

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

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**PFEC Open 6****Professional Foresters Examining Committee Meeting Minutes**

Held: January 13, 2023

OPEN SESSION MINUTES**Members Present:**

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

Staff Participating:

- Dan Stapleton, Assistant Executive Officer, Licensing
- Deniele Casarubbia, Staff Services Analyst, Licensing
- Robert "Bob" Roth, Attorney
- Y.G. Gentry, Contracted Expert Grader
- Robert "Bob" Little, Forestry Educator

**Call to Order, Adjourn to Closed Session
Reconvene from Closed Session****Announcement of Actions Taken in Closed Session**

During closed session, the Board approved the October passing examinees, as well as the July and August meeting minutes.

Approval of the July and August 2022 Meeting Minutes

Member Snyder moves to approve the July meeting minutes. Member Poburko seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

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|------------------|-----|
| Dan Sendek | Aye |
| Danielle Lindler | Aye |
| James Hawkins | Aye |

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| Larry Forero | Aye |
| Jason Poburko | Aye |
| Bill Snyder | Aye |
| Frank Mulhair, Chair | Aye |

The motion passes unanimously.

Member Poburko moves to approve the July meeting minutes. Member Sendek seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

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

The motion passes with one abstention.

Report of the Executive Officer Foresters Licensing

E.O. Dan Stapleton reported on the Outreach program. He stated that this Fiscal Year, from June 30, 2022 to December 15, 2022, Forestry Educators Incorporated (FEI) gave multiple in-person presentations to students at multiple colleges. Only \$6,000 of the encumbered \$33,000 available annually was used due to continuing COVID protocols. Bob Little has had difficulty in getting any-in person meetings scheduled. E.O. Stapleton is currently scheduled for outreach at the Sierra Logging Conference in February. He also stated that CAL FIRE communications will be helping the Licensing office develop a promotional video for online distribution. The video will promote California forestry in general, the diversity of our forested regions, and the positives of having a licensing program.

E.O. Stapleton also presented on the budget of the Licensing program. He revealed under the current projected spending of \$250,000 and revenue of about \$260,000, the RPF fund was projected to go into the red in FY 2023-2024. He explained that about 16% of the budget expenditure is due to CAL FIRE Pro-rata charges, supplemental payments for pensions, and other sections related to employee compensation related to the licensing office. He presented a BCP proposal to supplement the fund, but it was denied. He explained that the last fee revision was FY 2019/20, and Licensing is legally required to address the fees once again in FY 2024/25.

E.O. Stapleton also reported on current complaints. He revealed that there are no new complaints since the last meeting, however he has received four complaints of

unlicensed practice towards a number of environmental organizations in Nevada and Tuolumne County who are offering forestry services with no RPF on staff or are advertising positions that have forestry as part of the duty statement without any requirement for an RPF. E.O. Stapleton has prepared letters to send out to these organizations but has not sent them yet. He is awaiting the holidays to pass so they are not lost in the shuffle. He did call the Executive Director for Plumas Corp., one of the organizations in the complaint, to discuss the issue and received an application from one of their staff to take the April RPF exam.

In addition to these complaints, E.O. Stapleton revealed that a registrant filed a complaint against the USFS Lassen NF for advertising contract forestry work without an RPF requirement per the 1992 MOU between the Board and Region 5. It took some time, but he was able to meet with the Region 5 Staff Chief Jerry Bird. They both agreed the problem is turnover with Region 5 contract management personnel, and that they would reconnect this month and make sure all contract language for forestry work in 2023 and on in Region 5 would have RPF requirements per the existing MOU.

Finally, E.O. Stapleton reported on the examinations. He revealed that Len Lindstrand will be retiring after the October 2022 exam. Len has been instrumental in reviewing and providing edits to our draft examinations and has been a stalwart in grading these exams year after year. He will be sorely missed. Pete Cafferata, RPF 2184 will be replacing Len as one of the Alternate Graders. He has been heavy into the research and policy end of regulating forestry for some time. E.O. Stapleton thinks that he will not only help with grading but may be an excellent future Master Examiner if Bob Heald ever decides to fully retire. E.O. Stapleton also revealed that CLFA is sponsoring our RPF Exam Preparation Seminar at Granzella's Hotel in Williams on Thursday February 2nd. YG Gentry, Len Lindstrand, and Jim Kral will all be instructing.

Discussion of PFEC Priority #1 Apprentice Professional Forester (APF) Proposal

Robert Little presented on the difficulty for bringing in out of state students.

Discussion of Remaining PFEC Priorities for Possible Adjustments

The PFEC came up with a list of priorities which are included in this order:

1. The Apprentice Professional Forester Program.
2. Changing policy to provide exam results to failing applicants only.
3. Providing computer examinations.
4. Creating specialty certificates to assist in fuel management.
5. Amending arboriculture as conditionally qualifying experience.
6. Requiring continuing education for RPFs.

7. Budgeting/funding conditions.

Meeting Adjourned