



## **WEST VIRGINIA STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS**

### **MINUTES APRIL 10, 2008**

The meeting of the West Virginia Board of Registration for Foresters (WVBORF) was held at West Virginia Division of Forestry's office at the West Virginia Department of Agriculture's Guthrie Complex near Charleston, WV. The meeting was called to order at 10:18 a.m. by WVBORF Board member Gary Miller, in absence of President Ray Hicks. Others present included Board members Cinda Francis, David Hill, and Dan Parker, and special guest, Charles Roskovensky, Counsel for the WV House of Delegates Committee on Government Organization.

The Minutes of the October 11, 2007, meeting were reviewed and Dave Hill moved that the Board accept the minutes. Cinda Francis seconded the motion. Motion passed. The Financial Report was reviewed – Deposits for the period totaled \$1,718.00 and Expenditures were \$4,738.35, with a balance on hand as of April 10, 2008 of \$14,104.43. Dan Parker made a motion to accept the Financial Report as presented. Dave Hill seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **CORRESPONDANCE**

The Board received no Letters of Complaint.

Secretary Francis distributed a copy of the Alabama Registered Foresters Roster. She also informed the Board of a memo sent regarding an increase in the mileage reimbursement rate to 50.5 cents, effective April 1, 2008.

Secretary Francis updated the Board on an ongoing situation with the Virginia Tax Department, stemming from withholding tax that had allegedly not been paid on a part-time employee of Board that resided in Virginia. This matter occurred in 2004 and is still not resolved. The WV Administration Office has most recently resent the proper documentation required by the Virginia Tax Department, showing that the tax had indeed been paid. The Board suggested Secretary Francis send a copy of the packet that the WV Administration Office has prepared to the Virginia Tax Department as soon as possible.

Ron Opel had contacted Secretary Francis with a concern that the Maryland Board of Registration for Foresters was not recognizing West Virginia licenses. Fortunately, this matter was cleared up and Matthew Opel subsequently sent a letter stating that such reciprocity is being recognized. Additionally, Ron had wanted the WVBORF to consider issuing a three-year license that would require 30 CFEs for renewal. Mr. Opel also suggested instead of printing an entire roster of licensees each year, an addendum be added each year that listed only the changes

to the previous year's. With guest, Attorney Charlie Roskovensky, present, the Board asked his opinion on the comments. Mr. Roskovensky stated that the Board's role is to respond to changes in the profession. This may include things such as issuing a two-year license, carrying over CFEs, the CFE cycle and the roster. These questions will be considered at the October 2008 meeting. Mr. Roskovensky clarified that the intent of the legislation that was introduced this past year but failed, was to give the Board the power to change rules (i.e., fee increases, licensing cycles, CFE requirements). The current language in the WVBORF code is very restriction and out-dated.

Secretary Francis presented a letter that was sent to the Board from the West Virginia Division of Personnel. Secretary Francis had talked with Theresa Crouse, WV Division of Personnel regarding concerns that there was not a complete understanding by the Division in regard to how the licensing procedure works. Secretary Francis had explained the process to her and she seemed to have a better understanding of the Board's actions. As a result, a letter was sent from Ms. Crouse to both Randy Dye, WV Division of Forestry, and Cinda Francis, WVBORF.

The letter asked the Board to respond to two questions. The first was the Board's status of individuals who have met the education requirements for the registration as a professional forester or forestry technician and are working toward meeting the experience requirements for registration and how they are designated. The Board's response was that these individuals are sent a letter and wallet card, stating they have been approved as a registered Forester/Forestry Technician-in-Training. They are able to practice forestry with no restrictions.

The second question asked if the WVBORF objected to the use of job classifications and titles such as Forester 1,2,3 and 4, and Forester Supervisor, that are used by individuals who are not registered professional foresters or registered forestry technicians? The Board responded that yes, it did object, in that no one shall call themselves a forester or forestry technician that does not meet the requirements set forth in the code. Dave Hill made a motion for President Ray Hicks to send a response letter to Ms. Crouse, stating the Board's positions. Dan Parker seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Licensing Exam Legislation** – Charlie Roskovensky, reported to the Board that the Legislature had sent our legislation to a sub-committee, along with seven other Boards, to be reviewed this coming year. After review, new legislation will be drafted to rewrite the Article. The steps that will be followed include: 1. incorporating WVBORF suggestions into legislation; 2. meeting with representative from WV Forestry Association, WV Division of Forestry and the WV Chapter of the Society of American Foresters; 3. sending legislation out for public comment; 4. introduction in 2009 legislative session. Mr. Roskovensky reviewed proposed legislation with the Board. A special meeting will be held in June to review revised legislation with the Board.

