

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION
FOR FORESTERS
CONFERENCE CALL
February 26, 2009**

The Georgia State Board of Registration for Foresters met via conference call on Thursday, February 26, 2009, at the Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia, for the purpose of conducting Board business.

The following Board members were present:

John Britt, Board Chairperson
W. Dale Greene, Board Vice Chairperson
James Frederick Allen
John Mixon
Glen Warnock

Others present:

Tanja Battle, Executive Director
Craig Fluck, Examination Analyst
Brandi Howell, Board Support Specialist
Janet Jackson, Assistant Attorney General
Louise Murgial, Society of American Foresters (SAF)

At 9:00 a.m., Chairperson Britt established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order.

Outsourcing the Exam

Mr. Britt stated that the Board has the options of outsourcing the exam or go with the certified forestry exam. Ms. Jackson stated for clarification that the statute requires board approval after passage of an exam. The question is whether or not Georgia is to administer the exam through a vendor or accept some other exam as a requirement for licensure. Chairperson Britt stated that the question is does the Board want to continue to require applicants to take an exam. Ms. Jackson responded by stating that the law requires applicants who are licensed by the board must pass an exam approved by the Board. Mr. Greene stated that given the law and the Board's accepted practice through the years, the Board needs to continue with exam. He further stated that he has some reservations concerning the SAF exam and would like to further explore this option. Mr. Mixon agreed with Mr. Greene.

Ms. Murgial answered questions from the Board.

Mr. Allen stated that one of the options was to outsource the exam. He asked what the process of outsourcing the exam is. Mr. Britt explained there could be difficulty in finding a group to administer the exam. He further stated it would involve finding a vendor and developing a contract with that vendor.

Mr. Fluck answered questions from the Board that pertained to development of the examination and the Board's involvement.

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A motion was made by Dale Greene, seconded by John Mixon, and the Board voted unanimously to outsource the exam, which is to include a Georgia companion exam.

Discussion of Rules 220-4-.04 and 220-4-.05

Rule 220-4-.04 Definitions. Amended: Ms. Battle asked if the Board had a chance to review this rule. Ms. Jackson stated she was not sure what to do on the last two paragraphs of the current rule. Chairperson Britt stated that the last two paragraphs were intended to be dropped. Ms. Battle stated those will be stricken.

Chairperson Britt stated the intention is to bring our rules regarding Continuing Education (CE) in line with what SAF currently has in terms of categories. He expressed some concerns about the remote type of CE hours that were available and wanted to include some form of requirement that all or portion of the credits be awarded for participation in live programs. Mr. Allen asked where webinars fit into this. Chairperson Britt responded by stating the way it is written right now, you would have to be with other participants present in the same location.

Rule 220-4-.05 Requirements: The Board discussed corrections/changes that needed to be made with this rule.

Mr. Greene stated that these two rules need to be revised with the correct language before the Board votes to post them. Chairperson Britt stated that he will go through each rule, make the necessary corrections and send them to Ms. Battle. Chairperson Britt stated that the Board needs to be prepared to discuss this at its next meeting scheduled for May 13, 2009.

Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Britt called for any changes/revisions to the February 11, 2009 Conference Call minutes.

A motion was made by Glen Warnock, seconded by Dale Greene, and the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes as presented.

Other Business

Ms. Battle discussed the file-share website that the office had begun using. She informed the board members that they each will soon receive login information to the website. She further explained that the agenda and board packet information will be placed on the website and they will receive an e-mail notification each time the website is updated.

With no other business for the Board to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

Minutes recorded by: **Brandi Howell, Board Support Specialist**

Minutes Edited/Reviewed by: **Tanja D. Battle, Executive Director**