

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

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

Held: Thursday, December 16, 2010
Resources Building, 1416 9th Street
15TH FLOOR LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM, NO. 1506-12
Sacramento, California

Members Present: Doug Ferrier, Chair
Raymond Flynn
Jerry Jensen
Bill Frost
Tom Osipowich

Staff Participating: Eric Huff, Executive Officer

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

12-10-01 Member Flynn moved to approve the minutes as revised by Chairman Ferrier. Member Jensen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Item #2: Reports of Chairman and Executive Officer.

Executive Officer Huff reported on the appointment of Mr. Ken Pimlott as Acting Director for the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. He also noted the pending departures of Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Members' Tom Walz, Doug Piirto, and Lloyd Bradshaw.

Chairman Ferrier reported that the terms of two PFEC Members will be up in January: Member Mike Stroud and the Chairman himself. In the interest of Mike's health, the Executive Officer does not intend to ask him to seek reappointment by the Board for another term. Chairman Ferrier has been asked by the Board's Executive Officer if he would be willing to serve another term and the Chairman has agreed to be considered for reappointment by the Board.

The Chairman informed the Members that the PFEC's annual report to the Board would be postponed until such time as the Governor-elect has made new appointments to the Board.

Item #3: Consideration of Possible Option for Substitution of Additional Essay Response for Short Answer Section in Future RPF Examinations.

Chairman Ferrier introduced the topic and referred to the Executive Officer's summary of short answer and essay question scores for between 2005 and 2010.

This summary indicates that the average short answer score is comparable to the average essay score. EO Huff had previously speculated that the average short answer section score would be found to be well below the average essay score. However, this does not appear to be the case.

The PFEC Members nevertheless agreed to provide applicants the option of substituting another essay response for the short answer section for several exam offerings. The Committee will subsequently evaluate the impact of this change. As applicants are offered four essays in the morning session of which they have to respond to two, the Committee decided that there was no need to generate an additional essay question for the morning session. Those applicants that choose to respond to an essay rather than the short answer section will have four essay questions from which to choose three. The Committee directed that the morning session essay question offerings be balanced in terms of rigor. It may be that the economics or mensuration questions would need to be switched with a less comprehensive question from the afternoon session question offerings.

The topic led to the suggestion by Chairman Ferrier that the licensing program consider advertising a contract for preparation of new RPF examination questions and responses. The Committee concurred with this suggestion. The Executive Officer was directed to begin the state contracting process for this service and to make certain that the bid specifications include the requirement for a valid California foresters license.

Item #4: Review of Possible Revisions and Amendments to the Professional Foresters Law.

Executive Officer Huff introduced the topic and summarized the provisions of a draft proposal for amendment of the Professional Foresters Law. This draft was prepared at the direction of the PFEC Members and is intended solely as a discussion document at this point. The Committee does not intend to seek a legislative sponsor for the proposal, but will keep it on file in case a favorable opportunity for legislative change presents itself.

The Committee discussed the purpose and intent for the proposed “retired RPF” and “Apprentice Forester” status. The appropriate fee for both proposed new classifications was likewise debated and several suggestions were offered for inclusion in a subsequent draft. A number of the Members also expressed support for the proposed additional provisions addressing complaints of unlicensed practice.

Executive Officer Huff reported that to date there have been no substantive comments on the draft legislative proposal in response to the Licensing News article on the topic. The California Licensed Foresters Association (CLFA) Board of Directors is apparently not supportive of any aspect of the proposal as communicated to the Board’s Executive Officer. At the conclusion of discussion, the Committee directed the Executive Officer to make a number of edits to the proposal for further review at a subsequent meeting.

Item #6: New and Unfinished Business.

The Board’s Executive Officer, George Gentry reported on the status of Board Member departures. He also requested that the Committee consider drafting a set of priorities for inclusion in the Board’s *Priorities Report for 2011*. Mr. Gentry went on to address the status of the state budget. Mandatory cuts to state agency operating costs are a forgone conclusion.

Further, it seems likely that the legislature and Governor-elect will seek opportunities for consolidation of permitting actions across multiple agencies and jurisdictions as a cost-savings measure.

In response to Mr. Gentry's call for PFEC priority development, Mr. Huff requested the Committee's permission to draft a set of priorities for their review and consideration. The Members concurred with this direction.

Item #5: Meeting Dates for 2011.

The Members selected final meeting dates for 2011 with the knowledge that not all will be able to attend every meeting and that meeting dates may need to be adjusted as the year develops.

Item #6: New and Unfinished Business Continued.

Member Jensen reported on a United States Fish and Wildlife Service recommendation to use the Stanislaus River to feed the Sacramento Delta.

Chairman Ferrier reported on a proposal by the organization known as the "Forest Guild" to seek legislative and Forest Practice Rule changes for the benefit of California's timberland owners and the forest products industry.

Adjournment

12-10-02 Member Osipowich moved to adjourn the open session. Member Frost seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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