

# Georgia State Board of Registration for Foresters

## Board Meeting Minutes

### August 19, 2025

A meeting of the Georgia State Board of Registration for Foresters met on Tuesday, August 19, 2025 in person at the board office located at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, GA 31217.

<p><b><u>Board Members Present:</u></b>  Grant Harvey, Chairman (In-person)  Jesse Johnson, Vice-Chairman (In-person)  Wade Hall (In-Person)  Brian Stone (In-person)  John Godbee (Via Webex)</p> <p><b><u>Absent Member:</u></b>  Jim Langdale</p> <p><b><u>Attorney General Representative present:</u></b>  Samuel Smith, Assistant Attorney General via Webex</p>	<p><b><u>Board Staff Present:</u></b>  Laurie Elander, Executive Director (In-person)  Iris Waller, Licensing Supervisor (In-person)  Thishilyn Stubbs, Board Support Specialist (In-person)  Brandy Griffin, Licensing Analyst (Via Webex)</p> <p><b><u>Visitors:</u></b>  None</p>
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**Open Session:**

At 9:32 a.m., Chairman Grant Harvey established that there was a quorum present and called the meeting to order.

The Board opened the Board meeting with a word of prayer.

**Approval of the Agenda:**

Wade Hall made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Brian Stone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Public Hearing for Proposed Rule Amendments:**

Chairman Grant Harvey called the public hearing for rule adoption to order at 9:34 a.m. Executive Director, Laurie Elander, noted there were no written comments received from the public regarding the proposed rule amendments. No visitors were in attendance to offer verbal comments of the proposed rule amendments.

Vice-Chairman Jesse Johnson made a motion to adopt the following rule amendments to be sent to the Governor’s Office for approval the adopted rule amendments of board rules 220-2-.03, 220-3-.05, and 220-5-.01. Wade Hall seconded, all Board members agreed, non-opposed, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Rule 220-2-.03 Registration by Endorsement**

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- (1) The Board may waive the national examination requirements for an applicant who has been registered ~~for a minimum of five years~~ in another jurisdiction as a registered forester provided that the requirements and qualifications for licensing and registration under the laws of the jurisdiction are substantially equivalent to those of Georgia, and the applicant has been in good standing with the jurisdiction for the entire period of licensure or registration. In order to be eligible for registration by endorsement, the applicant must hold a current registration as a registered forester in another jurisdiction. All applicants for registration by endorsement shall take and pass the Georgia laws and rules examination for the practice of professional forestry.
- (2) The applicant shall complete and submit an Application for Licensure by Endorsement with all attachments.
- (3) A license issued by endorsement is at the sole discretion of the Board and if issued, shall be subject to all provisions of this part governing expiration, renewal, fees, continuing education, sanctions, revocation and any and all other provisions of law and rules governing or relating to foresters.

#### 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~~ Twelve credit hours as defined in Rule [220-4-.04](#) ~~for each year or fraction thereof every 2 years~~ since the last renewal of the applicant's license, up to a maximum of 36 hours.
    2. No more than one-fourth of the credit hours claimed can be in Category 2 and 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~~

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~~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.

#### Rule 220-5-.01 Standards of Practice:

- (1) It is the responsibility of each registered forester to practice professional forestry in a manner which protects the public welfare and safety and in a manner which meets generally accepted standards of practice.
- (2) For purposes of this rule, generally accepted standards of practice shall include, but not be limited to, adherence to the Water Quality Program of the Georgia Forestry Commission's publication, Georgia's Best Management Practices for Forestry. ~~which is available from the Board office.~~
- (3) Failure to practice professional forestry in accordance with generally accepted standards of practice shall constitute unprofessional conduct as provided for in O.C.G.A. 43-1-19(a)(6) and shall be grounds for disciplinary action as provided for by law.

