

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

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**PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS EXAMINING COMMITTEE****Open Session Meeting Minutes**

Held: Thursday, June 24, 2010
Resources Building, 1416 9th Street
15TH FLOOR LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM, NO. 1506-12
Sacramento, California

Members Present: Doug Ferrier, Chair
Otto van Emmerik, Vice-Chair (by telephone)
Raymond Flynn
Jerry Jensen
Bill Frost
Tom Osipowich (by telephone)
Kimberly Rodrigues

Staff Participating: Eric Huff, Executive Officer

Item #1: Approval of Open Session minutes of February 24, 2010 Meeting.

06-10-01 Member Flynn moved to approve the minutes. Member Jensen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Item #2: Reports of Chairman and Executive Officer.

Executive Officer Huff announced that Ms. Wendy Zampardi has been hired as the new Office Technician for the licensing program.

Item #3: Report on Conference Call with Representatives of California-Pacific Section of the Society for Range Management regarding Certified Rangeland Manager Program.

Member Frost reported that the conference call covered a number of topics including Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act compliance, examination grading and appeals, the necessity for a rule change proposal to address a minor inconsistency, and program administration. Discussion of these topics proceeded very well and all parties agreed to work together to ensure program consistency going forward.

EO Huff reported that the two individuals that took the CRM Exam offering in November were both successful. Member Flynn questioned whether or not federal employees have been taking the exam. Member Frost responded that a number of Natural Resources Conservation Service employees have taken and passed the exam, but are under no employer obligation to do so. In at least one instance NRCS has complied with CRM requirements (and RPF requirements) by utilizing one licensee as the supervisor for a number of unlicensed personnel.

Item #4: Executive Officer Presentation of Conceptual Legislative Amendments to Professional Foresters Law, and Possible Creation of Additional Certified Specialties.

Chairman Ferrier introduced the topic noting that the latest issue of Licensing News included some preliminary discussion of possible amendments to the Foresters Law. The Chairman then asked EO Huff to present his perspective on the topic. Mr. Huff provided a lengthy summary of the background information that led to his commentary in Licensing News. He noted in particular the high attrition rate of licensed foresters since 1973 and expressed concern for the future of the program. Huff reminded the Committee that the Deputy Attorney General's representative has concluded that substantive proposals to address unlicensed practice and retired license status would necessitate amendments to the licensing statute before they could be adopted by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection in regulatory form.

Mr. Huff then reviewed some of the comments received by email from a number of RPFs who had read the Licensing News discussion. Following discussion of these comments, Mr. Huff expressed his personal hesitancy to seek legislative assistance at this time for fear that adverse changes to the licensing law would result. A number of Committee Members concurred with this sentiment.

Member Flynn suggested that Mr. Huff should draft up bill proposal language to have on hand in the event that a favorable circumstance arises in which such a proposal could be successful. Chairman Ferrier suggested that draft language could focus on increasing penalties for unlicensed practice and creating "retired RPF" and "apprentice forester" status. The Chairman directed Mr. Huff to place this topic on the next open session agenda for further Committee discussion.

Member Flynn noted that the Licensing News commentary also included discussion of compulsory continuing education. He noted that county assessors are required to complete annual compulsory continuing education. The Committee noted that a number of licensed professions require continuing education. Mr. Huff noted that this is a controversial topic with considerable divergent opinion. He suggested that perhaps the licensing office could provide voluntary continuing education courses in the future. The Committee expressed support for further consideration of this idea.

Item #5: New and Unfinished Business

Member Flynn asked for confirmation that the next meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, August 26, 2010. EO Huff confirmed this meeting date.

Member Rodrigues reported on the "Pre and Post Wildfire Conference" recently convened and noted that a follow-up conference has been scheduled for April 2011.

Adjournment

06-10-02 Member Jensen moved to adjourn the open session. Member Rodrigues seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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