

*Georgia State Board of Registration for Foresters
Zoom Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 11, 2020
Professional Licensing Boards Division
Open Session Minutes*

A meeting of the Georgia State Board of Registration for Foresters was held on **Tuesday, August 11, 2020**, via teleconference

Present Board Members:

Brian Stone, Vice Chairman
Jesse Johnson
John Godbee
Grant Harvey
Wade Hall

Absent Board Members:

Travis Turner

Present Staff:

Darren Mickler - Executive Director
Logan Malcom – Board Support Specialist
Ashley Foust – Licensure Supervisor
Alison Spencer – Assistant Attorney General

Guests

None

Open Session

Vice Chairman Brian Stone is serving as Chairman as James Johnson has been replaced on the board.

Vice Chairman Brian Stone called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Executive Director Darren Mickler swore in the new Board members, Jesse Johnson and John Godbee. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Godbee introduced themselves, and the Board welcomes the new members.

Executive Director Darren Mickler left the meeting at 8:39 a.m.

Approval of Open Session Minutes

Vice Chairman Brian Stone presented a draft of the April 22, 2020 Open Session Board Meeting minutes. Wade Hall made a motion to approve the minutes. Grant Harvey seconded the motion, and the vote carried unanimously.

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Vice Chairman Brian Stone presented a draft of the June 30, 2020 Open Session Board Meeting minutes. Grant Harvey made a motion to approve the minutes. Wade Hall seconded the motion, and the vote carried unanimously.

Executive Session

Wade Hall made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:50 a.m. in accordance with O.C.G.A.43-1-2(k) and 43-1-19(h) to deliberate on applications, complaints, investigative matters, and to receive investigative reports. Grant Harvey seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were those members present who included: Vice Chairman Brian Stone, Jesse Johnson, John Godbee, Wade Hall and Grant Harvey.

Open Session

Vice Chairman Brian Stone declared the Board back in Open Session at 9:42 a.m. for the Public Hearing.

Jesse Johnson left the meeting at 9:43 a.m.

Executive Director Darren Mickler returned to the meeting at 9:44 a.m.

Grant Harvey made a motion for the Board to approve the amendments to rules 220-3-.05 & 220-4-.05. Wade Hall seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Jesse Johnson did not vote.

Board Rule 220-3-.05 “Reinstatement.”

- (1) Registrations not renewed in accordance with Rules 220-3-.03 and 220-3-.04 above shall not be subject to renewal, provided, however, that the holder thereof may apply for reinstatement.
- (2) An application for reinstatement shall be accompanied by:
 - (a) A reinstatement fee; and,
 - (b) Evidence, satisfactory to the Board, of the completion of continuing education as specified below:
 1. Six hours as defined in Rule 220-4-.04 for each year or fraction thereof since the last renewal of the applicant's license, up to a maximum of 36 hours.

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2. No more than one-fourth of the credit hours claimed can be in Category 3. Fractional credit hours will be rounded down to the nearest half hour. The hours required by this paragraph may be counted towards fulfilling the continuing education requirements of the next biennial period if they have been earned in accordance with Rule 220-4-.05.
3. In order to be satisfactory, at least twelve of the hours required for reinstatement must have been completed during the two year period immediately preceding the date of application for reinstatement.

Board Rule 220-4-.05 “Requirements.”

Minimum continuing education requirements for biennial license renewal are a total of 12 credit hours of continuing forestry education. A maximum of 3 credit hours may be obtained in Categories 2 and 3. Foresters who have held their licenses for less than two years but more than one year, as described in 220-4-.01(2), must obtain 6 continuing education hours.

The rules will have no economic impact on any licensees and no excess costs.

Wade Hall made a motion for the Board to vote to release the advice memo to the Attorney General’s office. John Godbee seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Brian Stone adjourned the Public Hearing at 9:57 a.m.

Executive Session

John Godbee made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 9:58 a.m. in accordance with O.C.G.A.43-1-2(k) and 43-1-19(h) to deliberate on applications, complaints, investigative matters, and to receive investigative reports. Wade Hall seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion were those members present who included: Vice Chairman Brian Stone, John Godbee, Wade Hall and Grant Harvey.

Open Session

Vice Chairman Brian Stone declared the meeting back in Open Session at 10:57 a.m.

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Applicants:

Licensure Supervisor Ashley Foust had no new/pending applications to present to the Board at this time.

Complaints:

Attorney General Alison Spencer and Vice Chairman Brian Stone updated the Board members on the complaints, the processing and peer reviewers.

FOR200001 – This complaint involves allegations of substandard work. Grant Harvey made a motion for the Board to schedule an Investigative Interview before the November 4, 2020 meeting. Wade Hall will serve as the Cognizant. Mr. Hall will attend the Investigative Interview in person along with Alison Spencer – Senior Assistant Attorney General. Other Board members and staff may be present via zoom. Wade Hall seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Jesse Johnson did not vote.

FOR210001 – Grant Harvey made a motion for the Board to refer the case to Secretary of State Investigation (SSI). Grant Harvey will serve as Cognizant for this complaint and will draft a list of questions for the Investigator. Darren Mickler to reach out of Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) to request their investigative findings from their investigative interview. If investigation has not been completed, complaint will be forwarded to GFC for investigation and GABORF will wait to move forward with SSI assignment. Wade Hall seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Jesse Johnson did not vote.

FOR210002 – Grant Harvey made a motion for the Board to refer the case to Secretary of State Investigations (SSI). Wade Hall will serve as Cognizant for this complaint and will draft a list of questions for the Investigator. Wade Hall seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Jesse Johnson did not vote.

FOR210003 – This complaint involves allegations of unlicensed practice. Grant Harvey made a motion for the Board to refer the case to the Secretary of State Investigations (SSI). Wade Hall will serve as Cognizant on this complaint and will work with Investigator to develop questions related to the case. Wade Hall seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Jesse Johnson did not vote.

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Licenses Issued:

Wade Hall made a motion, Grant Harvey seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to ratify the following licenses issued from June 30, 2020 – August 11, 2020.

RF003029	Kenneth Brian Watts
RF003030	Grayson Barrett Parker
RF003031	Cory Neil Black
RF003032	John Cook, II
RF003033	Joseth Todd Robinson
RF003034	William Lewis Jones

Attorney General's Report:

Wade Hall made a motion to accept the AG report given by Attorney General Alison Spencer during Executive Session. Grant Harvey seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director Report:

Executive Director Darren Mickler updated the Board on the budget cut, and changes inside the SOS Office.

Executive Session Minutes:

Vice Chairman Brian Stone presented a draft of the April 22, 2020 Executive Session Minutes. Wade Hall made a motion for the Board to accept the minutes as presented. Grant Harvey seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Jesse Johnson did not vote.

Vice Chairman Brian Stone presented a draft of the June 30, 2020 Executive Session Minutes. Wade Hall made a motion for the Board to accept the minutes with edits. Grant Harvey seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Jesse Johnson did not vote.

Other Business:

Jesse Johnson and John Godbee to work with Grant Harvey and Wade Hall on training for processing applications to become a cognizant.

Ashley Foust gave a brief update from SAF on test results availability. She also reported testing sites are back open.

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The next scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on November 4, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

Minutes recorded by: Logan Malcom, Board Support Specialist
Minutes reviewed and edited by: Darren Mickler, Executive Director

Brian Stone, Vice Chairman
Georgia State Board of Registration for Foresters

Darren Mickler, Executive Director
Georgia State Board of Registration for Foresters

These minutes were accepted on: November 4, 2020