



WEST VIRGINIA STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS

The WV Board of Registration for Foresters met April 11, 2024 at The WV Division of Forestry Headquarters, 7 Players Club Dr., Charleston, WV. Those in attendance were, Secretary/Treasurer Dave McGill, Denzil Linton, Jr., Todd Lotter, Dan Hackett and clerical support Hope Pulliam. President Chad Westfall was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Todd Lotter at 10:05 am.

Todd Lotter asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes from the October 2023 meeting. All members had reviewed. Denzil Linton made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Dan Hackett seconded, motion carried.

Todd Lotter asked if there were any questions regarding the financial report. The board did not have any questions regarding the report. Dan Hackett made a motion to approve as presented. Denzil Linton seconded, motion carried.

Correspondence

Emails – The board discussed an email that was sent from Tony Evans regarding one of their newly hired foresters with a 4-year degree can apply as a Forestry Technician. Tony Evans and Chuck Copeland with the WV DOF joined the meeting and told the Board that there was no difference in pay between RPF and RFT classifications within their ranks. After much discussion, the board recommended that the applicant try for the RPF classification and take the exam, but that the decision was up to the applicant.

Hope Pulliam reported she received a phone call from a gentleman in Arkansas. He is currently registered with Arkansas but has a job opportunity here in WV. He was inquiring about reciprocity with Arkansas. Per the phone conversation, he is not a Certified Forester with SAF. After much discussion and review of the code, and not having a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with any other boards, the board decided this applicant would have to sit for the exam. He would be contacted and made aware of the board's decision. This motion was made by Dave McGill and Denzil Linton seconded. Motion carried.

Complaints – None

Safety Review - The board discussed the importance of not being in the woods during severe weather.

Old Business – Greg Cook kept the board informed of any legislation that was introduced in the 2024 regular session. He reported that this was a quiet year with little or no legislation directly or indirectly related to the business of the WV BORF.

Secretary Dave McGill reported that he did not get with Todd Lotter to get a conference scheduled last fall, but thought this should probably be an every other year project. Todd Lotter suggested trying to put one together for the fall of 2024.

Reciprocity with Ohio was brought up. The board discussed this was not applicable since Ohio does not have a registration process. If any forester from Ohio is doing work in West Virginia, they would have to apply with this board.

Secretary Dave McGill brought up the annual report. It has been completed. He advised that he obtains the date from Hope Pulliam and plugs it in to the document and makes any necessary changes to the “In Memoriam” page.

New Business – ASBORF Summer Meeting will be held in May 2024. The board asked who would be able to attend. No members could attend with such short notice. The board discussed the importance of having a representative there and discussed sending Hope Pulliam. Dan Hackett made the motion to send Hope Pulliam to Macon, GA and pay the expenses for her to attend. Denzil Linton seconded. Motion carried.

March 2024 exam - Hope Pulliam reported that there were 6 attendees and all 6 passed. Dave McGill reported that there was no vacancy at the Days Hotel in Flatwoods, WV so the exam was held in Morgantown, WV.

Other Business – The 2024 renewal letter was presented with a “reminder” sheet added. The board was in agreement that we should send this out with the renewal. Hope Pulliam will send it off for printing.

Emeritus Status – None

Upgrades – None

Forester/Forestry Technician Application review – The board reviewed 13 applications for registration. The following was what the board found regarding all applications:

James Michael Bell, Curtis Betty, Thomas Christopher, Steven Earl Evans, John Byrd Holden, James Barron Johnson, Cole Kalna, Christopher Kesner, were found to be short references and/or work experience and exam, the board decided to table these until October 2024 meeting to give the references more time to return.

Daniel Pierre Hedges, Anne Marie Kinkopf and Jordan Edward Stewart had all references and taken and passed the exam but were lacking work experience. These candidates would qualify as “Forester-in-training” status.

Isaac Keith Bergdoll and Jarred Raymond Kinlein had the references but lacked work experience. These candidates would qualify as “Forestry Technician-in-Training” status. Dave McGill made the motion to accept the review of these candidates and inform them of the findings. Dan Hackett seconded. Motion carried.

Audit – The board audited the 2023 books and found no discrepancies.

The board scheduled the next meeting for April 10, 2024 at the WVDOF headquarters in Charleston, WV.

Adjourned – 2:35 pm