

Michigan Board of Foresters – Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 23, 2019

MDNR Gaylord Customer Service Center
1732 West M-32, Gaylord, MI and Conference Call

Chairman Grossman called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

1. Roll Call

- a. Present: Gerald Grossman, Brenda Haskill, Joyce Angel, Jim Schmierer, Todd Penrose, Bill Botti.
Absent: Melinda Jones

2. Approval of the agenda

So moved by Jim to approve the agenda with the additions of 6. f. Updates from registered foresters and 6. g. continuing education. Motion supported by Todd. All ayes, motion carried.

3. Approval of the minutes from March 7, 2019 board meeting.

So moved by Joyce to approve the minutes as presented from the March 7, 2019 meeting. Motion supported by Brenda. All ayes, motion carried.

4. Public comment.

Let the record show that no one from the public was present nor on the conference call at this time.

5. Old Business

- a. Transfer of funds from LARA/closure of FY18
 - i. Brenda noted that she has not received any update on if the transfer has taken place or if FY18 has been closed. Jerry will send a request to LARA for an update on the transfer.

6. New Business

- a. New applications
 - i. Applications included in Board email from 3 foresters.
So moved by Bill to approve all three applicants into the registered forester program. Those applicants are Travis Heikkinen, Kurt Lehmann, and Jack Polus. Motion supported by Todd. All ayes, motion carried.
- b. Draft *Request for Guidance* on non-traditional education backgrounds
 - i. Jerry will add brief language to 2. b. under the “Guidance Request” portion of the document prior to sending it to the State Forester Deb Begalle with request to forward on to the legal affairs office for DNR. That language will be: *b. Utilize the violation and complaint process in Sec 53517? With the possibility of utilizing Sec 53519 (8) “The board may permanently revoke or temporarily suspend registered forester status for a violation of section 53515 or an order issued under this section.”*
- c. Financial Update
 - i. Revenue update from new/reinstated RF as of 4/11/19

Revenue since November of 2018 is \$3600

- ii. One RF given acceptance in December failed to pay after the second notice and has been removed from the program and notified that she will need to reapply in the future.
- iii. Proration of fees

Brenda noted that her supervisor, Doug Heym, has requested from the State Forester a change to prorating fees for new registered foresters and make one expiration phase for all program participants. Brenda will keep the board informed what the final decision will be and what, if any changes, will take place.

- d. Registration qualifications; years of work experience; cumulative or continuous? Brenda noted that current forestry and natural resource students have inquired about whether their summer work experience is included in their 2 years of necessary experience to qualify for the program. Jerry assigned the issue to the education group that was formed to look at continuing education credits.
- e. Database for registrants – initial discussions to incorporate into the statewide VMS system for DNR has begun. Brenda will keep the board updated on the process, but predictions are for late fall of 2019 or winter 2020 to include the RFs into the centralized state database.
- f. Updates from RF's via their update form.

Brenda noted that 54 RF's have not responded to the request for updated information. The board agreed that all 54 will receive a final mail request for their updated contact information.

- g. Continuing education credits

Joyce noted that she was asked if the Board meetings could count for CE credits if someone attended a board meeting. Jerry stated that if it qualifies as SAF Category 1 criteria, it would count. There will be future discussions on how CE's will be tracked and verified. To assure participants are staying informed, a newsletter to all will be sent in the fall.

7. Public Comment.

Let the record show that no persons from the public were present nor on the conference call at this time.

8. Adjourn

So moved by Jim to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 am. Motion supported by Todd. All ayes, motion carried.