

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

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**Professional Foresters Examining Committee**

**OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

**Held: December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

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

**Members Present:**

Otto van Emmerik – Chairman  
Kim Rodrigues – Vice Chairman  
Jason Poburko  
Dan Sendek  
Jon Gustafson  
Tom Osipowich

**Staff Participating:**

Matt Dias, Executive Officer - Foresters Licensing  
Shuhani Patel, Assistant to the Executive Officer

**Members of Public:**

Kent Harris  
George Gentry  
Clayton Code, CLFA

**1. Approval of Open Session Minutes of August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015.**

Minutes were reviewed with minor edits being offered by several members.

**12.10.01 Member Sendek moved to approve the August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Open Session Minutes with minor edits. Member Rodrigues seconded. Roll Call: Osipowich (Aye); Gustafson (Aye); Sendek (Aye); Emmerik (Aye); Rodrigues (Aye); Poburko (Abstained). Motion Carries.**

## **2. Reports from the Chairman and Executive Officer.**

EO reports that he recently interviewed for the Executive Officer position with the Board and there should be a final decision announced early next year. The outcome of that interview could result in changes to the Licensing Program staff. If EO Dias is appointed, then a new Licensing EO would need be appointed as well.

There have been a few licensing complaints filed over the course of the last several months.

EO Dias has been asked to present before the Spring Workshop for CLFA. He will be covering the topic of potential revisions to the Professional Foresters Licensing Law.

## **3. RPF/LTO Responsibilities with participation including, but not limited to, Associated California Loggers, CAL FIRE and California Licensed Foresters Association.**

EO Dias stated that during the Forest Practice Committee meeting that the draft letter offered by the PFEC had been reviewed. The Forest Practice Committee has offered some revisions to the draft letter for further consideration. ACL and CLFA continue to show support for regulatory revision rather than the Board simply sending a letter of concern to the Cal Fire. The Department clearly supports the non-regulatory pathway at this time.

All stakeholders generally support increasing communication, education and training. It is recognized that fewer violations would likely be issued if all involved persons were willing to communicate with each other in a more comfortable manner.

Member Poborko stated that, as licensed professionals, RPFs should be held responsible in regards to plan preparation, but the variety of situations that could arise in regards to RPF/LTO responsibilities makes it impossible to address all challenging situations through regulatory revision.

Clayton Code stated that all preparatory work should be the responsibility of RPFs. He stated that LTOs would not take advantage of this because LTOs could lose working relationships and jobs with the RPF community.

EO Dias stated that he will modify the letter per the direction of the FPC. He will distribute a copy to the PFEC for continued monitoring of the issue.

## **4. Discussion of contracts.**

Grader Lindstrand's contract will expire in January 2016. The new contract is still being processed by the Business Services Unit. The Licensing Office will follow up shortly and provide an update to the PFEC. All other contracts are currently valid for at least another 6 months.

## **5. Discussion of Committee Membership and Chairmanship**

EO Dias stated that a call for nominations to fulfill the public seat in the PFEC was recently issued. No person expressed interest in this most current call for nominations. There are still 7-9 people that have expressed some interest in holding membership from past calls for nomination. George Gentry also expressed interest in filling the role if it vacancy was still available in July 2016.

Jon Gustafson will only be attending approximately two more meetings. The CRM Panel is working to identify a recommended replacement for Member Gustafson.

EO Dias stated that the position could also be filled with an RPF if a CRM cannot be located.

Member Rodrigues expressed that she would like to understand the relationship between the CRM panel and the PFEC for the future.

Members Rodrigues and Poburko expressed interest in Clare McAdams to potentially fill the public seat.

EO Dias stated that he will draft an email to be sent out that provides information on all nominations that the Board currently has for filling PFEC seats. Further discussion will occur on this matter at the February meeting.

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

EO Dias stated that he continues to work closely with the accounting office to determine the long term sustainability for the Professional Foresters fund. Revenue is now distributed according to the Fiscal Year, rather than the renewal period by using advanced allocation of funding. This allows for better tracking of fund balances. The ending balance as of August 2015 is \$338,840.33. This is an approximately \$20,000 fund balance increase in comparison to the prior year's fund balance. This seems to indicate that sustainability is seemingly being achieved.

Member van Emmerik stated that there isn't enough data at this point to determine if there needs to be any revisions to the licensing fee and wants to revisit the issue in the future after more data is collected. Further tracking and discussion of this matter will occur at future meetings.

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

Member Rodrigues brought forth a copy of the ANR Administrative Handbook Section 486, Policy on RPF and CRM Practice and Licensure. This is a demonstration on how an agency is dealing with full compliance with the Professional Forester Law, while maintain a suitable candidate pool for filling technical positions.

Clayton Code stated that CLFA is working towards bringing back the 60-second forester's audio clips for the public to be able to view on YouTube. We will hear more about that release some time in the future.

EO stated that he wants to look into outreach options, possibly out of state, for to garner more interest in RPF licensure.

Open Session was adjourned by Chairman van Emmerik.