

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

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**Professional Foresters Examining Committee****OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES****Held: January 7, 2019**

Members Present: Otto Van Emmerik, Chair
Kim Rodrigues
Frank Mulhair
James Hawkins
Bill Snyder
Jerry Jensen
Larry Forero
Jason Poburko
Dan Sendek

Staff Participating: Dan Stapleton, Executive Officer, Licensing

CFA: George Gentry

Approval of Open Session Minutes of October 24, 2018 meeting

01-19-01 Member Snyder moved to approve the October 24, 2018 Minutes. Member Rodrigues seconded.

Roll Call: Rodrigues (Aye); Mulhair (Aye); Hawkins (Aye); Forero (Abstain); Snyder (Aye); Jensen (Aye); Sendek (Aye); Poburko (Aye); Van Emmerik (Aye). The motion carried with one abstention.

During Open Session, members discussed ways to streamline the RPF exam to help applicants achieve a successful score. They discussed several ways to help prepare them for the exam, also suggested offering mentorship to those who were not successful.

Report of the Chairman and Executive Officer

Executive Officer Stapleton reported that Assembly member, Chris Holden, District 41, was interested in licensing issues as it relates to increasing pace and scale fuel reduction projects. His office will contact the Board of Forestry's Executive Officer and staff for additional information.

Committee members discussed draft amendments/adoptions to Regulation of Professional Foresters Rules 1600-1651 et. Seq and draft Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR) and draft plead.

01-19-02 Member Snyder moved to approve the Registered Professional Foresters and Certified Specialty Amendments, 2018 with the deletion of 1607 (d). Member Jensen seconded.

Member Rodrigues asked for clarification on Rule 1612.1, she asked if a complaint against a Certified Specialist would be reviewed by PFEC.

Executive Officer Stapleton responded that the complaint would be reviewed and treated the same as a complaint against an RPF.

Member Rodrigues was satisfied with the response and was in agreement.

Roll Call: Rodrigues (Aye); Mulhair (Aye); Hawkins (Aye); Forero (Aye); Snyder (Aye); Jensen (Aye); Sendek (Aye); Poburko (Aye); Van Emmerik (Aye). The motion carried unanimously.

01-19-03 Member Snyder moved to accept the Draft Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR) as presented by staff with the deletion of 1607 (d). Member Sendek seconded.

Roll Call: Rodrigues (Aye); Mulhair (Aye); Hawkins (Aye); Forero (Aye); Snyder (Aye); Jensen (Aye); Sendek (Aye); Poburko (Aye); Van Emmerik (Aye). The motion carried unanimously.

Reviewed the renewal fee survey, renewal fee options, draft Initial Statement of Reasons and draft plead.

Executive Officer Stapleton reported that the Office of Professional Foresters Registration distributed a survey to 1,000 RPF and CRM registrants to help with the renewal fee issues. The office is pursuing a Spring Finance Letter at the recommendation of the Executive Officer of the Board, Matt Dias . The letter will justify the need for getting supplemental funding. A request was made for \$200,000 to help finance the Registered Professional Forester's fund 0300. This will be in addition to the renewal and other fees collected for the licensing program.

Member Snyder suggested asking for \$100,000 from the Timber Restoration Regulatory Fund to be allocated on an annual basis through a finance letter to licensing to assist with the regulatory component of licensees. The allocation would reduce the RPF rate increase significantly. It would be a logical step to ask for their support for the regulatory component. He shared his concerns with the amount of

the proposed fee increase, and suggested requesting funding to help fund the Licensing program.

Member Rodrigues asked for clarification regarding the projections that were previously discussed.

Executive Officer, Stapleton responded that when the projections were made the Licensing Officer position was vacant subsequently the salary wasn't included in the budget/funding. 40% of the Executive Officer's salary is taken from PFEC funding which created a higher standard to achieve.

Committee members expressed concerns that a dramatic fee increase would result in RPF withdrawals.

There were questions regarding the timeline for the implementation of the fee increase. The Executive Officer responded that it would have to go through the Rulemaking process for approval with an effective date of fiscal year July 1, 2019.

Reviewed the renewal fee survey, possible emeritus limited license options, draft Initial Statement of Reasons and draft plead.

George Gentry, CFA offered his thoughts on the issue. He mentioned that there might be more interest, if a lower rate was offered to those with more experience. He added there needs to be an ability to have an experienced RPF who can supply mentorship to RPF's in order to qualify for the exam. PFEC will have to rethink how the mentorship works for the three years of experience because as it stands the RPF must have the ability to hire and fire the individual. If a cohort is lost that has that ability, how are you going to supply the mentorship to get more individuals qualified? Other alternatives as member Snyder mentioned would be to have Certified Specialists or an apprenticeship program. Mr. Gentry's proposed plan would have valid RPF's with 35+ years of experience pay a fee of \$250.00 all others would pay a fee of \$350.00. Calculating in those numbers he arrived at a revenue of \$182,000. Calculating the fee at \$350.00 with a 20% loss in RPF's, he arrived at \$167,000. He also discussed imposing a fee for maintaining a withdrawn status to generate revenue.

Member Rodrigues suggested that a timeline of PFEC priorities be drafted so that the committee knows what to work on to meet fiscal year 2019/2020 deadlines.

01-19-04 Chair Van Emmerik moved to close the Open Session meeting. Member Snyder seconded.

Roll Call: Rodrigues (Aye); Mulhair (Aye); Hawkins (Aye); Forero (Aye); Snyder (Aye); Jensen (Aye); Sendek (Aye); Poburko (Aye); Van Emmerik (Aye). The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn.