

**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS REGISTRATION**

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**PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS EXAMINING COMMITTEE****OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting held Thursday, June 19, 2008  
Resources Building, 1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street, 14<sup>th</sup> floor, State Parks Room 1412  
Sacramento, California

Members Participating: Doug Ferrier, Chair  
Otto van Emmerik, Vice-Chair  
Gerald Jensen  
Ray Flynn  
Bill Frost

Members Absent: Kim Rodrigues  
Michael Stroud  
Tom Osipowich

Staff Participating: Eric Huff, Executive Officer  
Kirsten Vann, Assistant to Executive Officer

Public/Agencies Participating: Chris Browder, *CAL FIRE*  
George Gentry, Board of Forestry & Fire Protection

**Item #1: Approval of Open Session minutes of February 28, 2008 Meeting.**

**06-08-01** Vice-Chair Van Emmerik moved to approve the minutes and Member Flynn seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Item #2 Status Report on License Renewals and Discussion of Attrition/Recruitment**

The Committee reviewed licensing statistics as of June 17, 2008. A number of people have requested withdrawal, some of whom were convinced to do so rather than relinquish their license. Many of those requesting withdrawal are "grandfathered" registrants or otherwise have low numbers and are now retired. Those younger registrants that have requested withdrawal are typically working out of state at this time.

EO Huff expressed optimism that the licensing program will remain viable and relevant despite the current attrition rate. The Committee reviewed EO Assistant, Kirsten Vann's report on other states with licensing programs and noted that California has the highest number of licensed foresters at present. The report also clearly illustrated that the various populations of licensed foresters are all very small when compared with other licensed professions such as surveying or engineering.

Chairman Ferrer noted that there was a legislative proposal to require licensing of consulting foresters in the state of Washington, but it was defeated.

Member Flynn questioned why there were so many licensed foresters in Georgia. Executive Officer, George Gentry responded from personal experience that Georgia has about 70% private land, much of which is in small family-owned parcels managed for pulp wood with 20-30 year cycles and/or hunting. He went on to note that Georgia has a fair number of "hobby tree farms" on old family properties where profit is not of primary concern.

Member Jensen questioned if it was possible that the total number of active registrants would drop to around 1,000 at some point soon. EO Huff responded that he is optimistic that the numbers will remain in the 1200-1300's for the time being and that there hasn't been a significant decline in the numbers of applicants to date. Chairman Ferrer also noted that historically there have been these kinds of short term increases in withdrawals and relinquishments since the program's inception. Member Jensen then questioned whether the loss of fees due to withdrawals and relinquishments would impact the licensing budget. EO Huff responded that the licensing fund is in good shape and that the biggest budget drain comes from lengthy licensing cases. EO Huff is therefore doing as much of the legal work as he can to help reduce legal fees. He added that should the licensing fund start to diminish significantly, the Board could also consider raising the fees for registration. The Committee noted that a fee increase would probably result in a higher number of withdrawals and relinquishments.

Chairman Ferrer asked if the Governor's Budget proposal included allocations from the licensing fund. EO Huff responded that the May Revise did not include raiding of the Foresters Special Fund and that this was likely due to the relatively small size of the Fund compared to those of other licensing programs.

**Item # 3 Status Report on SAF Accredited Undergraduate Forestry Programs.**

EO Assistant, Kirsten Vann provided a table summarizing the status of SAF Accredited forestry programs nationwide. EO Huff reported that Lisa Perry, formerly with the California Forest Products Commission and Forest Foundation is now a recruiter for the Humboldt State University College of Natural Resources and Sciences. Her efforts thus far have already resulted in an increased number of forestry undergrads this year. EO Huff noted that Lisa not only encourages people to go to HSU but to Cal Poly SLO and Berkeley as well.

Chairmen Ferrer noted that the PFEC meeting held at HSU in 2005 indicated that enrollment was declining, so it is great news to hear that the program is coming back around.

EO Huff mentioned that the lack of RPF's teaching at HSU remains of concern.

