



WEST VIRGINIA STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS

The WV Board of Registration for Foresters met October 14, 2021 via Zoom video conference. Those in attendance were President Chad Westfall, Denzil Linton, Dave McGill, and Todd Lotter. Dan Hackett and clerical support Hope Pulliam were absent.

The meeting was called to order by President Chad Westfall at 10:09 am.

The minutes from the April 2021 meeting were read. Todd made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Dave seconded; Motion carried.

The financial statement was looked over. As of September 30, 2021, we had a balance of \$34,280.90. Todd motioned and Denzil seconded. Motion passed.

Correspondence –

ASBORF requested we move the 2022 meeting up to 2023. Chad told the ASBORF contact that there is some interest in removing the WVBORF. It would not be a big problem to host the event. We would probably do it in the southern part of the state.

The WV Purchasing Division made an inspection of WVBORF accounts and found “no material findings.”

Complaints – none

Safety Review – Secretary Dave McGill talked about the hazards of “electrical appliance and equipment safety” in the workplace. Reminded everyone to be more aware once we get back to normal.

Old Business

Woodland Conference Review – The WVBORF sponsored a “Forest Business” conference where Dr. Tammy Cushing came from Florida to talk about timber tax, Terry Baker from SAF in Washington, DC came over. Other excellent speakers were present and made for a very complete forest business conference.

New Business –

Annual Auditors Training – Denzil will look for the information and will try to attend if possible.

Exam Updates – Scott Funk was the only person who took the exam and he passed. One question came up about whether the exam fee is refundable if they fail to show up. We will have to get with Hope on this.

Other Business

Work experience – Todd brought up the question about when does the work experience begin, only after a degree or within the entire 10-year time period prior to the application?

Educational conferences – Dave was given the green light to continue to develop educational conferences for professional foresters and landowners. One topic that came up was non-timber forest products and forest farming. Todd motioned and Denzil seconded to give Dave the go-ahead to continue developing these sessions.

WVBORF Longevity – Dave attended the WVFA Legislative session. He spoke with most of the legislators about the licensing issue and the effort of the legislature to disband or transform the boards.

Legislative educator – Discussion of the future of the WVBORF being in the legislature's view for change. The discussion led to the decision for Greg Cook to become an educator for the Board. The motion was made to have Dave contact the State Attorney's office or Board Association contacts to find out if this is OK then to talk to Greg Cook to find out the details.

Proactive education about the WVBORF – Todd informed us of the effort he, the ACF, and the SAF are making to develop a set of bullet points about the value of credentialing foresters. If legislators are aware of us they may pay more attention and see the WVBORF as more valuable to the public.

Improving the Board – Todd brought up two points about how we might improve the Board. One was thinking about increasing financial penalties for code violations and the other was considering a private landowner for inclusion on the board. Dave mentioned that one of the things missing on the Board was a government representative.

Review of Applicants –

Emeritus Status – None

New applicants - The board reviewed three candidates. One file was for Forestry Technician status – Donald Kamp. No exam was needed. Todd made a motion to grant his FT status, Denzil seconded. Motion carried. We didn't have access to the FT numbers so did not assign a number for the benefit of the minutes.

Two requests for Registered Professional Forester were reviewed. Shannon Farrell has all references, work experience and but has not passed the required exam. Todd Lotter made the motion to grant him Forester in Training status and full status upon passing of the exam. Denzil seconded. Motion carried. Scott Funk's request for RPF status has been reviewed in past meeting and he was only missing the exam. This past exam he passed. Todd motioned to upgrade his status from forester in training to RPF. Dave seconded. Motion carried. No number has been assigned as of these minutes.

The next meeting will be held on April 14, 2021 – location to be determined by March 1, 2021

Meeting Adjourned at 12:01 pm