MARYLAND BOARD OF FORESTERS

 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

 **Monday, April 28, 2025**

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

**LOCATION:**  100 S. Charles St.

3rd Floor

 Baltimore, MD 21201

 *(Teleconference via Google Meet and in person)*

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Michael Huneke – Chairman

 John Markovich – Vice Chair

 Jill Rhyne-Grey, Consumer Member

Brian Knox, Industry Member

Daniel Rider, Industry Member

Kala Fleming, Consumer Member

Jack Perdue, Industry Member

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Anthony DiPaolo, Industry Member

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

 Sloane Fried Kinstler, Assistant Attorney General

Sharron McNeill, Office Supervisor

**STAFF ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** None

**Call to Order**

Chairman, Michael Huneke, called the April 28, 2025, meeting of the Maryland Board of Foresters to order at 10:02 a.m. after confirming that a quorum of members was present.

Upon a motion by Mr. Markovich and a second by Ms. Rhyne-Grey, the minutes of the January 27, 2025, Business Meeting of the Board of Foresters were approved by a majority.

**Chairman’s Report**

Chairman, Michael Huneke, introduced the newest Board member, Mr. Jack Perdue. Mr. Perdue has been appointed to serve on the board as a Forester member. Chairman Huneke reminded everyone that The Maryland Delaware Society of American Foresters (“SAF”) would be conducting their spring workshop at Wakefield Valley Park in Westminster, on Thursday June 5, 2025, if any Board members may need continuing education credits there will be Continuing Education opportunities available for individuals to obtain.

Counsel reminded members to notify Director Dorsey if they will attend the meeting, so as Board staff could provide the required public notice if a quorum would be present at the SAF meeting and of the possibility that Board business could be discussed.

**Executive Director’s Report**

None.

**Old Business**

Correspondence Seeking Change in Education Requirements

The Board continued its discussion regarding amending forester pre-license education requirements. Upon further discussion with the full Board being present, the Board decided that, under Business Occupations and Professions Article, § 7-304, Annotated Code of Maryland, the Board would recommend legislation to amend the applicable law to require that an applicant shall have been graduated on completion of an accredited 4-year curriculum in forestry from a college or university that is approved by the Board *and* accredited by the Society of American Foresters (SAF) or meet an equivalent standard. The Board wishes to move forward with a legislative proposal and conferred with Counsel regarding such legislation. The Board acknowledged that if the proposed legislation could not be pursued as a Departmental bill, the proposal could be pursued by a private citizen or industry organization for the 2026 session.

Chairman Michael Huneke asked Board staff if they had any updates. Executive Director Christopher Dorsey stated that he did not have any updates, but once Director Dorsey received a decision from the Office of the Secretary on the proposed legislation, he would inform Chairman Huneke.

**New Business**

No New Business to consider.

**Closed Session**

Chairman, Michael Huneke advised that it was necessary for the Board to convene in a closed session to discuss one license application, in accordance with § 3-305(b)(2) and (7) of the Gen. Prov. Art., Md. Ann. Code, to protect the privacy and reputation of a license applicant and to obtain advice provided by Counsel regarding the license application. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

Upon a motion by Mr. Markovich, seconded by Mr. Rider, and unanimously carried, the State Board of Foresters entered a closed session at 10:33 a.m., via Google Meets, pursuant to § 3-305(c) of the Gen. Prov. Art., Md. Ann. Code.

The Board reviewed one (1) license application during the closed session:

OR-1

The Board considered the license application for an individual who obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Resource Management from West Virginia University, in December 2004, but had not provided an official transcript. The applicant documented work experience as a Procurement Forester and a Consultant Forester from 12/2001 to the present. The Board discussed the applicant’s education, references, and degree in forestry, and has satisfied the educational requirements. The Board decided that the applicant has met all 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. provided he supplies an official transcript.

OR-01: Upon a motion by Mr. Perdue and seconded by Ms. Rhyne-Grey, the Board unanimously voted to accept the license application contingent upon receiving the acceptable transcript. Staff were directed to process the application upon receipt of the transcript.

**Return to Business Meeting**

The Board unanimously voted to reconvene the Business Meeting at 10:42 a.m. upon a motion made by Mr. Markovich, seconded by Mr. Rider, which was passed unanimously.

Upon returning to the Business Meeting, Mr. Rider moved that the Board approve its actions taken during the closed session of April 28, 2025. Mr. Perdue seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, upon a motion by Mr. Markovich and seconded by Ms. Rhyne-Grey, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:44 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

July 28, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

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 provide notice if they require parking.

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

Signature on file 8/11/2025

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Signature of Board Chair Date