

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

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**Professional Foresters Examining Committee****OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES****Held: December 12, 2013**

Resources Building, 1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
15<sup>th</sup> Floor Large Conference Room, No. 1506-12  
Sacramento, California

- Members Present:** Doug Ferrier, Chairman  
Otto van Emmerik, Vice Chairman  
Jerry Jensen  
Kim Rodrigues  
J. Keith Gillless (on phone)  
Ray Flynn  
Tom Osipowich
- Staff Participating:** Matt Dias, Executive Officer - Foresters Licensing  
Shuhani Patel, Assistant to Licensing Office
- Members of Public:** Len Linstrand (CLFA), Barnie Gyant, Deputy Regional Forester, Region V USFS and Dr. Peter Stine, Pacific Southwest Research Station

**1. Approval of Open Session Minutes of June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Meeting.**

- 12-12-01** Member Gillless moved to approve the open session minutes with minor correction of spelling of Len Lindstrand's name and Member Jesen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Member Osipowich abstaining.

**2. Presentation: "Landscape Management Demonstration Areas; Description of the Concept" by Dr. Peter Stine, Director of Partnerships and Collaboration, Pacific Southwest Research Station.**

Dr. Peter Stine presented on the Pacific Southwest Stations theoretical idea of addressing objectives to restore ecosystem resilience through Landscape Management Demonstration Areas. The purpose is to actively manage large scale landscapes (i.e. fire sheds up to hundred thousand acres) in a collaborative and holistic manner. The goal is to implement management strategies, including mechanized and prescribed burning treatments, to return forests to pre-suppression condition that will allow for a more natural fire regime to be attained. Barnie Gyant mentioned large catastrophic fires, like the Rim Fire and American Fire, generate landscapes that are less habitable for sensitive species (i.e. NSO, fishers etc.), have high-cost for suppression and post fire management and take many decades to recover. A

Professional Foresters Registration shall protect the public interest through the regulation of those individuals who are licensed to practice the profession of forestry, and whose activities have an impact upon the ecology of forested landscapes and the quality of the forest environment, within the State of California.

proactive approach could potentially save significant tax payer money and meet the ecological needs of the people. The plan is to integrate management and science across all landscapes and ownerships to achieve goals. Areas that could be worked on include Truckee Ranger District while efforts are already underway in the Upper Mokelumne River using watershed area boundaries. A partnership needs to be forged landowners and agencies that support research, monitoring and management across these large landscapes.

### **3. Discussion of how the RPFs could support the efforts of Landscape Management Areas. Discussion led by Bernie Gyant, USFS Region V, Deputy Regional Forester.**

Gyant supports the plans of the Landscape Management Demonstration Areas stating current conditions aren't working to protect species such as the spotted owls and providing other ecosystem services. This effort will require collaboration from other agencies, landowners and resource professionals to implement plan. Getting RPFs involved could be a portion of the solution for project implementation on both private and federal landscapes. RPFs can help save on cost and support the USFS in project implementation efforts. Mr. Gyant requested that EO Dias contact him soon after the New Year so that they could discuss the minimum qualifications to become an RPF and to investigate the opportunity to have the USFS incentivize their forestry staff in California to become licensed under Board regulations.

### **4. Reports of Chairman and Executive Officer.**

Chairman Ferrier mentioned Stan Dixon's retirement and appreciated all of his efforts in supporting the PFEC over his service as a Board Member and Board Chair.

EO Dias stated that recently adopted CRM Program Guidelines are still currently being worked on by Regulations Coordinator Eric Huff. Eric Huff is leaving this position by the end of the year and the Board is currently interviewing for a new Regulations Coordinator.

RPF exam seminar was a success with 21 people present. Applicants for the foresters examination has increased over the last couple years.

EO Dias stated that he will be reaching out the Board of Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists to try to find a solution to the issue of RPFs proposing bridge crossings for the purposes of timber operations. This has been an issue that has occurred repeatedly over the last decade and the Department has requested that the Licensing Office look into finding a solution to this issue if possible.

Utilizing mass emails to contact foresters has been tremendously helpful to send and receive information within the professional ranks. 7 RPFs licenses are currently delinquent and the Licensing Office is hoping to reach them soon as these foresters seem to be "Lost in the Woods." Mass email has been utilized to find delinquent applicants. There are 1221 valid RPFs on file.

### **5. Discussion of PFEC Membership and Expiring Terms.**

Member Ray Flynn will not be returning to the PFEC because his term has expired and his services will be missed. Member Rodrigues has decided to serve for another term. Frost's position will likely need to be filled. E.O. will be working to send out notices for nominations to fill PFEC member positions.

### **6. Discussion of the Current Condition of the Foresters Fund**

EO Dias has mentioned that balance for the Foresters Licensing Program is under review with the assistance from the accounting and budget offices. To assure long term sustainability, fees could feasibly be up for an increase if determination of the balance is decreasing. Last increase in fees was in 1996 and the maximum allowed for fees is 150 per year by statute. There is seemingly a shortfall of approximately 20K a year.

## **7. New and Unfinished Business**

Chairman Ferrier brought forth the discussion of PFEC compliance with Bagley – Keene Open Meeting Act. New or existing members will have to be certain to attend the meetings in person or establish a local where the public can attend a teleconference if the PFEC members are unable to attend meetings in person. These teleconference locations will have to be made publically available on the agenda at least 10 days prior to meeting dates.

**12-12-02** Chairman Ferrier declared open session closed.