

## BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS REGISTRATION

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### Professional Foresters Examining Committee Meeting Minutes

Held: July 7, 2022

#### OPEN SESSION MINUTES

##### Members Present:

- Frank Mulhair, Chair
- Dan Sendek
- Bill Snyder
- Jason Poburko
- James Hawkins
- Yana Valachovic
- Danielle Lindler
- Larry Forero

##### Staff Participating:

- Dan Stapleton, Assistant Executive Officer, Licensing
- Edith Hannigan, Executive Officer
- Robert “Bob” Roth, Attorney
- Deniele Cade, Staff Services Analyst, Licensing
- “Y.G.” George Gentry, Contracted Expert Examiner
- Len Lindstrand, Contracted Expert Examiner

##### Approval of Open Session Minutes for February 28, 2022

**Member Snyder motions to approve the February minutes. Member Sendek seconds the motion.**

##### Roll Call:

|                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| Dan Sendek           | Aye     |
| Bill Snyder          | Aye     |
| Jason Poburko        | Aye     |
| James Hawkins        | Aye     |
| Yana Valachovic      | Aye     |
| Danielle Lindler     | Abstain |
| Larry Forero         | Abstain |
| Frank Mulhair, Chair | Aye     |

**The motion passes with 2 abstentions.**

## **Report of Executive Officer**

E.O. Stapleton revealed that the committee has received two new RPF complaints that are in the investigative phase. They are case 344 and 345.

E.O. Stapleton reported on the current funds. He states that the fund is still in the black, but it is projected to go back into the red in fiscal year 2023-2024 due to CAL FIRE Pro-Rata administrative Increases of approximately \$19,000 per year. He is working on alternative funding sources in the meantime while the program waits for increased exam participation.

E.O. Stapleton revealed a progress report for the Outreach program, which was provided to him by Executive Director Diane Dealey Neil. It covers the period between February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. During this time the following items were accomplished:

- FEI contract forester Robert Little gave virtual presentations to students at University of Montana and Cal Poly Humboldt.
- FEI Executive Director Diane Dealey Neill made in-person presentations to students at University of California Berkeley, University of Nevada Reno, Central Oregon Community College, and Oregon State University.
- FEI volunteer Jason Poburko gave a virtual presentation to students at the University of British Columbia.
- FEI staff made flight, hotel, and registration arrangements for Robert Little to attend the Society of American Foresters Annual Meeting in Baltimore in September.

E.O. Stapleton reported that the total amount expended for this contract for fiscal year is \$5,842.91, which is well below the budgeted amount of \$30,550. He explained that the reason for the difference is the inability to make in-person visits until the end of the academic year.

## **RPF exam preparation and readiness, YG Gentry**

Y.G. Gentry reported on the ad hoc committee for the APF program. He explained that during the last two 2 years as a pilot program, he has completed an expanded version of the exam preparation program. He explained that while the idea was to provide a background of concepts and study materials to perspective RPF's, it was also to see if the program could be adapted into something more formal.

Y.G. revealed that his current roster stands at 83. He feels the number is a good indication of what the desire is. He pointed out that a good way of bringing prospective foresters in would be to get them on a career track.

Y.G. has taken the Surveyor in Training model and applied it to the Apprentice Professional Forester(APF) program. The model requires students to take a basic or core knowledge exam, then gain experience, and lastly take a regular exam.

Y.G. states that he does not feel the program should go to the legislature. Instead, he suggests that the program mirror what the Society for Rangeland Management does for Certified Rangeland Managers. However, the apprentice would have no authority, and would work under the supervision of an RPF.

Y.G. suggests that the PFEC partner with the CLFA in developing the exams for the APF program. He also suggests implementing the program as an alternative pathway to obtaining a Forestry license.

### **Review of five-year RPF examination performance by educational background**

E.O. Stapleton presented on the average scores for exam topics from various schools from the past 5 years. He revealed that experience has dropped significantly, and students are not as prepared to take the exam as they were in the past. He concluded that there is work to be done with communicating to colleges regarding exams to improve overall preparation and performance.

Member Snyder recommends completing outreach to California schools to discuss with the deans to find out why students are underprepared. He also suggests tracking the types of qualifying experience applicants have in relation to how they perform on the exam.

Member Sendek recommends corresponding with the colleges to find out what they are requiring for their curriculums.

Further discussion will be done at future meetings.

### **Update on Potential Computer Examination Opportunities**

E.O. Stapleton reported on the status of computer examinations. He attempted to obtain computers through CAL FIRE IT, however, they only had PC's and keyboards but no screens. E.O. Stapleton explained that the only way to rent computers is to rent to own, but there is no room in the budget to do so. He revealed that he attended a Forest Management Task Force - Forestry Work Force Summit and met people that provided grants to public agencies. He concluded that this route might be the only option to be able to provide computer-based exams.

### **Public Forum**

No Public Comments

**Meeting Adjourned to Close Session**

**Meeting Reconvened from Close Session**

**Report of actions taken in Closed Session**

**A candidate list has been approved and sent to the Board for approval. Cases 343, 344, and 345 have all been dismissed.**

**Meeting Adjourned**