

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

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**Professional Foresters Examining Committee Meeting Minutes**

Held: May 20, 2021

OPEN SESSION MINUTES**Members Present:**

- Frank Mulhair, Chair
- Dan Sendek
- James Hawkins
- Bill Snyder
- Jason Poburko
- Larry Forero
- Christian Eggleton

Staff Participating:

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

Approval of Open Session Minutes for February 25, 2021

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

Roll Call: Sendek (Aye), Hawkins (Aye), Snyder (Aye), Poburko (Aye), Forero (Abstain), Eggleton (Abstain), Mulhair (Aye). The motion passes with two abstentions.

Report of Executive Officer

E.O. Stapleton reported on the RPF/CRM examinations in April that took place in Eureka, Redding, and Shingle Springs. There were 39 RPFs and 1 CRM. The graders are currently working to grade the exams. E.O. Stapleton hopes to arrange a closed session meeting in June to approve the results.

E.O. Stapleton reported that the board has received additional funding to be used for in-state and out-of-state outreach to promote licensing in California. He also stated that the 2021 renewals have started. So far, licensing has received over 200

renewals, with about 20 combined withdrawals and voluntary relinquishments. E.O. Stapleton stated that this is good news for the RPF fund.

Regarding staffing, E.O. Stapleton reported that the board is fully staffed with 15 members. The board will be moving into a new office in August near the current resources building with reserved spots on the 9th and 10th floor.

Review and Make Recommendations to 1.16 of the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan

Panelist Lon Sibert presented on the current standards regarding lumber grading. Member Hawkins recommended that the PFEC produce a white paper regarding the issue.

The committee developed a list of possible recommendations. The following list is not ranked in any order of priority.

- 1) The Board should consider that any prospective training for lumber grading should not be limited to RPFs. Owners of small portable sawmills, utilities personnel, LTOs and Fire Safe Councils could all benefit from lumber grading training. The question is what will be the demand for such services?
- 2) The Board should also evaluate the potential for violations of the Forest Practice Act and Rules. Small scale timber operations without the required timber harvest permit producing lumber for sale, barter, or exchange pose a problem. The Board may need to determine the amount of lumber that can be generated for "personal use". This could also pose a CAL FIRE tracking problem and potential RPF licensing issue if an RPF conducting grading is involved with an unpermitted timber harvest project.
- 3) The Board should consider allowing commercial harvests on CFIP projects where small portable sawmills are employed. Project revenue generated from the sale of lumber products could be reinvested back into the CFIP Fund to help support the fund which in turn, supports California small private forest landowners.
- 4) Training for lumber grading is a process requiring experience and oversight. If the various groups of professionals and organizations listed above under item one could coordinate regionally, a lumber grading service could potentially provide the necessary oversight for lumber grading training to enable certification under the grading service's grade stamp. A state sponsored one-year pilot program could help to identify the demand, required coordination and subsequent viability of any proposed state supported lumber grader training program to achieve the objectives

of the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan's recommendations under Item 1.16.

Review and Update the PFEC Policy Items 11 and 12

E.O. Stapleton introduced the changes made previously to Item 11 which awaited Member Eggleton's final input.

Member Eggleton agreed to the changes.

Member Snyder moved to approve policy 11 as amended and discussed previously. Member Poburko seconded.

Sendek (Aye), Hawkins (Aye), Snyder (Aye), Poburko (Aye), Forero (Aye), Eggleton (Aye), Mulhair (Aye). The motion passes unanimously.

E.O. Stapleton introduced the changes made to policy 12 which awaited Member Forero's final input.

Member Forero suggested moving forward with the changes.

It was recommended to amend the footnote.

Member Forero moved to accept policy 12 as amended. Member Eggleton seconded.

Sendek (Aye), Hawkins (Aye), Snyder (Aye), Poburko (Aye), Forero (Aye), Eggleton (Aye), Mulhair (Aye). The motion passes unanimously.

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

Y.G. shared the current progress on the development of the Forester in Training (FIT) program. He opened by stating that there is no expressed or implied endorsement by CLFA in the development of the Forester in Training program.

Y.G. stated that the purpose of the program is to not only help with preparation for the exam, but to make better professionals. He revealed the proposed steps which are to establish the program, implement it as a pilot program, develop regulations within Professional Foresters Law, and finally adopt it.

Y.G. stated that he used the Surveyor in Training program as a reference, which is a statutory program, and followed the recently adopted rules for Certified Specialty, which used a regulatory approach. He stated that a regulatory approach would make the program easier to implement rather than taking a statutory or legislative approach. Y.G. explained however, that Certified Specialties original intent was to provide certification in a narrowly defined role. Therefore, he stated that the Board could adopt FIT as part of a program rather than as a Certified Specialty.

Y.G. reviewed the qualifications for the program, the review and program delivery, and program requirements with the committee.

It was recommended to recognize the Associate's degree in Forestry within the program.

Y.G. is welcoming suggestions for a new acronym for the program to avoid confusing it with the Forestry Institute for Teachers.

Review Applications for PFEC Committee Membership

The committee reviewed applicants to fill the government and industry position. The applicants for the government position included Yana Valachovic and Michael Coleman. The applicants for the industry position included Matthew Brown, Danielle Lindler, Michael Duffy, and Mike Tadlock.

Member Snyder moved to nominate Yana Valachovic to fill the government position. Member Eggleton seconded.

Roll Call: Snyder (Aye), Sendek (Abstain), Poburko (Aye), Eggleton (Aye), Hawkins (Aye), Mulhair (Aye). The motion passes with one abstention.

Member Snyder moved to nominate Danielle Lindler to fill the industry position. Member Eggleton seconded.

Roll Call: Snyder (Aye), Sendek (Abstain), Poburko (Aye), Eggleton (Aye), Hawkins (Aye), Mulhair (Aye). The motion passes with one abstention.

Review Draft CalPac-SRM Program for Certification Updates for Amendment

Member Forero moved to forward the document to the Board of Forestry. Member Poburko seconded.

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

Public Forum

Member Poburko requested that cameras be provided to PFEC members via the PFEC funds to support members with remote meetings.

Meeting adjourned.