



WEST VIRGINIA STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS

MINUTES OCTOBER 12, 2006

The meeting of the West Virginia Board of Registration for Foresters (WVBORF) was held at Building 5 of the West Virginia Department of Agriculture's Guthrie Complex near Charleston, WV and was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by WVBORF President Ray Hicks. Board members present were: Cinda Francis, Ray Hicks, Dan Parker and Tim Probert.

The Minutes of the April 13, 2006 meeting were reviewed and Dan Parker moved that the Board accept the minutes. Tim Probert seconded the motion. Motion passed. The Financial Report was reviewed – Deposits for the period totaled \$7,507.00 and Expenditures were \$4,677.11, with a balance on hand as of October 12, 2006 of \$13,277.73. There was some discussion regarding the dues increase from the current amount of \$20 per year to \$25 per year, that will take effect in 2007. This increase will allow the WVBORF to maintain adequate funding for anticipated higher insurance costs as well as other unexpected expenditures. Dan Parker made a motion to accept the Financial Report as presented. Tim Probert seconded the motion. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDANCE

The Board reviewed a copy of a Letter of Complaint from the State of West Virginia Board of Professional Surveyors that was sent to David S. Turnipseed, RPFT-49, regarding language contained in advertising for his forestry consulting firm, Brazos River Forestry Services. The letter alleges Mr. Turnipseed advertises "boundary line marking" as one of the professional services of his forestry consulting firm. As discussed in previous meetings, the marking of boundary lines is a function of land surveying and only licensees of the State of West Virginia Board of Professional Surveyors, and those exempt from licensure under the law, are legally permitted to provide this service to the public. The letter went onto request that unless proper documentation and licensure is presented, Mr. Turnipseed is to "Cease and Desist" from marking boundary lines and using such language in advertisement of his firm. The Surveyors Board requested a response from Mr. Turnipseed within 30 calendar days of the August 29, 2006 correspondence.

President Hicks prepared a letter to Mr. Turnipseed and the State of West Virginia Board of Professional Surveyors regarding this matter. This letter states that while the WVBORF recognizes that foresters must locate boundaries in order to conduct forestry operations, it is recommended that Mr. Turnipseed adhere to the requests of the Surveyors Board and remove language from his advertisements that gives the appearance of professional encroachment. To date, neither President Hicks nor Secretary Francis have received further correspondence regarding this issue.

In response to the recent complaints from the State of WV Board of Professional Surveyors, a memo will be included with the dues notice reminding WVBORF licensees not to use language in advertising that would imply representation as a professional surveyor.

Secretary Francis reviewed a memo from the Department Administration dated July 25, 2006, noting the mileage rate reimbursement of personal automobile for business use has increased from 40.5 cents per mile to 44.5 cents per mile.

The West Virginia Association of Licensing Boards had sent a letter and invoice for 2007 membership dues. The WVBORF agreed, with no objections, to pay the \$35 annual dues to this Association.

Secretary Francis presented a letter from Grady Bowyer, President WV State Licensing Board, informing State Boards to contact Judy Cooper with the WV Secretary of State's Office with information on existing "Interstate Compacts" (reciprocal agreements with other states) that may exist. Although the belief was that such an agreement existed between the WVBORF and Maryland, none of the Board Members present were aware of a specific document. Secretary Francis has searched the files with no results. She will review the WVBORF meeting minutes to gather further information to determine if such a document actually exists. If discovered, Secretary Francis will forward this information onto Judy Cooper.

OLD BUSINESS

Testing - The lack of a WVBORF written exam has led to some issues with reciprocity between some states. To address this situation, President Hicks presented several questions that he has prepared for an exam for new licensees. Also presented was a summary of questions that he and Gary Miller had solicited from various forestry professionals. The questions have been divided into eight topics. President Hicks then relayed information he received from staff at the national Society of American Foresters (SAF) headquarters regarding the SAF Certified Forester exam. He had been informed that some states (i.e., South Carolina) have begun using this exam as their state exam, and added questions that were specific to that state. If the WVBORF would adopt this exam, there was concern regarding the difficulty of the exam as well as the cost of taking the exam. The SAF test is given in West Virginia at a testing center in Teays, WV, and the cost is \$335. After much discussion, the consensus was to move forward with the exam that President Hicks and Gary Miller had been developing.

President Hicks then referred Board members to the materials he had previously distributed. Board members were asked to review President Hicks' questions to determine which should be deleted and then review the summary of questions from forestry professionals to determine which should be included. Board members were asked to forward responses to President Hicks by November 1, 2006. President Hicks will review the responses and put together a draft copy of an exam by Thanksgiving (November 23, 2006).