Member Jensen questioned the status of the Cal-Berkeley program and Chairman Ferrer responded that Berkeley's forestry program is focused more on graduate education, rather than undergraduate. EO Huff added that they produce fewer RPF candidates than other schools. Member Jensen then noted that there had been a lot of press lately on the University of Washington's elimination of the forestry program in favor of a 'natural resources' curriculum.

Chairman Ferrier added that the Washington State program was also on the chopping block due to low enrollment. Washington State University and Idaho are trying to work together on a forestry program.

Chairman Ferrier asked Member Frost about the status of range management programs in California. Member Frost responded that HSU is presently the only school in the state that has a specific "range" degree. UC Davis no longer has their program, nor does Cal Poly. At Cal Berkeley, a student can take an area emphasis with range-oriented curriculum, but the degree does not say 'range.' University of Arizona, Arizona State, Washington State, Idaho, and Utah State all have great range management programs. But, HSU is it in California.

EO Huff and Hazel Jackson, Executive Director of the California Licensed Foresters Association (CLFA) went to Cal Poly and talked to three classes about Hazel's husband, the late Patrick Jackson, and the Foresters Licensing Program. Pat was the first RPF to come out of the Cal Poly SLO program and received no RPF exam qualifying time because the program was not then accredited by SAF. Huff and Jackson spoke to three classes and Cal Poly will be putting up a display of forestry tools that belonged to Pat Jackson. It was noted that Hazel Jackson has announced her retirement and her last official act is likely to be the CLFA Annual Meeting next year.

EO Huff noted that Cal Poly will be losing two professors, both of whom are RPFs and longtime supporters of professional registration. Both are participating in the Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP) and will likely teach adjunct for the next two to three years. EO Huff is alarmed by this circumstance and noted that it would be something for the PFEC to keep tracking. Chairman Ferrier then suggested that the PFEC should once again convene meetings at the universities when budget restrictions permit. The Committee concurred and directed the EO to plan for future such meetings. EO Huff also noted that Lisa Perry was interested in addressing the PFEC as her schedule permits and the Committee strongly endorsed the idea.

**Item #4 Status Report on Draft Policy #12 for the Certified Rangeland Manager Program and Related Topics.**

EO Huff reported that the California-Pacific Section of the Society for Range Management's Panel on Certification (Panel) presented their revised version of the draft policy to the Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) at their May meeting. In short, the revisions were not acceptable to RMAC. RMAC felt as though the revisions went too far, as the policy is intended to be more of an outreach document than regulatory.

Chairmen Ferrier announced that a meeting with Panel representatives is planned for July 25 to discuss the draft.

Member Frost provided a synopsis of how the CRM program came to exist and noted that RMAC's problem with the draft centers on the fundamental question of whether or not a CRM is required in any particular context. Discussion continued with Chairman Ferrier providing his perspective on the application of the specialty certificate.

EO Huff stated that he is seeking a legal opinion on the subject through the Attorney General's Office and hopes to have legal counsel present for the meeting.

**Item #5 New and Unfinished Business (Tahoe Basin Fire Commission; Legislation; Board Update)**

EO Huff reported that there has been no further correspondence with the Tahoe Basin Fire Commission. The supposed “draft report” was actually the final version, so there was no opportunity for revisions. The “final version” in glossy format is now in circulation and the Governor has held a press conference to formally endorse it.

EO Huff reported that AB 2859 (Gaines) discussed by CAL FIRE Deputy Director, Bill Snyder has been stalled, as Snyder thought it would. As the bill is currently drafted, there is no impact on the licensing program anyway.

Board Executive Officer, George Gentry provided a further update on legislation of interest with particular focus on SB 1617 (Kehoe). Mr. Gentry then reported on his recent trip to meet with the State Insurance Commission; the status of the Pacific fisher and possible future Board activity on this subject; the California Air Resources Board's disposition on the role of forestry relative to AB 32; the continuing review of the T/I Regulations; the status of the California Fire Plan Update; the Sustained Yield Plan workshop in Chester; and the status of Jackson Demonstration State Forest.

**Adjournment**

**06-08-02** Member Jensen moved to adjourn the Open Session and Member Flynn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.