

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

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**Professional Foresters Examining Committee Meeting Minutes****Open Session**

Held: June 27, 2019

Members Present:

- Otto Van Emmerik, Chair
- Frank Mulhair
- James Hawkins
- Jerry Jensen
- Larry Forero
- Jason Poburko
- Dan Sendek

Staff Participating:

- Dan Stapleton, Executive Officer, Licensing

Open Session**Reconvene from Closed Session****Approval of Open Session Minutes for February 26, 2019.**

Member Poburko made a recommendation to add in parentheses Y.G. behind George Gentry's name. It was discussed for consistency throughout the document that his full name be used.

06-19-04, Member Poburko moved to approve the Open Session Minutes for February 26, 2019. Member Mulhair seconded.

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

Report of the Executive Officer

E.O. Stapleton reported on the April Exam. There were 51 examinees, he was pleased with the turn out, however, it has caused a delay in the review process. He will notice a meeting within the next two weeks.

He is in the process of working on a Budget Change Proposal (BCP) to address future fund deficiencies. Professional Forester Registration received 100k from

the Department of Finance for the California Environmental License Fund, the revenue will be for fiscal year 19/20. The fund was justified to perform outreach. As long as the Governor allows for out of state travel, the E.O. will visit neighboring states to do outreach and possibly attend the Society of American Foresters (SAF) convention. There will be opportunity for new presentation materials to highlight events promoting California Forester's Licensing, which will hopefully increase more interest in applying to take the Forester's exam.

There were no new cases to report.

RPF and Certified Specialty Fee Amendments, 2019

The RPF/CRM Amendments that were approved at the February 2019 PFEC meeting have gone through the Office of Administrative Law for review. They have submitted comments.

Chair Van Emmerik recognized and thanked former PFEC member Dr. Kim Rodrigues for her service while serving on the committee. Although she could not attend the meeting she was presented a Distinguished Service Award for her 14 years on the committee.

Proposal to Amend Licensing Fees

E.O. gave a brief overview of what was discussed at the February 2019 PFEC meeting, an RPF renewal fee increase to \$350 biennially and a proportional increase for the Specialty Certificate to \$130. Also, a proposed \$100 discount for those who have been registered for 30 years or longer.

CLFA, is in support of the fee increases and the discount for those in the registry for at least 30 years.

E.O. expressed his concerns that the increase may cause withdrawals or voluntary relinquishments. He would like retain foresters with years of experience to offer their knowledge and experience to the newer RPF's. He suggested a more frequent review of the fee structure he thinks it would be beneficial so that it isn't such a large rate increase. He added that a decision should be made by October to be approved by the March 2020 meeting.

George (Y.G.) Gentry commented that the PFEC needs to keep in mind as they are weighing their options moving forward and speaking as a former Executive Officer, it is his experience that any fee increase will not necessarily cause relinquishments, the higher number will be withdrawals. PFEC should consider how they handle the withdrawal process. He suggested that there should be a fee attached to the withdrawal status for administrative purposes. If the RPF has

the ability to reinstate their license, they should pay a fee for the convenience of keeping their license.

Member Poburko added that the entire fee schedule should be reviewed rather than just those that have been discussed.

Committee reviewed fee maximums in the Professional Forester Laws and Regulations. E.O. recommended maximums on re-instatements from withdrawal and duplicates.

Chair Van Emmerik suggested an annual fee to maintain a withdrawal status. It was asked what if the fee isn't paid.

Y.G. commented they would have to relinquish their license for non-payment.

E.O added there would be a \$50 fee to reinstate their license.

There was discussion that the annual \$50 fee to maintain a withdrawn status may help retention.

E.O. will work with the Regulations coordinator to see if it can be applied on an annual basis.

\$350 should be the minimum increase to be able to accomplish a satisfactory revenue. The discounted rate for those with 30 years or more should help to retain foresters.

Y.G. commented using a price deflator formula to determine the fee structure would be a good process so the fee keeps pace with the current inflation rate. If it were built in to the fee structure, there wouldn't have to be a regulatory action for every rate increase.

Discussed looking at the fee schedule for the next 10 years and possibly having an annual rate increase and adding it to the regulation.

E.O. commented that he will add an item to the next PFEC meeting agenda to discuss revision to the fee structure and maximums with increase adjustments for inflation and adding language to the regulation.

Review of PFEC Policy and other documents for updating

E.O. Introduced The Professional Foresters Law and the role of the Registered Professional Forester in Managing California's Forests for review to ensure that it is current. Policy documents will also have to be reviewed in the future. The E.O. suggested starting with the role of the RPF, he will distribute APA information to committee members.

Chair Van Emmerik commented that it will be agendaized for the next PFEC meeting.

Public Forum

CLFA asked about Exam locations, they would like to have a conversation regarding volunteering to help proctor and facilitate the exams.

E.O. explained that volunteers would have to be trained. It would be at the discretion of the committee to accept the offer.

The committee agreed that it would accept CLFA's offer to proctor the exams.