**STATE OF MARYLAND**

**BOARD OF FORESTERS**

**BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

**April 26, 2021**

**LOCATION:**  via Google Meets

**MEMBERS**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Michael Huneke-Chair

John Markovich-Vice Chair

Daniel Rider

Jill Rhyne-Grey

**DLLR OFFICIALS**

**/STAFF:** Shanai Jordan, Executive Director

Christopher Dorsey, Assistant Executive Director

Sloane Fried Kinstler, Assistant Attorney General

**ABSENT:** Alicia Coar, Administrative Specialist

The April 26, 2021 meeting of the Maryland Board of Foresters was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Mr. Huneke.

Upon a motion **(I)** by Mr. Markovich, seconded by Ms. Rhyne-Grey, the minutes from the January 25, 2021 business meeting were approved unanimously.

**Chairman’s Report**

Mr. Huneke reported that the Board had several applications to discuss later in the meeting. He also mentioned that he would like to discuss the status of the proposed regulation in old business.

Upon a motion **(II)** by Ms. Rhyne-Grey, seconded by Mr. Markovich, the Chairman’s report was approved unanimously.

**Executive Director’s Report**

Ms. Jordan reported that Ms. Kausar Syed has been appointed as the new Deputy Commissioner for the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing within the Maryland Department of Labor. She also mentioned that, going forward, the Board meetings will continue to be held virtually until further notice.

Upon a motion **(III)** by Ms. Rhyne-Grey, seconded by Mr. Rider, the Executive Director’s report was unanimously approved.

**New Business Report**

None.

**Old Business**

Final action for COMAR 09.29.09.02 was published on April 23, 2021. This regulation will grant the Board authority to approve a master’s or post-graduate program that is approved by the Board or the Society of American Foresters. This regulation will take effect May 3, 2021.

**Complaint Committee Report**

None.

**Counsel’s Report**

None.

**License Applications**

There were five license applications to be reviewed by the Board in closed session:

**CLOSED SESSION**

**OR-01**

OR-01: upon a motion **(IV)** by Mr. Markovich and seconded by Ms. Rhyne-Grey, the Board unanimously voted to approve the license application, as the applicant documented qualifying work experience and provided the requisite professional references.

**OR-02**

OR-02: upon a motion **(V)** by Mr. Rider and seconded by Ms. Rhyne-Grey, the Board unanimously voted to approve the license application, as the applicant documented qualifying work experience and provided the requisite professional references.

**OR-03**

OR-03: upon a motion **(VI)** by Ms. Rhyne-Grey and seconded by Mr. Rider, the Board unanimously voted to deny the license application, as the applicant had graduated from a college not accredited by the Society of American Foresters, as required pursuant to § 7-304(b) of the Bus. Occ. & Prof. Art., Md. Ann. Code.

**OR-04**

The applicant failed to provide signatures from any of the references listed on the application; the applicant also failed to provide adequate information to verify that at least 3 of the references are licensed foresters, in accordance with § 7-305(b)(1)(iii), of the Bus. Occ. & Prof. Art., Md. Ann. Code, as the information on the signature page is unclear. Board staff will notify the applicant that applicant that supplemental information is required pertaining to the companies worked for, and job duties and responsibilities in each position.

OR-04: upon a motion **(VII)** by Mr. Markovich and seconded by Ms. Rhyne-Grey, the Board unanimously voted to instruct the applicant to supplement his application and table the discussion of this application until the Board receives the requested information necessary to complete the application.

**OR-05**

The applicant provided work experience over several years, as an arboriculturist, which does not comply with the requirements of § 7-304(1)(c), of the Bus. Occ. & Prof. Art; see § 7-101(c)(3)(ii)1, of the Bus. Occ. & Prof. Art.

The applicant provided the Board with 5 professional references, 2 of whom are licensed foresters.

OR-05: upon a motion **(VIII)** by Mr. Rider, seconded by Ms. Rhyne-Grey, the Board voted to deny the license application, with Ms. Rhyne-Grey and Mr. Rider voting to approve the motion and Mr. Markovich abstaining from the vote. The applicant will be invited to resubmit an application if the applicant is able to demonstrate the requisite work experience in forestry in compliance with § 7-101(c).

Upon reconvening the Business Meeting, and motion **(IX)** by Ms. Rhyne-Grey, seconded by Mr. Markovich, the Board unanimously approved the findings of the April 26, 2021 closed session.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, upon a motion **(X)** by Mr. Rider, seconded by Mr. Markovich, the Board adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

July 26, 2021 – via Google Meets

\_\_\_\_ With corrections \_X\_\_\_ Without corrections

**Signature appears on original documen**t **July 26, 2021**

Chairman Date