The Public Hearing for Proposed Rule Amendments was adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

#### Open Session Minutes:

Chairman Grant Harvey presented a draft of the May 13, 2025 Open Session meeting minutes and asked for any additions or deletions. Brian Stone made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Wade Hall seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Grant Harvey presented a draft of the June 16, 2025 Open Session meeting minutes and asked for any additions or deletions. Wade Hall made a motion to approve the minutes as presented Vice-Chairman Jesse Johnson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Brian Stone made a motion for the Board to approve the list of licenses issued from May 5, 2025 to August 11, 2025 as presented, Wade Hall seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Issued**

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License Number	Licensee
RF003106	Matthew Gilbert Gibson

**Executive Session:**

Brian Stone moved. Wade Hall seconded, and the Board voted to enter Executive Session at 9:42 a.m. in accordance with O.C.G.A. 43-1-2(k) and 43-1-19(h) to deliberate on applications, complaints and to hear the Attorney General's Report.

At the conclusion of Executive Session, Grant Harvey, Chairman, declared the meeting to be "open" pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act, O.C.G.A. §§ 50-14-1 et seq., at 10:44 a.m. No votes were taken during the Executive Session.

**Open Session:**

Wade Hall made the motion to accept recommendations made during executive session, Brian Stone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The recommendations accepted are as follows:

**Approval of Executive Session Minutes:**

Approved the May 13, 2025, Executive Session Board minutes as presented.

**Applications:**

3208903: Approve

3196379: Approve

4285259: Approve upon submitting difference of fee paid.

G.P.: Submit new application

**Attorney General Report**

Assistant Attorney General Samuel Smith presented the AG Report. The board voted to accept as presented.

**Executive Director's Report:**

The Board reviewed the Executive Director's report, which provided the Board with statistical data relevant to the processing of applications and complaints/compliance matters.

The Board agreed to reschedule the November 11, 2025, meeting to November 18, 2025.

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There being no further business, Grant Harvey, Chairman, declared the meeting adjourned 10:59 a.m.

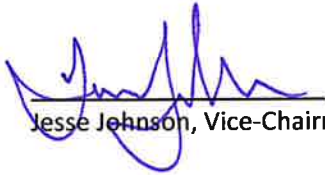
The next meeting of the Board will be on November 18, 2025.

Minutes recorded by:


Thishilyn Stubbs, Board Support Specialist

Minutes reviewed and edited by:

Laurie Elander, Executive Director



Jesse Johnson, Vice-Chairman



Laurie Elander, Executive Director

These minutes were approved on: Tuesday, November 18, 2025

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF BIBB

AFFIDAVIT SUPPORTING CLOSING OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Georgia Open Meetings Act, O.C.G.A 50-14-1 et seq., requires that all meetings of an entity covered by the statute must be open to the public unless there is some specific statutory exception which permits the closing of the meeting. If such a meeting is to be closed, the law requires that the presiding person execute a sworn affidavit stating that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the statutory exceptions and identifying those specified exemptions relied upon. O.C.G. A. 50-14-4(b). A copy of this affidavit must be filed with the minutes of the meetings in question.

Comes Jese Johnson the Board Vice-Chairman identified below and, before an official duly authorized to administer oaths, makes this affidavit in satisfaction of the statutory requirements outlined above.

1. I am the presiding officer of the Georgia State Board of Registration for Foresters.
2. I am over the age of 18 and in other aspects competent to make this sworn statement. I acknowledge that I am giving this statement under oath and subject to penalty of perjury and that I have read the contents of this affidavit prior to signing it.
3. On November 18, 2025, this entity, which is subject to the Open Meetings Act, met. A majority of the quorum of members present voted to close the meeting or a portion hereof of the following indicated reason(s). I hereby certify that during the closed portion of the meeting, only those subjects indicated below were discussed. I also certify that I have reviewed the exceptions provided under the Open Meetings Act that may permit the closing of a meeting and that, to the best of my knowledge, the reasons I have described in detail below meet the requirements for closing this public meeting.
4. The legal authority for closure of this meeting was: O.C.G.A. 43-1-2(k).
5. The subjects discussed and the underlying facts supporting the closing of this meeting are as follows:

Applications and other personal information submitted by the applicants, information, Favorable or unfavorable, submitted by a reference source concerning an applicant; and Deliberations of the Board with respect to an application, an examination, a complaint, an investigation, or a disciplinary proceeding.

FURTHER THE AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

  
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 PRESIDING OFFICER  
 Jesse Johnson

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18<sup>th</sup>  
 Day of NOVEMBER, 2025  
Deborah A. Horton  
 Notary Public  
 My Commission Expires: Dec. 17, 2028

