

**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS REGISTRATION**

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**Professional Foresters Examining Committee****OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES****Held: June 20th, 2013**

Resources Building, 1416 9th Street
15th Floor Large Conference Room, No. 1506-12
Sacramento, California

Members Present: Doug Ferrier, Chairman
Otto van Emmerik, Vice Chairman
Tom Osipowich
Jerry Jensen
Kim Rodrigues
Ray Flynn

Staff Participating: Matt Dias, Executive Officer - Foresters Licensing

Members of Public: None Present

1. Approval of Open Session Minutes of February 14, 2013 Meeting.

06-20-01 Member Osipowich moved to approve the open session minutes with minor edits and Member Flynn seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Reports of Chairman and Executive Officer.

Chairman Ferrier stated that he would be speaking at a UC Extension workshop being offered in Auburn California. The goal of the workshop is to provide landowners information on forest management opportunities for their property. Chairman Ferrier will be speaking on the role of the Registered Professional Forester.

Executive Officer Dias provided a brief update on the AB 904 (Working Forest Management Plan). This bill is headed for the Senate Natural Resources Committee on June 25th, 2013. Dias also discussed the content of former bill AB 350, which focused on increasing the harvestable diameter of timber for the purposes of Forest Fire Prevention Exemptions. This concept will be discussed at the Timber Harvest Working Group starting in July 2013. It is possible that pending discussions at the Timber Harvest Working Group that future legislative efforts are put forth to address the diameter limit issue.

3. Status Report and Discussion of Memorandum of Understanding with Federal Agencies for Compliance with Professional Foresters Law

Professional Foresters Registration shall protect the public interest through the regulation of those individuals who are licensed to practice the profession of forestry, and whose activities have an impact upon the ecology of forested landscapes and the quality of the forest environment, within the State of California.

The Executive Officer reported that he has tried to contact Doris Broussard, Acting Director of Acquisitions Management Region 5, to try to follow up on the IDIQ contracting solicitations. She has yet to return the call. Executive Officer Dias will continue to try to contact Ms. Broussard and if unsuccessful, will touch bases with Bernie Gayant on the issue.

Member Rodrigues stated that Peter Stine, Pacific Southwest Research Station, will be discussing various opportunities that the USFS can utilize to increase the pace and scale of meeting their mandate of ecological restoration. It is possible that the RPF solicitation for IDIQ contracts could be presented to him as a potential component of a solution for the Forest Service to further investigate.

4. Discussion of Status of Contracts for Expert Examiner and Expert Graders

The Executive Officer reported that a contract was recently awarded to Len Linstrand. Mr. Linstrand is a retired forester with W.M. Beaty and Associates, former longstanding RMAC member, current board member for CLFA and former proctor for the RPF exam in Redding. The Licensing Office is pleased to have him aboard as an exam grader.

Our other grader at this time is Bob Heald, while our expert examiner is Dr. Carl Yee. Both of these contracts are still valid for two more exams.

5. Discussion of Codifying the Certified Rangeland Manager (CRM) Professional Guidelines

Executive Officer Dias introduced both the revised Program for Certification of Professional Rangeland Managers 2013 (April 2013 Guidelines) and plead language for Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 10 Amending §1651 (plead). Dias discussed that the PFEC, as well as the CRM Panel, are in agreement on the language contained in the April 2013 Guidelines and that the Panel would like to simply have the new guidelines included by reference by revising the date in 14 CCR §1651(c). The staff recommended plead offers that date change.

Based upon motion 02-14-02 of the February meeting, staff will be taking the April 2013 Guidelines and the recommended plead language to the Full Board with a recommendation to authorize a 45 day notice for public comment on the plead language.

6. Discussion of the Historical and Current Condition of the Professional Foresters Fund

Executive Officer Dias explained that that the Executive Office of the Department provided some comment that the Professional Foresters Registration Fund (PFRF) could be experiencing some issues with long term sustainability. An investigation by the Licensing Office into the fund is being conducted with aid from both the Budgets and Accounting Office of the Department. Although some issues have been identified by the Licensing Office, they seem to be minor in scope. The Accounting Office is still working on identifying some minor issues.

As indicated in the provided handout, the data does indicate that there is some level of deficit spending within the PFRF. The Executive Officer Dias explained that there is some variability in the trends of Personnel Services expenses and Office Expenses due to position vacancies and expenditures on disciplinary cases.

The PFEC requested that EO, Dias provide more detail on the following items for consideration by the committee during future meetings:

- Active Licenses (Revenue)
- Personnel Expenses
- Operating Expenses, breaking out Disciplinary Action expenses.

Discussion of potential problems/solutions will commence during the August meeting.

7. New and Unfinished Business

Member Jensen provided a discussion of the current status of the USFS in regards to the ongoing discussions on diameter limits in the USFS ownership. Currently, no trees >30" dbh can be harvested on USFS property. This is a provision of the 2004 Framework. Modeling efforts show that even though growth in the Sierra National Forest is >100 mmbf annually, rates of harvest under these prescriptions will only allow for approximately 10 mmbf harvested, putting the Standard and Terra Bella mills at risk of shuttering their doors.

There is support amongst many to allow for group selection harvesting, but given the 30" diameter limit, this is not currently a viable silvicultural prescription given that there are many trees >30" dbh.

The current Bioregional Assessment is currently out for comment in DRAFT format and includes many references to empirical data to aid in guiding management, but has very little information on effects of stand density, bark beetle infestation, vegetation competition, and how these factors relate to loss of habitat and forest resources through catastrophic wildfire. There also seems to be a general lack of analysis on the economic impacts of rural communities as a result of the 2004 Framework guidelines.

06-20-03 Member van Emmerick moved to adjourn the open session and Member Rodrigues seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.