

**MINUTES**  
**South Carolina Board of Registration for Foresters**  
**Board Meeting**  
**10:00 A.M., July 11, 2013**  
**Synergy Business Park**  
**Kingstree Building**  
**110 Centerview Drive, Conference Room 204**  
**Columbia, South Carolina**

**Meeting Called to Order**

Charles Sibley, chairman, of Chapin, called the meeting of the SC Board of Registration for Foresters to order at 10:00 a.m. Other Board members participating in the meeting included: Ronald Byrd, of Hartsville; William Moody, of Lexington; James Hendricks, of Columbia; Amy McFadden, vice-chairman, of Georgetown; and Eric Smith of Greenwood.

Staff members participating during the meeting included: Lenora Addison-Miles, Administrator; Mrs. Georgia Lewis, Advice Counsel; Theresa Garner, Interim Administrator; and Jennifer Cooper, Director's Office.

Mr. Sibley 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.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

All participants recited the Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by the invocation.

**Approval of Excused Absences**

Mr. Sibley was notified by Robert Drummond that he had a conflict and would not be attending the board meeting.

**Approval of the April 11, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION**

Mr. Byrd made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Mrs. McFadden seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**Chairman's Remarks – Charles Sibley**

Mr. Sibley had no comments, but asked Mrs. McFadden to report on attending the ASBORF meeting in Mississippi. Mrs. McFadden reported all but one state was represented. Discussion was mainly around the organization of the boards.

She said they worked on guidelines for registration, and everyone agreed on the four-year degree for the registration. They came up with eight to ten guidelines for states that would like to make some changes. Mrs. McFadden will email the final form to board members. They elected officers, and next year the meeting will be held in Asheville, N.C. South Carolina will need to submit a candidate for secretary, someone who serves on the board and has two years left on their term.

**Interim Administrator's Remarks – Theresa Garner**

Mrs. Garner reported that on April 30, 2013, 718 online renewal notices containing the assigned UserID's and Passwords were mailed to each registrant's address of record.

As of July 8, 2013, 599 foresters were registered through June 30, 2015, and 119 licenses expired on June 30, 2013. Registrants may apply for late renewal until September 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Cash Balance Report for May 2013 showed a negative of \$15, 821.12.

Erin Baldwin, Office of General Counsel, introduced herself to board members and informed board members she would be replacing Christa Bell, who has been promoted to Assistant Deputy Director for the agency. Mrs. Baldwin said she would be glad to assist them in any way, and looked forward to working with them.

## **Unfinished Business**

### State Specific Examination

Mr. Sibley stated he recalled the last discussion the board had regarding the state specific exam ended with board members not being sure how administration viewed state specific exam questions, and trying to determine if the board needed to go with the approvals of SMT or move forward with the state specific exam on their own. Mr. Sibley said he thought this was tabled. Advice Counsel, Georgia Lewis, stated that other boards do have state specific exams. Mrs. Lewis asked if the board decided to go with the state specific exam, would the exam be administered at LLR. Mrs. Miles stated that was something the board needed to discuss because the state specific exam would be separate from the National exam. Mrs. Miles said the board did have the option, as other LLR boards do, to use the online secured website. This topic was discussed at a previous board meeting. Mrs. Miles offered to provide Mr. Sibley with the exam questions that she has so that he could review them. Vice-chair, Amy McFadden said the board could ask SAF to add it to their exams, at the cost of \$800 or \$900 for 15 questions, a one-time fee. Mrs. Lewis stated that she would look at Long Term Health Care's testing and get more specific information on how they do their exams. Mrs. Lewis said that once everything had been compiled, she would forward the information to Theresa to send to board members prior to the next meeting.

## **New Business**

### Review of Applications for Licensure via Examination

#### *William Bush Byrum*

The Board received an application from Mr. Byrum on April 25, 2013. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Resource Management from N.C. State University on May 19, 2001. He passed the Certified Forester examination on April 16, 2013. His file was complete.

### **MOTION**

Amy McFadden made a motion to approve Mr. Byrum's application for Licensure by examination. James Hendricks seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

#### *Matthew Tyler Cocke*

The Board received an application from Mr. Cocke on August 1, 2012. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Resource Management from Clemson University on December 16, 2010. He passed the Certified Forester examination on February 13, 2013. His file was complete.

### **MOTION**

Amy McFadden made a motion to approve Mr. Cocke's application, pending confirmation of two years of full time employment following graduation. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

#### *Kenneth Hunter Leary*

The Board received an application from Mr. Leary on October 3, 2012. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Resource Management on May 7, 2010, and a Master of Forest

Resources on May 13, 2011, from Clemson University. He passed the Certified Forester examination on August 15, 2012. His file was complete.

