MARYLAND BOARD OF FORESTERS

 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

 **Monday, July 22, 2024**

**TIME:**  10:00 a.m.

**LOCATION:**  1100 N. Eutaw St.

5th Floor Conference Room

 Baltimore, MD 21201

 *(Teleconference via Google Meet and in person)*

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** John Markovich – Vice Chair

 Jill Rhyne-Grey

Anthony DiPaolo

Brian Knox

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Michael Huneke – Chairman

 Daniel Rider

**STAFF PRESENT:** Christopher Dorsey, Executive Director

Sharron McNeill, Office Supervisor

 Sloane Kinstler, Assistant Attorney General

**OTHERS PRESENT:** None

**Call to Order**

Vice Chair, John Markovich, called the July 22, 2024 meeting of the Maryland Board of Foresters to order at 10:23 a.m. after confirming that a quorum of members was present.

Upon a motion by Ms. Rhyne-Grey and a second by Mr. DiPaolo, the minutes of the April 22, 2024 Business Meeting of the Board of Foresters were unanimously approved without amendment.

**Chairman’s Report**

Vice Chair, John Markovich, informed the Board that he would be conducting the Board meeting due to Chairman Huneke, being in California due to the forest fires. Vice Chair, Markovich, also informed the Board that The Maryland/Delaware Society of American Foresters meeting would be held in September, in Berkley, West Virginia.

**Executive Director’s Report**

Mr. Dorsey, informed the Board that Jake Martin, was no longer a consumer member of the Board and that his seat is now vacant. A new Board member was selected to replace Mr. Martin, and they should be sworn in before the next meeting in October.

**Old Business**

Board members discussed the Society of American Foresters’ Urban and Community Forestry credential and whether the Board ought to award individuals with a college degree in urban and community forestry, specifically, a traditional forester license; whether there should be some other classification; and what, if any, impact the applicant’s work experience would have on the individual’s candidacy. After a lengthy discussion, during which the Board considered the statutory definition of forestry, the Board decided to table the discussion until the October 21, 2024 meeting. Counsel will provide Board members with the applicable statutory and regulatory provisions to continue this discussion at the October 21, 2024 meeting.

**New Business**

The Board discussed correspondence requesting that the Board consider allowing a two-year associate’s degree as educational qualification for forester licensure. The Board discussed the value of additional practical work experience as a potential substitute for additional education. However, the Board decided to table the discussion until the October 21, 2024 Board meeting when, hopefully, the full Board can be present.

**Closed Session**

Vice Chair Markovich advised that it was necessary for the Board to convene in a closed session to discuss two license applications, in accordance with § 3-305 (b)(2) and (7) of the Gen. Prov. Art., Md. Ann. Code, to protect the privacy and reputation of license applicants and to obtain advice provided by Counsel regarding license applications. Counsel stated that the Board would return to the Business Meeting thereafter to adopt its findings, if any, and continue with its business meeting, at which time it would likely be appropriate for meeting adjournment.

Upon a motion by Ms. Rhyne-grey, seconded by Mr. Knox, and unanimously carried, the State Board of Foresters enter a closed session at 10:37 a.m., via Google Meets, pursuant to § 3-305 (b)(2) and (7) of the Gen. Prov. Art., Md. Ann. Code.

The Board reviewed two (2) license applications in closed session:

OR-1

The Board considered the license application for an individual who obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry in May 2021 from the accredited program at Stephen F. Austin State University. This individual documented 3 months as a Vegetation Management Inspector with Sierra Forestry Consulting, 11 years as a Forester with Copperhead Environmental, and 10 years and 2 months as a Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forester with Maryland DNR Forest Service. The Board discussed the applicant’s education, college transcript, and degree in forestry, which satisfied the educational requirements. The Board concluded that the applicant satisfied the work experience, education, and reference requirements for licensure pursuant to Md. Ann. Code, Bus. Occ. & Prof. §§ 7-304(b) and (c), 7-305(1)(iii) and COMAR 09.29.01.02B.

OR-01: Upon a motion by Mr. Knox and seconded by Ms. Rhyne-Grey, the Board unanimously voted to grant the license application.

OR-2

The Board considered the license application for an individual who obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resource Management in May 2020 from the accredited program at the State University of New York. The applicant documented 10 months as a Forest Technician with AMRO Forestry, 2 years and 1 month as a Wood Products Manager with Shreiner Tree Care, and 11 months as a Forester with Maryland DNR Forest Service. The Board discussed the applicant’s education, college transcript, and degree in forestry, which satisfied the educational requirements. The Board concluded that the applicant satisfied the work experience, education, and reference requirements for licensure pursuant to Md. Ann. Code, Bus. Occ. & Prof. §§ 7-304(b) and (c), 7-305(1)(iii) and COMAR 09.29.01.02B.

OR-02: Upon a motion by Mr. DiPaolo and seconded by Mr. Knox, the Board unanimously voted to grant Mr. Peregrim’s license application.

**Return to Business Meeting**

The Board unanimously voted to reconvene the Business Meeting at 10:51 a.m. upon a motion made by Ms. Rhyne-Grey, seconded by Mr. DiPaolo, which was passed unanimously.

Upon the return to the Business Meeting, Mr. DiPaolo moved that the Board approve its actions taken during the closed session. Ms. Rhyne-Grey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, upon a motion by Ms. Rhyne-Grey and seconded by Mr. DiPaolo, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

October 21, 2024—Board members are encouraged to attend the meeting in person and to notify staff of their intention to do so remotely or in person and whether they will require parking.

\_\_\_\_ with corrections \_\_x\_\_ without corrections

Signature on file August 13, 2024

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Signature of Board Chair Date