

MINUTES
SC Board of Registration for Foresters
Conference Call Board Meeting
2:00 p.m., May 18, 2017
Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building
110 Centerview Drive, Conference Room 204
Columbia, South Carolina

Meeting Called to Order

Robert Drummond, Chairman, called the conference call meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Other members participating in the meeting included: Blair Frazier Baldwin., of Lancaster; J. Christian Hendricks, of Columbia; Charles J. Maley, of Moore; and William D. Sligh, Jr., of Hartsville.

Staff members participating during the meeting included: Molly Price, Administrator; Meredith Buttler, Program Coordinator; and Hardwick Stuart, Office of Advice Counsel. Travis McLeod, Creel Court Reporting, was also present.

Mr. Drummond stated public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the SC 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 attending recited the Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation

The invocation was given by Frazier Baldwin

Approval of Excused Absences

MOTION: To approve the absence of Board Member William Moody due to being out of the country at time of meeting.
Maley/Baldwin/approved.

Approval of the February 9, 2017 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: To approve the February 9, 2017 meeting minutes.
Baldwin/Hendricks/approved.

Chairman's Remarks – Robert Drummond

Mr. Drummond did not have any remarks.

Staff Reports

- a. Administrative and Financial Report – Molly Price

Ms. Price reported that the Board currently has 709 actively licensed foresters. As the Board is currently in renewals, the number may drop as this is typically the time when people who are retired allow their licenses to lapse. The Cash Balance Report for April 2017, reflected a balance of -\$104,790.31. Ms. Price estimates that the total revenue for renewals this cycle will be around \$90,000, which will bring the Board balance closer to the positive. She assured the Board that the cash balance should return to the positive if not this cycle, then the next renewal cycle. The cause of the negative balance being the reversion to the old fees during the prior renewal cycle but as the fees have since been correct, they will reverse in the near future.

She also discussed South Carolina State Examination results and stated that she has been very pleased with the results. The average passing score is currently 80. There are four or five exams that are being held by SAF due to a rewrite of several questions. They anticipate releasing the new cut score either later this week or next. Ms. Price believes that the higher passing rates are a direct result of applicants waiting closer to completing their two years of experience before taking the exams. There are eleven applicants that have been approved for licensure since July 28, 2016. Seven of these applications were licensure by examination with three licensure by reinstatement and two by reciprocity.

January 1, 2018 will mark two years since the introduction of the State portion of the examination. Ms. Price notified the Board that she would like at that point to analyze the questions in order to determine if any need to be changed. Overall the feedback from the licensees is that the exam has been good with a few comments regarding the excess number of soil questions on the exam.

The Spring 2017 newsletter is ready to go out. Staff is just waiting on the Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) Survey. A "Meet the Board" section has been included in this newsletter along with an account from a local forester of an encounter with an alligator. Board members are encouraged to share with office staff any ideas or information that they would like to see included in the newsletter. Once the SPB survey is received, the newsletter will be sent to the Board for review prior to being e-blasted to licensees and posted to the website.

Renewals are currently in full swing and most foresters have chosen to renew online. Board staff has been a bit busier than usual as the renewal notices this year did not contain the account passwords. Licensees have been calling and emailing in requesting assistance logging in to the system. The CFE audit will be conducted following the close of renewals. As with previous years, a 5% audit will be taken and the information distributed to the Board for review at the November meeting.

Mrs. Price stated that the next Board meeting is scheduled for August 3, 2017 at the Kingtree Building.

b. Advisory Opinions, If Needed, Office of General Counsel

No advisory opinions were given during this meeting.

c. Legislative Updates, If Needed, Legislative Liaison Office

No legislative updates were given during this meeting.

d. ODC Report – Office of Disciplinary Reports

ODC had no report for today's meeting.

e. OIE Report – Office of Investigations and Enforcement

Todd Bond reported that to date there no cases at the OIE office.

f. IRC Report – Investigative Review Committee

Todd Bond reported that the IRC met April 3, 2017, to discuss one case, dealing with unlicensed practice. The committee ordered a disbar of the case.

MOTION: To approve the IRC's report.
Maley/Hendricks/approved.

New Business

a. 2017 ASBORF Annual Meeting travel approval

The 2017 ASBORF meeting will be held in Bentonville, Arkansas on August 17th and 18th. Due to the price associated with traveling to Arkansas, Ms. Price recommended approving one staff member and one board member to attend. She also stated that attendance will be vital this year, as the SC Board will be in charge of hosting the conference in 2018.

MOTION: To approve travel to the 2017 ASBORF Annual Meeting for one staff member and one board member.
Baldwin/Sligh/approved.

Ms. Price asked for the Board's input on possible locations for hosting.

Discussion Topic

Mr. Baldwin brought before the Board a question posed to him by a potential Forester candidate. The individual in question has passed the SAF exam and is currently working with a logging company, but not under the direct employment of a registered forester. The individual would like to know the proper way in to apply for registration if he is not directly employed by a registered forester. Ms. Price stated that an applicant has to either be under the direction of a registered forester or show forestry experience deemed satisfactory the Board. If an application is submitted in which the applicant is not under direction of a registered forester, but shows adequate experience, staff will recommend an application hearing before the Board.

Executive Session

No executive session needed.

Return to Public Session

No return to public session needed.

Public Comments

There were no public comments made during this meeting

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.

Baldwin/Maley/approved.

The May 18, 2017 meeting of the S.C. Board of Registration of Foresters adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

The next meeting of the S.C. Board of Registration of Foresters is scheduled for August 3, 2017, in room 204.