Secretary Francis was asked to confer with the Attorney General's Office regarding regulations applicable to State Board exams. Pending approval with the Attorney General's Office, she will

contact Days Inn, Flatwoods, WV, to check the availability and cost of securing a room for the administration of the test. In addition, Secretary Francis will develop a letter for Candie to send to new applicants received prior to the April 2007 WVBORF meeting, making them aware that an exam will be given on either March 31, 2007 or April 7, 2007 (whichever date Secretary Francis is able to confirm with Days Inn) at the Days Inn, Flatwoods, WV. A fee of \$25 will be charged for taking the exam, again pending approval by the WV Attorney General's Office.

In regard to Forestry Technicians, it was discussed that the Board Members, in their review of the questions that President Hicks had distributed to them, should identify those questions that are more technically based. Forestry professionals from Glenville State College will be asked to review and submit additional questions.

There was agreement by all present that any SAF Certified Foresters applying for registration from the WVBORF would not be required to take the WVBORF exam.

NEW BUSINESS

“Self-study” CFEs – Secretary Francis reported that some foresters had expressed dissatisfaction with the quality, availability and cost of CFE courses offered. Thus, some had presented their own “self-study” to substitute for the CFE requirement. The Board discussed the multitude of courses and the option of earning CFEs by completing on-line quizzes related to various articles in The Journal of Forestry and determined that no change is necessary. All CFEs must be submitted on an official form. Those that attend or participate in various programs, serve on forestry related committees, etc. that do not issue official CFE certificates should contact David McGill, who can determine the appropriate SAF CFE credit.

CFE Allocation – There had been some concern regarding individuals receiving all 10 required CFEs through service on Boards and/or Committees (i.e., SAF Category 6) and if the WVBORF should limit CFEs in Category 6. Board members were reminded of the decision at the October 13, 2005 WVBORF meeting regarding CFEs, in which it was decided that CFEs cannot be carried over from one year to the next and the 10 credits can be in any of the six categories recognized by the SAF

Website Changes – Tim Probert suggested the Board inquire about adding a bulletin board or current events page to the existing website (www.wvlicensingboards.com/foresters). This page would include Board news, complaints, listing of delinquent license holders and other pertinent information. Tim will continue communications with Grady Bowyer, President of the WV Association of Licensing Boards, and contact for website changes and additions.

Appointment of New Board Member – Secretary Francis reported that she and Tim Probert had the opportunity to meet with Scott Cosco with the Governor's Office at the recent State Auditor's Training. The purpose of the meeting was to speed up the appointment process of new members to the Board. They presented him with a copy of a letter dated September 7, 2006, from Mary Beth Adams, current Chair of the West Virginia Society of American Foresters, naming Dave Hill as their nominee for the WVBORF. To date, President Hicks nor Secretary Francis have heard from the Governor's Office. Secretary Francis will follow up with Scott

Cosco. Since the WVBORF has the ability to name a replacement after 90 days, President Hicks will write a letter to Governor Manchin and Dave Hill on December 7, 2006, informing him of the replacement, if nothing has been received by this date.

REVIEW OF APPLICANTS

Emeritus Status. There were 3 members that requested Emeritus Status: Tom McLaughlin, #39; Lynn M. Shutts, #195; and Gerald Wimer, #213. Dan Parker moved to approve all licensees as Emeritus Status and Tim Probert seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Applicants tabled from April 13, 2006 meeting – Charles McNeel and Daniel Snider. After reviewing both applicant's files and all was found to be in order, Dan moved and Tim seconded a motion that Charles McNeel be licensed as a Professional Forester #674 and Daniel Snider be licensed as a Professional Forester #675. Motion carried.

Forester in Training Upgrades – The Board reviewed three requests by foresters in training for upgrade status. These applications were reviewed and the Board found that the experience requirement had now been met by all applicants. Dan Parker moved and Tim Probert seconded that the following licenses be issued:

Wesley W. Bailes	#676
Matthew Fridley	#677
Gavin Harless	#678

Motion carried. Secretary Francis noted that the files of Elizabeth C. (Lee) Snider and Daniel K. Rexrode are now complete. She will issue them Forester in Training cards.

Forestry Technician in Training Upgrades – Steven Broadwater. The Board reviewed his application and found that the experience requirement has now been met. Dan Parker moved and Tim Probert seconded a motion that Steven Broadwater be upgraded to Professional Forestry Technician status (FT-90).

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

New Forester and Forestry Technician Applicants

The following applications were recently received:

Paul Fox	FT
Delt Edward Kaylor	FT
Anthony W. Kesterson	F

Due to a lack of references, these applications were tabled until the April 12, 2007, meeting.

The following **Forester** applications were received. After reviewing the applications and finding them to be in order, Dan Parker moved and Tim Probert seconded a motion that with the applications being in order, licenses be issued. The motion carried.

Timothy Boyne	#679
Ben Spong	#680

The next scheduled meeting of the Board will be April 12, 2007 at WVDOF Office in Charleston, WV.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.