

MINUTES

South Carolina Board of Registration for Foresters
Board Meeting
10:00 A.M., July 6, 2006
Synergy Business Park
Kingstree Building
110 Centerview Drive, Conference Room 111
Columbia, South Carolina

Hugh Ryan, Chairman, of Wedgefield, called the regular meeting of the SC Board of Registration for Foresters to order at 10:00 a.m. Other board members in attendance included: Virgil Wall, Vice Chairman of Greenwood; Patricia Straka, Secretary, of Westminster; Fred Gantt, of Columbia; and Amy L. McFadden, of Georgetown.

Raymond Boozer, of Gilbert, and B. Allen Dunn, Ph. D., of Central, were granted excused absences.

Staff members participating during the meeting included: Lenora Addison-Miles, Administrator; Sharon Dantzler, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel; and Linda Owens, Administrative Assistant.

Members of the public attending the meeting included: Darrel Smith and Levi W. Smith

Meeting Called to Order

Mr. Ryan 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.

Invocation

Mr. Wall delivered the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the April 20, 2006 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Gantt noted a correction to page three regarding the amendment to the motion regarding Mr. Smith. He stated the sentence beginning with "Following the discussion. . ." should state request "only" documentation of residency.

MOTION

Mr. Wall moved the minutes be approved as amended. Ms. Straka seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chairman's Remarks – Hugh Ryan

Mr. Ryan made no remarks at this time.

Administrator's Remarks – Lenora Miles

Legislative Update, If Needed, Legislative Liaison Office

Advisory Opinions, If Needed, Office of General Counsel

There was no legislative update or advisory opinions offered during the July 6, 2006 meeting.

Ms. Miles stated Mr. Boozer and Dr. Dunn were requesting excused absences from today's meeting. She noted that Mr. Boozer is out of town and Dr. Dunn has an illness in his family.

Ms. Miles presented the members with information regarding the board member website and briefed the members on the site.

Ms. Miles stated there were 22 candidates for the May 5, 2006 exam. She further stated two candidates passed the exam and the average score was 59.

Ms. Miles stated all outstanding travel from the 2005/2006 fiscal year must be submitted to the agency no later than July 10, 2006 and should include all supporting documentation.

Ms. Miles stated as of today, July 6, 2006, there are 709 active foresters with 100 foresters outstanding or active in renewal. She indicated 440 foresters renewed their licenses online.

Unfinished Business

a. Levi Smith, Approval of Licensure by Reciprocity

The Board reviewed Mr. Smith's application during the April 20, 2006 meeting; however, the Board was unable to make a decision until Mr. Smith provided evidence of his residency in the State of Georgia. Mr. Smith has provided a copy of his voter registration card and Georgia driver's license.

Levi Smith appeared before the Board at this time. Mr. Smith stated he believes the letter is self explanatory. He further stated he does have a residence in Georgia, he is licensed as a registered forester, and he has a Georgia Voter's Registration Card and a valid Georgia driver's license. He further stated the physical address is 1380 Tabernackel Church Road, Lincolnton, Georgia. He noted that this mail route does not have places for mail boxes on the dirt road so he has the secured documents delivered to the post office box address. He indicated the Board's website does not state that a physical address is necessary for licensure.

Ms. Straka asked Mr. Smith when he took the forester's exam in Georgia. Mr. Smith could not remember the date. Ms. Straka reviewed his application and indicated he took the exam on August 11, 2004 and the Georgia driver's exam on May 17, 2005. She noted his Georgia voter's registration card was also issued in 2005. She noted she brought this matter to the Board's attention during the last meeting since several of his references indicated he lived in South Carolina.

Mr. Smith stated he works for a South Carolina company that had an office in Georgia, however, that office has now been decommissioned. He has applied for a position with the state government; however, he is still employed in Georgia.

Executive Session

MOTION

Ms. Straka made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wall and unanimously carried, that the Board enter executive session to discuss this issue.