**MOTION**

Mr. Byrd made a motion to accept Mr. Leary's application for licensure. Mr. Smith seconded the motion which carried unanimously

*Jamison Brett Wilkins*

The Board originally denied Mr. Wilkins's application during the April 30, 2012 meeting because he had not obtained the required two years of work experience. Mr. Wilkins has submitted an updated application and employment verification for consideration.

**MOTION**

Mr. Byrd made a motion to accept Mr. Wilkins's application for licensure. Mr. Hendricks seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**Review of Application for Reinstatement**

*Mark A. Rehme*

The Board received Mr. Rehme's application for reinstatement on April 8, 2013. Mr. Rehme's license lapsed June 30, 2011. He submitted an updated application, a notarized statement indicating he has not practiced since his license lapsed, an updated employment verification, and CFE documentation. All renewal fees were paid, along with the reinstatement fee.

Mr. Smith stated Mark Rehme was a co-worker, and he needed to recuse himself. Advice Counsel, Georgia Lewis, stated for the record, that Mr. Smith would need to sign a form recusing himself. Mr. Smith left the room prior to the discussion and vote.

**MOTION**

Mr. Byrd made a motion to approve Mr. Rehme's request for reinstatement. Amy McFadden seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

*Brian Edward Rogers*

The Board received Mr. Rogers's application for reinstatement on July 5, 2013. Mr. Rogers's license lapsed on June 30, 2011. He submitted an updated application, and a notarized statement indicating he has practiced forestry since the 2011 expiration of his license. Also included was an updated employment verification and CFE documentation. All renewal fees were paid, along with the reinstatement fee.

**MOTION**

Mr. Smith made a motion to accept Mr. Rogers's reinstatement on the condition that he provides further clarification that he was working under the supervision of a registered forester, and verification from his supervisor that he was working under supervision while his license was lapsed. He must provide this information within 30 days. Amy McFadden seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**Proposed Statute and Regulation Changes**

**Board Proposed Changes**

Mr. Sibley stated him and former board member, George Chastain, reviewed the regulations a year ago and recommended changes. Some changes were made and some were not made because it was felt if the board brought up some of the changes that were required to be voted on by the House of Representatives, there may be some opposition to the board itself.

They decided not to go forward with the portion that would have to be voted on through legislation. Now the board is addressing those changes that need to be made to update our law, and bring them more in line with what is actually being implemented.

Advice Counsel, Georgia Lewis, introduced Jennifer Cooper, Director's office; who drafts notices, processes, and makes changes to the regulations and statutes. Mrs. Lewis stated there were two things that needed to be done to be in compliance with LLR's involvement with the boards responsibilities. She said LLR has filed a Notice of Drafting, allowing 30 days for a comment period and for any hearings that are requested. If a hearing is requested LLR will have another month. Regulations, involve mostly timeframes that have to be met. LLR is very involved in that process making sure that it goes through the proper procedures. A few months after the Notice of Drafting has been submitted, the proposed regulations will be posted in *The State Register*. All final changes will be reviewed and approved by the board before submitting to the General Assembly.

There is a different process for changes in the statute. There is not a Notice of Drafting and the board can meet as a group or committee to review the changes. The board must find a sponsor for the bill in order to make changes to the statute, and the sponsor must be in the Legislature. Any member of the board can approach a legislator to sponsor a bill but LLR cannot. It would be a plus to choose someone in the profession or someone who sits on the committee. After you have a sponsor, the bill will be introduced in front of the Senate or House, depending on which branch you get to sponsor the bill. Sometimes you can get sponsors from both the Senate and House. The bill will have three readings then it switches to the other house, and if it gets through, it will pass.

Mr. Sibley stated that he saw some errors on the document on page seven that needed to be clarified. Under Section 53-20 Continuing Education, the CFE credit categories are SAF categories, and SAF no longer has six categories. Mrs. Lewis said she needed specifics on how the board would like this to be read. Mrs. Miles referred board members to her email from April 17 that was included in the board packets regarding Mr. Chastain's recommendations for changes in the statutes and regulations. Mr. Sibley also referred to item number two, ten continuing credit hours annually, should be changed to 20 biennially, and the minimum of five hours should be changed to ten. Item number ten on page eight, Carry-over Credits, a maximum of five should be changed to ten credits may be carried over for one renewal period. Mr. Sibley asked Mr. Smith to serve on a committee with him to give the board better guidance on what the changes need to say.

#### Governor's Regulatory Review

The Board was provided a copy of LLR's response to the regulatory review which pertained to the board.

#### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

#### **Executive Session**

The Board did not enter into executive session.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

The next meeting of the SC Board of Registration for Foresters is scheduled for October 10, 2013.