

Georgia State Board of Registration for Foresters

Conference Call

Wednesday, September 13th, 2017

Open Session Minutes

State Board of Registration for Foresters was held on Wednesday, **September 13, 2017**, via teleconference

Board Members Present:

James Johnson, Chairman (in office)
Brian Stone, Vice Chairman
Dotty Porter
Babe McGowan

Absent Board Members:

John Mixon
Leonard Kinsley

Administrative Staff Present:

Darren Mickler - Executive Director
Charlotte Mason – Licensure Supervisor
Logan Malcom – Board Support Specialist
Janet Jackson – Senior Assistant Attorney General

James Johnson, Chairman, established that a quorum was present at 9:34 a.m. and called the meeting to order.

Open Session

The Board held a hearing to consider the adoption of an amendment to Board Rule 220-2-.02 "Education". The proposed amendment was new subparagraph (c) under paragraph (2) that set an expiration date on the acceptance of a 2 year associates degree for licensure as a forester. The proposed amendment was presented to the Board as posted on the Board's website as follows, with the proposed new language underlined:

RULE 220-2-.02, "Education."

RULE 220-2-.02. Education. Amended.

(1) A baccalaureate degree from a school, college, or department of forestry approved by the board, as provided in O.C.G. A. 12-6-49(a)(1), means the first professional degree in forestry at the bachelor's level or highest in a curriculum accredited by the Society of American Foresters.

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(2) The following applies to O.C.G. A. 12-6-49(a)(2):

(a) A degree from a school of forestry not approved by the board, as provided in O.C.G.A. 12-6-49(a)(2), means a baccalaureate degree from an educational institution which has applied to the Society of American Foresters for accreditation and has certified that its forestry curriculum meets the minimum standards for objectives, curriculum, faculty, students, administration, parent-institution support, and physical resources and facilities required for accreditation.

(b) A curriculum approved by the board, as provided in O.C.G.A. 12-6-49(a)(2), means a two-year associate degree in forest technology or the equivalent which is recognized by the Society of American Foresters as meeting or exceeding its minimum standards relating to objectives, curriculum, faculty, students, administration, parent-institution support, and physical resources and facilities.

(c) As of July 1, 2018, the board will no longer accept applications for examination or registration submitted by graduates of, or submitted by students enrolled in, a two year associate degree in forest technology or the equivalent thereof, as described in subparagraph (b) of paragraph (2) of this Rule.

(3) All applicants are required to furnish official copies of their college transcripts.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 12-6-47, 12-6-49, and 12-6-54.

The Board discussed the favorable comments about the proposed amendment in a letter dated August 11, 2017 from W. Dale Greene, Dean of the UGA Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources. Board members also discussed alerting Georgia Forestry Association members about the rule amendment and the Chair's conversation with William Moore of Abraham Baldwin College, who indicated no formal opposition to the amendment.

Babe McGowan made a motion that the Board adopt the rule amendment as presented. Vice Chairman Brian Stone seconded that motion, and the Board motion carried unanimously.

The Board then discussed any economic impact of the rule amendment and noted that currently there are only 2 students enrolled in a 2 year education program that would be impacted by the change. Because the amendment would not become effective until July 1, 2018, the Board concluded that the affected 2 students would have enough time to complete the current 2 year forestry education program and become licensed.

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Vice Chairman Brian Stone made a motion that there would be no significant economic impact on the future potential applicants for licensure. Dotty Porter seconded that motion.

Senior Assistant Attorney General Janet Jackson stated that the attorney for a Respondent currently licensed under a Consent Agreement contacted her requesting an extension for the filing of a required report. The deadline for filing falls on October 15, 2017, which is a Sunday. The attorney requested that the deadline be extended to October 16, 2017, the following Monday. The Board agreed to the requested extension. The Board also agreed by consensus that any Consent Agreement signed by an Applicant received by the Board may be signed on behalf of the Chair with express permission, so that an Agreement may be docketed and effective before the next Board meeting.

The next Foresters Board meeting will be held on November 1, 2017, at 9:30 a.m. at the Professional Licensing Boards Office in Macon, Georgia.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Minutes recorded by:

Logan Malcom, Board Support Specialist

Minutes reviewed and edited by:

Darren Mickler, Executive Director

James Johnson

James Johnson, Chairman

Georgia State Board of Registration for Foresters

Darren Mickler

Darren Mickler, Executive Director

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These minutes were accepted on: November 1, 2017