisfactory.
Mills/Drummond/approved.

c. **Military Spouse Licensure – Pam Dunkin**

Mrs. Dunkin stated LLR has adopted a policy to offer expedited licensure for military spouses, by request from the Governor's Office. Applicants must still meet the requirements for licensure, and they have to submit a copy of the orders to prove their spouse is stationed in South Carolina. Additional information on military

spouse licensure is available on the agency website. The Forester's Board has not had any applicants through this process to date.

d. Review Board Expenditures – Pam Dunkin

Mrs. Dunkin said that cash balance reports will be provided to the Board at each meeting. The Agency Director and Deputy Directors are looking at staffing ratios for each Board, and she will endeavor to work with them to keep the expenditures as low as possible. She will keep the Board apprised of the cash balance and efforts to reduce the deficit.

e. Continuing Education exemption based on age and/or years of licensure.

Mrs. Dunkin provided information on continuing education exemptions from other states in the region, and from other Boards within the agency. Mr. Stuart provided the Board with a copy of the continuing education exemption from the SC Bar. Their exemption is age 60, 30 years of approved experience, and submittal of an official form requesting the exemption. The Board discussed the various exemptions, and decided they are in favor of the exemption model from the SC Bar Association. They proposed approaching SC Forestry Association with this research at their January meeting to see if they will support a regulatory change allowing for this continuing education exemption. A formal vote will be added to the agenda for the February 6, 2020, meeting.

Executive Session

No executive session.

Return to Public Session

No return to public session.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn. Mills/Maley/approved.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.