

MINUTES

South Carolina Board of Registration for Foresters
Teleconference Board Meeting
10:00 a.m., April 23, 2015
Synergy Business Park
110 Centerview Drive, Kingstree Building, Room 204
Columbia, South Carolina

Meeting Called to Order

Eric Smith, chairman, called the regular scheduled meeting of the S.C. Board of Registration for Foresters to order at 10:08 a.m. Other members in attendance included: Robert Drummond, vice-chair, of Columbia; Christian Hendricks, secretary, of Columbia; Ronald Byrd, of Darlington; Frazier Baldwin, of Lancaster; Amy McFadden, of Georgetown, and William Moody, of Lexington.

Staff members attending the meeting included: Molly Price, Administrator; Theresa Garner, Program Assistant; Darra Coleman, Chief Advice Counsel; and Holly Beeson, Counsel to the Office of Communications.

Mr. Smith 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.

The invocation was given by Ron Byrd.

Approval of Excused Absences

Mr. Byrd made a motion the Board approve the absence of Frazier Baldwin. Mr. Hendricks seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Mr. Baldwin joined the teleconference at approximately 10:41am.

Approval of the January 29, 2015 Meeting Minutes

MOTION

Mr. Hendricks made a motion to approve the January 29, 2015 minutes as presented. Mrs. McFadden seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chairman's Remarks-Eric Smith

Mr. Smith thanked the board members for participating in the teleconference. He said it was a good use of time and resources.

Administrator's Remarks-Molly Price

Mrs. Price introduced legal counsel, and staff members participating in the teleconference.

Mrs. Price reported the Board currently has 699 Registered Foresters.

Since July 11, 2014, there have been ten forester licenses issued at the staff level. Six were licensure via examination, three were licensure via reciprocity, and one was licensure via reinstatement.

The Cash Balance Report for March 2015 reflected a balance of \$12,752.48. The next scheduled board meeting will be held on July 23, 2015, in room 204.

Mrs. Price said she had been working with legal staff to update the applications and forms for the Board. The applications should be finished by the end of next week, and hopefully the online applications will be ready for the public by May. This means that applicants will be able to submit their information electronically, and pay their application fees by credit card.

Once the applications and forms are updated on the Board website, a newsletter will be sent to all current licensees by email. Mrs. Price suggested board members submit any information they would like to have included in the newsletter, as soon as possible. She stated that she would send board members the final draft for review before releasing the E blast to licensees.

Advisory Opinions, If Needed, Office of General Counsel

There were no advisory opinions given.

Legislative Update, If Needed, Legislative Liaison Office

There were no legislative updates given.

OIE Report-Office of Investigations and Enforcement-Todd Bond

There was no OIE report given.

Old Business

State Specific Exam Questions

Mrs. Price reported that she was finalizing the exam format, and would be sending the exams to SAF by the end of next week. She would also be obtaining a report on the cost for the exams. The cost will include vetting the questions and keeping track of what questions are often missed. Her timeline for implementing the state specific exam would start on January 1, 2016.

She requested that board members provide a study guide or an informative paragraph about the five categories of questions on the exam. This information will be placed on the Board website to provide general guidance for exam applicants.

Board members suggested a notification regarding the State Specific Exams be placed in the Board Newsletter, along with notifying SAF, and the Forestry Association. Mrs. Price will also send a letter to all SAF accredited schools in the Southeast.

New Business

Regulation 53-16-Renewal Fees

Holly Beeson, Legal Counsel, Office of Communications and Public Affairs, explained the procedures for submitting fee changes in regulations. Past fees were not supported in regulations. In 2001 the Foresters Board approved a fee increase but did not submit the changes to the State Register. Last year when LLR updated board statutes, and regulations; the fee increase was included along with other changes. For other reasons, the bill was pulled. After reviewing the current regulations, the Agency Director and legal counsel determined the board could not impose the fees they were currently charging. The board is currently operating on the (1986) fees listed in regulations until LLR can request permission of the General Assembly to restore the fee amounts, next session.

Continuing Forestry Education Report Form and Upcoming Audit

Board members were given a copy of the new Continuing Forestry Education (CFE) reporting form for their review. They all agreed the form would provide the necessary information needed for audit purposes. Board staff will conduct a Continuing Forestry Education Audit at the conclusion of 2015 renewals.

Review of Application for Reinstatement

i. Jason Stewart Jeffcoat

Mr. Jeffcoat applied for licensure with the Board on February 20, 2015. He was previously licensed with the Board until his license lapsed on June 30, 2011. He obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forest Resource Management from Clemson University in December 1998. He has submitted a notarized statement indicating that he has not practiced forestry in South Carolina since his license lapsed and provided the appropriate CFE documentation. This application was brought for full Board review because there was some discussion about the notarized statement indicating that he did not practice forestry in South Carolina, and the employment verification form indicated that he was an independent contractor in South Carolina. Mr. Jeffcoat recently submitted additional information about his work indicating that the work he performed in South Carolina was exclusively for the federal government. With this clarification, Mrs. Price did not see an issue with his application but asked that the Board review the complete application and make the decision for licensure via reinstatement. Mr. Jeffcoat paid all fees, and his application was complete.

MOTION

Mr. Baldwin made a motion the board accepts Mr. Jeffcoat's application for licensure via reinstatement. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mrs. Price asked the board members whether or not they would accept copies of college or university transcripts or if they needed the "official" transcripts.

MOTION

Mrs. McFadden made a motion the board now require an official transcript be submitted from colleges and universities. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

ASBORF Annual Meeting Travel Approval

Board Chairman, Eric Smith, informed board members that the annual ASBORF Meeting will be held in Alabama, the 2nd or 3rd week of August. He asked the board to approve travel for the Administrator, and one other board member.

MOTION

Amy McFadden made a motion the board approve up to two people to attend the annual ASBORF meeting in Alabama. Frazier Baldwin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Executive Session (If necessary)

The board did not enter into executive session.

Adjournment

Since there was no further business to be discussed by the Board, the April 23, 2015 meeting of the S.C. Board of Registration of Foresters adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

The next meeting of the S.C. Board of Registration for Foresters is scheduled for July 23, 2015, in room 204.