

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR FORESTERS

Board Meeting: August 12, 2009

The Georgia State Board of Registration for Foresters met on Wednesday, August 12, 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
Glen Warnock, Board Vice Chairperson
James Frederick Allen
W. Dale Greene
John Mixon
Anna Thomaston

Others present:

Tanja Battle, Executive Director (arrived at 1:45 p.m.)
Darren Mickler, Executive Director
Ruth Reece, Licensing Analyst
Brandi Howell, Board Support Specialist
Janet Jackson, Assistant Attorney General

At 1:00 p.m., Chairperson Britt established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order.

Rule Hearing

Chairperson Britt called the public hearing on proposed Rule 220-2-.08 Examination for Registration.Amended, Rule 220-4-.04 Definitions.Amended, and Rule 220-4-.05 Requirements.Amended to order at 1:01 p.m.

Chairperson Britt called for public comments, written and oral, on the proposed rules. It was noted that a written public comment had been received from Bill Consoletti, Sr. Technical Forester, Community Development & Land Management. No other comments, either written or oral, had been received from the public.

The hearing was concluded and the Board meeting was called back to order at 1:03 p.m. The Board intends to adopt the proposed rules at its meeting in November.

Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Britt called for any changes/revisions to the May 13, 2009 minutes. Ms. Jackson stated that on page 4, under Other Business, it talks about an annual meeting. She stated that the minutes need to reflect who the annual meeting was for. Mr. Greene stated it is the Association of State Board of Registration of Foresters.

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Mr. Greene stated that page 1 of the minutes needed to reflect that Glen Warnock is the Board Vice Chairperson, not himself as it currently states.

A motion was made by John Mixon, seconded by Dale Greene, and the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes as presented with the two changes noted.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Mickler informed the Board that the Board office had not yet received the signed contract from SAF (Society of American Foresters). He also stated that the Board needs to determine an application fee for the exam. This fee would be made payable to the Professional Licensing Boards and is for the administrative processing of the application. Mr. Greene responded by stating that he felt it was premature to set a fee at this time since the contract had not been signed. Ms. Reece stated that the application cannot be put on the website until a fee has been determined by the Board. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Glen Warnock, seconded by Anna Thomaston, and the Board voted unanimously to set the application fee to \$30.00.

Written Requests/Correspondence

Correspondence from Dillon Epp: The Board reviewed correspondence received from Mr. Epp. The Board recommended to have staff respond to Mr. Epp and state that the Board feels Mr. Epp qualifies to take the examination. However, in order to become registered, his experience would need to be under the supervision of a registered forester.

Correspondence from Raymond Michael Harrison: The Board reviewed correspondence from Mr. Harrison. The Board recommended to have staff respond to Mr. Harrison and state that the Board appreciates his recommendations, but feels that the current process is working well. Also, Mr. Harrison's recommendation would require a change in the law; therefore, he would need to contact his legislator.

Applicants Licensed Since Last Review

The Board reviewed the following list of Registered Foresters licensed since the last Board meeting. A motion was made by Dale Greene, seconded by Fred Allen, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the list.

License #	Name	Issue Date	License Method
RF002860	Armstrong, John W	5/13/2009	Reciprocity
RF002861	Rogers, Brian Edward	5/14/2009	Reciprocity
RF002862	Anderson, Todd R	5/13/2009	Examination
RF002863	Westbrook, Michael David, Jr	6/8/2009	Examination
RF002864	Burton, Aaron James	6/30/2009	Reciprocity
RF002865	Anthony, Garry Wayne, Jr	7/9/2009	Reciprocity

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RF002866	Johnson, Justin Scott	7/14/2009	Examination
RF002867	White, Micah Aaron	7/15/2009	Examination
RF002868	Shirah, Benjamin Lamar	7/15/2009	Examination

Executive Session

A motion was made by Glen Warnock, seconded by Dale Greene, and the Board members present: Allen, Britt, Greene, Mixon, Thomaston and Warnock, voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session, in accordance with O.C.G.A. 43-1-2(k) and 43-1-19(h) for application discussion and to receive the Attorney General's Report.

Vote on Discussions from Executive Session

Open Session was declared by Chairperson Britt.

A motion was made by John Mixon, seconded by Glen Warnock, and the Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendations made in Executive Session.

The following applicants were approved to take the Examination:

Applicant #1195649
Applicant #1199299

The following applicants were approved for Licensure by Examination:

RF002863 Michael David Westbrook, Jr.
RF002866 Justin Scott Johnson
RF002867 Micah Aaron White
RF002868 Benjamin Lamar Shirah

The following applicants were approved for Licensure by Reciprocity:

RF002864 Aaron James Burton
RF002865 Garry Wayne Anthony, Jr.

The following applicants were approved for Reinstatement of Licensure:

RF002557 Sammy James
RF002599 Benjamin B. Copeland
RF002814 Jonathan Wayne Smith

Board Attorney Report

FOR060040: The Board recommended that the fine must be paid in full by December 31, 2009 and that the payment of the fine is a prerequisite to the reinstatement of the license.

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Written Requests

Applicant #291105: After reviewing correspondence requesting a waiver of the requirements for continuing education based upon age, the Board voted unanimously to disapprove the applicant's request.

Applicant #290317: After reviewing correspondence requesting a waiver of the requirements for continuing education, the Board voted unanimously to disapprove the applicant's request.

Committee/Subcommittee Reports

There were no committee/subcommittee reports to discuss at this time.

Other Business

Ms. Jackson stated that if the Board receives any further public comments on the rules that the Board conducted a hearing on this date, the Board, at its discretion, may go over the comments and consider them before the next scheduled meeting in November.

Mr. Greene stated that he would like to discuss the examination and what the plans are. Ms. Battle stated that in terms of the transition overall, the Board office is still waiting to hear from SAF (Society of American Foresters). She further stated that since the last time Randall Vaughn, Division Director, and Craig Fluck, Examination Analyst, spoke with Board, the Governor's Office announced another round of budget cuts. With that said, Ms. Battle alerted the Board that there may not be funding for subject matter experts. Mr. Greene inquired about whether or not it was feasible to have subject matter experts serve as such without receiving money. Ms. Battle stated she would check on that. Mr. Britt stated that the reason for putting the panel together is to have a set of questions that relate to Georgia issues. Ms. Battle stated that she had hoped she would have more information for the Board at this point, and that she would relay information as it becomes available.

With no other business for the Board to discuss, a motion was made by John Mixon, seconded by Fred Allen, and the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 2:09 p.m.

Minutes recorded by:

Brandi Howell, Board Support Specialist

Minutes Edited/Reviewed by:

Tanja D. Battle, Executive Director