

Michigan Board of Foresters Minutes

Regular Meeting, December 13, 2018

Chairman Jerry Grossman called the meeting to order at 8:03 am via conference call.

Roll call: Brenda Haskill and Joyce Angel in person at the Gaylord DNR CSC office hosting the conference call. In attendance via conference call: Jerry Grossman, Bill Botti, Todd Penrose, Melinda Jones, Jim Schmierer

So moved by Bill to approve the agenda with the minor fix at the top to remove the word “inaugural”. Motion supported by Todd. All ayes, motion carried.

So moved by Melinda to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2018 meeting with the minor grammatical errors noted. Motion supported by Todd. All ayes, motion carried.

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

Jerry discussed the potential for using a “consent agenda” as needed in the future to keep the meetings productive and fast paced. He will provide further information at the February board meeting.

Bill asked about the participation of the public on conference calls and Brenda noted that the conference call information is circulated in the Open Meetings process for the public to call in as well.

Brenda also noted that per the official opinion from legal affairs within DNR, conference calls can be used for board meetings and are permissible under the Open Meetings Act if one location is noted as the public gathering place with one board member and a conference call line active and the meeting is posted to reflect that location.

New applicants to the registered forester program are: Zachary Buchanan, Kathryn Kloss, and Nathaniel Plato. Board members were provided with PDF copies of their applications prior to the call.

So moved by Todd to approve the three new applicants; Buchanan, Kloss, and Plato. Motion supported by Jim. All ayes, motion carried.

Registered foresters requesting reinstatement to the board due to unforeseen lapse in their registration due to non-payment to LARA before the transfer of the program are last names of: Autenrieth, Brandon, Christie, Fehringer, Isaacson, Janke, Kangas, Kuipers, Long, Major, and Nelson. All will retain their original RF registration numbers granted to them by LARA previously.

So moved by Bill to reinstate all the afore mentioned registered foresters. Motion supported by Jim. All ayes, motion carried.

Brenda noted that per the guidelines of the bill, all new and reinstated members will receive their bill for \$200 for 2 years of program fees and welcome letter within 30 days of today’s meeting. They have 30 days from receipt of that bill to return payment.

All new applicants will have their references checked via email with a request for a return email if the registered forester used as a reference is questioning the validity and quality of the forester applying for registration.

So moved by Brenda for Chairman Jerry Grossman to make edits to the draft memo to LARA on behalf of the board to specifically request the transfer of unused monetary funds from LARA to DNR. Those funds were acquired by LARA during the renewal period for all registrants from May 1, 2018 through July 30, 2018. Motion supported by Bill. All ayes, motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be on January 10, 2019 from 8-9 am eastern time with conference call being utilized and the Gaylord DNR CSC as the public gathering location.

Melinda noted that the Arboriculture Society of Michigan will be hosting ArborCon on February 12-13, 2019 in Lansing, Michigan and it would be good to have a brief presentation by someone from the Board about the registered forester program at that meeting. The board agreed someone will attend and give a short presentation if a time slot is available.

Let the record show that no persons of the public were in attendance and no public comment was heard.

So moved by Bill to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 am. Motion supported by Melinda. All ayes, motion carried.