



WEST VIRGINIA STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS

The WV Board of Registration for Foresters met April 10, 2025 at the WV Division of Forestry Headquarters in Charleston, WV. Those in attendance were Secretary/Treasurer Dave McGill, Daniel Hackett, Denzil Linton, and clerical support Hope Pulliam. Absent from this meeting were President Chad Westfall and Todd Lotter

The meeting was called to order by President-pro tem Denzil Linton at 10:04 am.

The minutes from the October 16, 2024 meeting were distributed and reviewed. Dan Hackett made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Denzil Linton seconded. Motion carried. The financial report was distributed. Clerical support Hope Pulliam discussed an email she had received about the funds being low and recommended looking at some expenses to try to cut corners in hopes of building the funds back up. President pro-tem Denzil Linton asked for a motion to accept the financial report as distributed. Dan Hackett seconded. Motion carried.

Correspondence – None received

Complaints – None.

Safety Review – Dan Hackett spoke about down electric lines. If you come upon on, to act as if it is “live”. If you are on equipment or in a car, to remain there until the power company arrives.

Old Business

Ad in WVFA & Farm Bureau Magazines – The prices for 1/3 page ad in each is \$750.00 and \$339.00, respectively. The ad would run 4 times in WVFA magazine and 9-12 times in the Farm Bureau publication. The board discussed the frequency, whether names should be added twice a year or just once annually to recognize the new registrants. The Board opted to table this discussion until next meeting.

New Business

Finances –Clerical support Hope Pulliam spoke about ideas she had to cut some corners. She discussed how much it costs the board for the Department of Administration to process the accounts payable. If the board would take this on, it could save around \$2,000 per year. But the Board would still need the department to process the payroll. She also stated that prior to COVID, the Board used a room at West Virginia University and Glenville to have the exam. This stopped when those campuses closed due to the pandemic. At that time, the Board paid \$150.00 to a graduate student to proctor the exam. This could be an additional \$700.00 in savings. The Board also discussed the contracting

with Greg Cook to watch the Legislative session next year. Denzil Linton stated that WVFA has been putting out great information about the current session and it may be a good idea to reach out that organization and possible go in to a “memorandum of understanding” for next year’s session. This would save at most \$2499. Secretary/Treasurer Dave McGill made a motion to rewrite the MOU with the Department of Administration with them only processing the payroll. Dan Hackett seconded. Motion carried.

Denzil Linton asked about ways to generate more revenue and that went into a lengthy discussion of the Board’s fee structure and when it was last updated. Clerical support Hope Pulliam reported that the fee structure was last increased when the exam was implemented. Dan Hackett brought up increasing the late fee, as it was cheaper to not renew for a year and just pay an additional \$10.00 when renewing for the next year. Hope Pulliam said this would require a rule change and this would need to be started as soon as possible. Dave McGill volunteered to reach out to the Attorney General and the WV Secretary of State offices to get this process started. The Board would like a new fee structure be in place for the 2026-2027 renewal year. The Board may have to have an emergency ZOOM meeting to discuss what Dave finds out and to discuss what the fees should be increased to.

March exam – Hope Pulliam reported there were 2 people to sit for the exam. One passed and one failed. The one who passed was notified via email but will receive an official letter soon.

September 2024 exam- Two sat for the exam- 1 pass & 1 failed.

SB458 – Relating to the establishment of universal professional and occupational licensing, registration, and certification. This bill passed out of both the house and senate and is waiting on the Governor’s signature. This bill will take effect July 1, 2025. There will need to be a paragraph added to the application and posted on our website. There is a clause in there about reporting to the Secretary of Commerce, Senate and House committees on Government Organization. Hope Pulliam said she would contact the WV Association of Licensing Boards to see if they would know how this reporting will be completed.

Annual Auditors Training – Denzil Linton went in place of Todd Lotter as he ended up with a scheduling conflict. Denzil stated that it was interesting and he learned a lot. The training discussed how to develop new rules and will resend that out to the Board. The training also discussed the trends on licensing, registration, transparency. They also discussed the importance of user-friendly web pages. Denzil also mentioned that a new e-travel system was being rolled out but as of today that has not happened to all state agencies.

Other Business-

SAF to Proctor exam – Secretary/Treasurer Dave McGill reported that he and Hope had attended a zoom call with Hope and Erin Turner with SAF. This call was very informative and Erin was asked to develop a tentative agreement so this can be brought before the Board. The cost would be \$2,800.00 to set the exam up. Erin reported that a bank of multiple choice questions 200 or so would need to be provided for the exam. Also, the tests would take place at testing centers, which are available all over the world. The cost would be \$125.00 payable to SAF per instance to take the exam. After much

discussion about the exam locations, and the revamp of the questions, the Board decided to hold off on this decision and making any kind of approval for this.

Review of Applicants

Emeritus Status – None

Carryovers – The board reviewed one application from the last meeting Kevin Andrew Schaus. At the last meeting, he was short only 1 reference. That reference has since come in. Dan Hackett made the motion to award him Registered Professional Forester status. Denzil Linton seconded. Motion carried.

Kevin Andrew Schaus – RPF#822

Upgrades – There were two requests for upgrades to Registered Forestry-Technician status. Isaac Keith Bergdoll and Christopher Kesner. Both had been short on experience. Both have completed their required 4 years work experience. Dan Hackett made the motion to award these to Registered Forestry-Technician status. Denzil Linton seconded. Motion Carried.

Isaac Keith Bergdoll – FT-137
Christopher Kesner – FT-138

New Applicants – The Board reviewed 5 applications for registration. Two for Registered Forester and 3 for Forestry-Technician. The Board found the following: Dane Cunningham was short 1 reference but met all other requirements, Jason O'Neal is missing 2 references and needs to take and pass the exam. Emily Saltzer was short 1 reference and work experience, Tyler Nutter was short 1 reference. George Barr is also missing 1 reference but meets all other requirements. Dan Hackett made a motion that if the missing reference for Dane Cunningham came in within 30 days, he could be fully registered as a forester. George Barr and Tyler Nutter would also qualify for registered forestry technicians if they could get their references in 30 days. Denzil Linton seconded. Motion carried. Emily Saltzer is missing 1 reference and lacking work experience. Dan Hackett made a motion to award her Forestry-Technician-in-Training status. Denzil seconded. Motion carried. Jason O'Neal is missing 2 references and the exam. The board decided to table him, but to send him a letter stating what he is lacking. While reviewing applicants, the group discussed what constitutes the minimum level of application completeness required to grant 'in training' status. No decision was reached, and the topic will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Dane Robert Cunningham- RPF#823
Tyler Ray Nutter – FT-139
George Henry Barr – FT-140

Denzil Linton and Dan Hackett completed an audit of the 2024 books.

The October meeting was scheduled for the 9th at 10:00 am at the WVDOF headquarters.

The next exam will be held September 20, location to be determined.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:35 pm