MINUTES

SC Board of Registration for Foresters Board Meeting February 9, 2023 at 10 a.m. WebEx Webinar/Teleconference

Meeting Called to Order

Chairman Charles Maley called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. Other members participating in the meeting included Vice-Chairman Christian Hendricks, of Columbia; Michael Mills, of Newberry; William D. Sligh, Jr., of Hartsville; Robert Drummond, of Columbia; and Brannon Babb, of Honea Path.

Staff members participating during the meeting included Megan Flannery, Office of Advice Counsel; Pam Dunkin, Administrator; Johnnie Rose, Program Coordinator; and Sherri Moorer, Administrative Coordinator.

Others present in person included Nadine Garrett (Creel Court Reporting).

Statement of Public Notice

Mr. Maley 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. Members of the public who wish to attend may do so by telephone or the Internet. For login information, please call (803)896-4800, or email Contact.Foresters@llr.sc.gov.

Invocation

Mr. Drummond gave the invocation.

Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: To adopt the February 9, 2023, agenda.

Drummond/Hendricks/approved.

Approval of Excused Absences

MOTION: To excuse Frazier Baldwin from the meeting.

Sligh/Hendricks/approved.

Approval of the November 10, 2022, Meeting Minutes

MOTION: To approve the November 10, 2022, meeting minutes.

Sligh/Hendricks/approved.

Chairman's Remarks – Charles Maley

Mr. Maley thanked everybody for accommodating WebEx to keep travel and expenses down for this brief meeting. He reminded the Board members to file their Statement of Economic Interest by the noon deadline on March 30, 2023. Mrs. Moorer sent financial statements to assist with this filing by email on January 31, 2023.

Staff Reports

- a. Administrative and Financial Report Pam Dunkin
 - i. There are 661 registered foresters.
- ii. Five licenses have been issued since the last meeting: four by examination, and one by reciprocity.
- iii. The State exam has been taken 96 times with an average score of 77 since being implemented in January 2016.
- iv. Board staff are preparing for the 2023-2025 renewals. Notices were posted on the Board website and sent by email to remind licensees about obtaining CFE's. Renewals will open on April 17, 2023, with a renewal deadline of June 30, 2023. Late renewals will be accepted through September 30, 2023.
- v. The Board had a cash balance of \$22,019.58 as of December 31, 2023. Mrs. Dunkin will monitor this balance through the renewal cycle so the Board can determine if they need to make a fee adjustment.
- vi. Mrs. Dunkin repeated Mr. Maley's remark to file the Statement of Economic Interest by the noon deadline on March 20, 2023. Mrs. Moorer will send reminder notices by email throughout February and March.
- vii. Mr. Rose contacted the Foresters Association about the three expired Board member terms. Mr. Mills said he received correspondence from the Governor's Office about his term renewal, which he will forward to staff.
- viii. Two bills are in the State House that will affect all licensure Boards. S165 would make changes regarding the consideration of criminal convictions, and require issuing licenses to applicants who have completed apprenticeship programs with the Department of Labor. This bill would also repeal the section of Chapter 40 regarding denial of licensure based solely on criminal convictions. H.3605 is a similar bill that would make changes to the Department's investigative processes, and prohibit denial of a license based on past criminal convictions. H.3605 has passed the House and sent to the Senate as of this week.
- ix. The next Board will be July 13, 2023. It will be an in-person meeting.
- b. Advisory Opinions There were no Advisory Opinions.
- c. ODC Report Mrs. Dunkin stated are no cases in the Office of Disciplinary Council.
- d. OIE Report Mrs. Dunkin stated there are no cases in the Office of Investigations and Enforcement
- e. IRC Report There was no Investigative Review Committee report.

New Business

a. CE Broker - Johnnie Rose

Mr. Rose presented the Board questions to CE Broker staff at an internal meeting held on January 17, 2023. Fifteen boards with the Department utilize CE Broker. CE Broker operates on a zero service level agreement, which means that there is no charge to the Department or the licensees to use this service. Licensees are only required to create a free, basic account if the Board elects to use CE Broker for audits.

Mr. Rose said SAF cannot interface with CE Broker. Licensees who are members of SAF would have to download their documentation from SAF, and then upload it to CE Broker.

Board members will be granted access to the CE Broker system to review audits, if they elect to use the system.

MOTION: To not use CE Broker Services.

Mills/Drummond/defeated

MOTION: To accept a soft rollout of CE Broker for 2023 audits.

Drummond/Mills/approved

Mr. Maley requested that notices sent to licensees include clear instructions to sign up and use the free CE Broker account for Board audits.

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/Hendricks/approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.