

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS REGISTRATION

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Professional Foresters Examining Committee Meeting Minutes

Held: February 25, 2021

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Members Present:

- Frank Mulhair, Chair
- Dan Sendek
- James Hawkins
- Bill Snyder
- Jason Poburko

Staff Participating:

- Dan Stapleton, Executive Officer, Licensing
- Deniele Cade, Assistant to the Executive Officer, Licensing Analyst
- "Y.G." George Gentry, Contracted Expert Examiner

Approval of Open Session Minutes for January 13, 2020

It was advised to correct the spelling error for the word "cite" in "Approval of Open Session Minutes for October 20, 2020."

Member Sendek moved to approve the Meeting Minutes. Member Poburko seconded.

Roll Call: Sendek (Aye), Hawkins (Aye), Snyder (Aye), Poburko (Aye), Mulhair (Aye). The motion passes unanimously.

Review and Update the PFEC Policy Items

The committee continued to review and update the PFEC policy items starting at policy 9. There were no further changes to policy 9 and policy 10.

On policy 11, it was recommended to update the hyperlink for CWHR. It was recommended to capitalize, "Professional Foresters Code and State Laws" on statement IV.

On bullet 5, the wording was changed to, "Quantification or modeling of past, present, and future forest carbon stocks on forested landscapes for the purpose of monetization of various forest carbon pools."

The committee decided to postpone the approval of policy 11 and 12 but agreed to approve policy 1-10.

Member Sendek moved to approve policy 1-10. Member Hawkins seconded.

Roll Call: Sendek (Aye), Hawkins (Aye), Snyder (Aye), Poburko (Aye), Mulhair (Aye). The motion passes unanimously.

Update from Ad Hoc Committee of Forester in Training (FIT)

Y.G. reported on a meeting the ad hoc committee had with professional foresters from the British Columbia. They discussed the methods and procedures the British Columbia has in place in order to help establish a framework needed to create a Forester in Training program.

Y.G. explained that there are two pathways to enter the program, and they are contingent on whether an applicant graduates from an accredited versus a non-accredited university. He states that the pathways are also dependent on graduation with a Forestry degree versus a closely related field.

Y.G. explained that if an applicant graduates with a Forestry degree from an accredited college, it is considered a demonstration of core competence. The applicant then moves into the program under a 2-year process, where 16 modules are broken into 6 areas. The program starts off with ethics and ends with regulation and policy issues. There are exams for each session as well. Y.G. explained that once all of the modules are complete, the applicant will have achieved the status of an RPF. He noted that when the applicant enrolls, they have a mentor, and are required to keep a diary.

Y.G. stated that while there are certain aspects that the California Board of Forestry can mirror, he is not sure if this process was what he had in mind. Ultimately, he feels that applicants preparing for the exam need to have more extensive training, along with someone to help them explore issues leading up to the exam.

Y.G. explained that he has participated in the exam prep seminar for many years, and at the last seminar, asked if anyone was interested in forming a study group. He stated that since 9 people showed their interest, he has held Sunday classes and provided them with assignments. Y.G. states that this allows him to monitor where the applicants are coming from, and where they are going to. This process has given him an idea to have CLFA propose a certified specialty of Forester in Training to the PFEC that is patterned on what Y.G. is currently doing. He proposes requirements to join the Forester in Training program such as, the expectation that the applicant be an associate member of CLFA and follow these standards prior to sitting for the exam.

Y.G. is also thinking about other possible benefits of being in the program such as, additional credits and core-competency that provides an abbreviated exam.

Review Applications for PFEC Committee Membership

E.O. Stapleton reveals that he has 2 candidates: 1 for the government position and 1 for the industry member. Matthew Brown was nominated for the industry member, and James Wilson was nominated for the government position.

The committee decided to extend the nomination period to allow for the opportunity to have at least 2 candidates for both categories.

Public Forum

No public members attended.

Meeting adjourned.