Return to Public Session

Mr. Ryan noted that no motions were made and no votes were taken during executive session.

MOTION

Mr. Wall moved the Board approve Mr. Smith's application for registration. Ms. McFadden seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

b. Society of American Foresters Contract

Ms. Miles stated this revised contract is the final version; however, the fee issue is still there.

The Board reviewed the contract and discussed the process for examination.

Executive Session

MOTION

Ms. Straka made a motion, seconded by Ms. McFadden, the Board enter executive session to discuss financial and policy matters. The motion carried unanimously.

Return to Public Session

Mr. Ryan stated no motions were offered and no votes were taken during executive session.

MOTION

Mr. Wall moved the Board accept the agreement proposed by SAF for testing applicants for this Board. Ms. Straka seconded the motion. Mr. Gantt amended the motion to say the Board give the executive committee the authority to proceed should further questions arise. The amendment carried unanimously. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Miles stated the last state exam is scheduled for November 17, 2006.

New Business

Approval of Licensure via Examination

a. Brandon Heitkamp

Brandon Heitkamp is applying for licensure via examination. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Resource Management from Clemson. He passed the registered forester's exam in May 2005. His file is complete.

MOTION

Ms. McFadden made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wall and unanimously carried, that the Board approve Mr. Heitkamp for licensure.

b. Guy Sabin

Guy Sabin is applying for licensure by examination. He obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree from the Citadel and a Master of Science Degree in Forest Resources from Clemson. He passed the registered forester's exam in May 2005. His file is complete.

MOTION

Mr. Wall moved the Board approve Mr. Sabin for licensure. Ms. Straka seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

c. Michael Weeks

The Board approved Mr. Week's application for registration by examination during the October 13, 2005 meeting, contingent upon completion of two years of work experience. Mr. Weeks provided an updated employment verification.

Approval of Licensure via Reciprocity

a. Mark Gibbs

Mark Gibbs is applying for licensure via reciprocity. He obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry from the University of Tennessee. He is currently licensed in Georgia. He was previously licensed in South Carolina by reciprocity with Georgia, but staff has no record of his license. He is self-employed. His file is complete.

MOTION

Mr. Wall made a motion, seconded by Ms. Straka and unanimously carried that the Board approve Mr. Gibbs for licensure.

Approval of Reinstatement

a. *James C. Ellis*

James C. Ellis's license expired June 30, 1997. He has paid the required fees and submitted proof of continuing forester education courses.

MOTION

Mr. Wall moved the Board approve Mr. Ellis for reinstatement. Ms. Straka seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Ms. McFadden stated during the ASBORF meeting and in other instances she has heard remarks in regard to the fact that the registered foresters do not know what the Board does. Ms. Miles stated the Board could publish a newsletter and have it placed on the webpage. The Board determined it would draft an article regarding the exam and would have it placed on the webpage or sent to other entities for publication.

Ms. McFadden stated the North Carolina Board of Foresters randomly picks five classes and checks its roster for attendance as an avenue for the continuing education audit.

Executive Session

MOTION

Mr. Wall moved the Board enter executive session for discussion on the continuing education audit. Ms. Straka seconded the motion, which carried unanimously,

Return to Public Session

Mr. Ryan noted for the record that no motions were offered and no votes were taken during executive session.

MOTION

Ms. Straka made a motion, seconded by Ms. McFadden and unanimously carried, that the Board's administrative staff begin the continuing education audit, that the audit include ten percent of the currently registered foresters in the State of South Carolina and that the documentation be ready for the members during the October 12, 2006 Board meeting.

Public Comments

There were no public comments made during the July 6, 2006 meeting.

Adjournment

MOTION

There being no further business to be brought before the Board at this time, Mr. Wall moved the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Gantt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The July 6, 2006 meeting of the SC Board of Registration of Foresters adjourned at 11:54 a.m.