



WEST VIRGINIA STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS

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

The meeting was called to order by President Chad Westfall at 10:08 am.

The minutes from the April 10, 2025 meeting were distributed and reviewed. President Chad Westfall asked if there were any changes or modifications that need to be made to the April 2025 minutes. Todd Lotter made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Daniel Hackett seconded. Motion carried.

The financial report was distributed and reviewed. The board discussed asking for reports of expenditures and deposits over the past 5 years from the state to review as to see where and when the finances started dwindling. Hope Pulliam suggested the board submit questions to her so she can make sure she asks and obtains the information they are looking for. The board agreed to submit this via email. Todd Lotter made the motion to approve the financial report as presented. Denzil Linton seconded. Motion carried.

Correspondence – None received

Complaints – None.

Safety Review – Secretary/Treasurer Dave McGill spoke about increased awareness as we are traveling through road construction zones. To decrease speed and to watch for heavy trucks entering/exiting highway.

Old Business

Ad in WVFA & Farm Bureau Magazines – The board decided to table any further discussion until more information is reviewed about the finances.

Memorandum of Understanding with WVFA – Todd Lotter spoke about how this concerns him as WVFA is narrowly focused.

Senate Bill 458 – to date that have been no universal licenses awarded. This reporting will be done through the WV Association of Licensing boards.

New Business

ASBORF 2025 Meeting –Secretary/Treasurer Dave McGill reported he attended this meeting via zoom. He stated not much was discussed but the meeting will be in person next year in Arkansas.

September 2025 exam – Clerical support Hope Pulliam reported there were 7 people sit for the exam. All but one passed. The letters have gone out to notify the attendees of the results.

Minimum requirements – The Board discussed the qualifications required for applicants to be awarded “In-Training” status or full registration. After considerable discussion regarding what may be acquired during the five-year “In-Training” period, the Board agreed that if an applicant is missing references, “In-Training” status cannot be awarded, as the Board must be able to review all required references. The Board further decided that “In-Training” status may only be granted when the applicant is lacking work experience and/or the examination for Foresters, or lacking work experience for Technicians.

Denzil Linton made a motion to award “In-Training” status only to Forester applicants who are missing the required two years of work experience and/or examination, and to Technician applicants who are missing the required four years of work experience. Todd Lotter seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Other Business-

New Board members – Secretary/Treasurer Dave McGill requested that the board ask for WV SAF to submit a list of people to recommend as board appointments to the governor.

Fee structure changes – Secretary/Treasurer Dave McGill distributed information obtained from Grady Bowyer of the West Virginia Association of Licensing Boards regarding the process for making rule changes. The Board discussed the procedure and potential adjustments to the fee structure.

After considerable discussion, the Board voted to make the following changes:

- Increase the renewal fee from \$35.00 to \$50.00.
- Retain the late fee (for renewals received after June 30) at \$10.00 until **January 1 of the following renewal year**.
- Beginning **January 1**, implement a reinstatement fee of \$50.00 per year for non-renewal.
- Keep the registration and examination fees at \$50.00 and \$100.00, respectively.

Todd Lotter made a motion to present the new fee structure, as discussed, to Grady Bowyer to begin the rule change process. The new fee structure will also need to be reviewed by the Attorney General’s Office. Daniel Hackett seconded. Motion carried.

Review of Applicants

Emeritus Status – 7 requests for emeritus status were received and reviewed. The board approved the following: Charles Anderson RPF#407, Eric Carlson RPF#810, Lloyd Foe RPF#649, Steve Hinton RPF#375, Ronald Opel RPF#112, and James Wadworth RPF#574. The request received by Andrew Blazewicz RPF#216 was not approved. The board will send him a letter asking for more information regarding his current clients. Daniel Hackett made the motion to approve all but Mr. Blazewicz, but to send him the letter for more information. Todd Lotter seconded. Motion carried.

Upgrades – The board received 3 requests for upgrades. All were lacking work experience and all have met that requirement. Daniel Hedges, Anne Kinkopf and Jordan Stewart were found to meet all requirements to become fully registered. Denzil Linton made the motion

to grant the requested upgrades. Daniel Hackett seconded. Motion carried.

Daniel Hedges – RPF#826

Anne Melia Kinkopf – RPF#827

Jordan Edward Stewart – RPF#828

New Applicants – The board reviewed 8 new applications for registration. The following results were found.

Michael Colton Carpenter and Caleb Douglas Long have met all requirements for registration.

Richard Sanders and Matthew Ross are missing references and will be tabled.

Anne Marie Hoyt – is missing references and work experience and will be tabled.

Noah Michael Smith – is missing references and exam and will be tabled.

Ruben Sabella – has all references and has passed the exam but is short on work experience. He can be awarded “in-training” status.

Christen Beasley – has a BS in education and a MS in Forestry. The board’s requirement is that the applicant send her education to SAF for review. She is short references but has taken and passed the exam. This application will be tabled.

Todd Lotter made the motion to approve Michael Carpenter and Caleb Long, to award Ruben Sabella Forerster-in-training status and to table Richard Sanders, Matthew Ross, Anne Hoyt, Noah Smith and Christen Beasley

Michael Colton Carpenter – RPF#824

Caleb Douglas Long – RPF#825-

The April meeting was scheduled for April 9, 2026 at 10:00 am at the WVDOF headquarters.

The next exam will be held March 21, 2026, location to be determined.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:40 pm