**Boundary Marking Letter** – Dave Hill presented a letter he drafted in regard to foresters that perform boundary line marking in conjunction with timber sales. The WV Society of Professional Surveyors has reviewed and given their approval of the letter. Dave Hill made a

motion to post the letter, with minor changes, on the WVBORF website. Dan parker seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Reappointment of Board Member** – Secretary Francis was advised by the Board to send Scott Cosco, Governor Manchin’s office, a letter informing him that in the absence of an official Board members appointment by the Governor, the Board had appointed Gary Miller for a second term to the Board.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CFE Changes** – Secretary Francis updated the Board members on the changes with how the SAF awards CFEs. Individuals who request CFE credit for participation on Boards, committees, and other professional development activities now have to obtain the credit through the National SAF office. The state SAF CFE Coordinators will continue to review and award CFEs for workshop and seminar type courses. Since the WVBORF renewal accepts SAF CFE documentation, a motion was made by Dave Hill and seconded by Dan Parker to include a memo with the renewal forms as to these changes. Motion passed.

**Website Additions/Links** – Cinda Francis made a motion to add the Association of Consulting Foresters website as a CFE link to the WVBORF website. Motion was seconded by Dan Parker. Motion passed.

**REVIEW OF APPLICANTS**

**Emeritus Status.** There was 1 individual that requested Emeritus Status: Earl Roth RPF#145. Dan Parker moved to approve Mr. Roth as Emeritus Status and Dave Hill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Reciprocity-** There were no requests by foresters for reciprocity with the state of Maryland.

**New Forester and Forestry Technician Applicants**

There were 17 new applications for Forester and Forestry Technician that were reviewed. Three applicants, Rico M. Gazal, Anthony Hofstad and Luke Poling, were tabled for consideration until the October 2008 meeting.

The following **Forester** applications were received, and after review, found to be in order. Dan Parker moved and Dave Hill seconded a motion that with the applications being in order, licenses be issued. The motion carried.

Danny A. Abston	#695
Matthew B. Hurd	#696 (effective June 2008)
Frank Sherwood	#697
Franklin J. Simons	#698
Andrew Stout	#699
William Sumpter	#700

Andrew Swecker

#701

The following applicant was reviewed and found to be lacking the required references. Dan Parker moved and Dave Hill seconded a motion that the applicant be approved as Forester (#703), pending receipt of appropriate reference. Motion carried.

Dustin Radabaugh

The application of William Goff was reviewed and found to not meet the work experience standards. Dave Hill moved and Dan Parker seconded a motion that the applicant be classified as **Forester-in-Training**. Motion carried.

In addition, the application of Nancy Harman was received and found to be lacking the required references, as well as not meeting the work experience requirements. Dan Parker moved and Dave Hill seconded a motion that the applicant be approved as **Forester-in-Training** pending the appropriate references are received. The motion carried.

The following **Forestry Technician** application was received. After reviewing the application it was found to be in order. Dan Parker moved and Dave Hill seconded a motion that with the application being in order, license be issued. The motion carried.

Mark S. Nichols

FT-#96

The following applicant was reviewed and found to be lacking the required references and work experience requirements. Dan Parker moved and Dave Hill seconded a motion that the applicant be classified as **Forestry Technician-in-Training**. Motion carried.

Curtis L. Springer

**Forester-in-Training Upgrades** - Two Foresters-in-Training requested upgrades from the Board. One application was found to still be lacking the required work experience. The other applicant, Eric R. Judy, was found to now meet the work experience requirements. Dave Hill moved and Dan Parker seconded a motion that the following license be issued. Motion carried.

Eric Judy

#702

**Forestry Technician-in-Training Upgrades** - One Forestry Technician-in-Training requested an upgrade from the Board. Vernon C. Stephens, was found to meet the work experience requirements in June 2008. Dan Parker moved and David Hill seconded a motion that the following license be issued effective June 1, 2008. Motion passed.

Vernon C. Stephens FT-#97

**Annual Audit of Financial Records**

The Board members reviewed the receipts and disbursements for the WVBORF as presented by Secretary Francis and verified that they were in order.

The next scheduled meeting of the Board will be October 9, 2008, at WVDOF Office in Charleston, WV. The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.