

**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS REGISTRATION**

P.O. Box 944246

SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460

Website: http://bof.fire.ca.gov/professional_foresters_registration/

(916) 653-8031



PFEC Open

Professional Foresters Examining Committee Meeting Minutes

Held: June 5, 2026

OPEN SESSION MINUTES**Members Present:**

- Frank Mulhair, Chair
- Dan Sendek
- Danielle Lindler
- James Hawkins (Late Arrival)
- David Lile
- Jason Poburko
- Christian Eggleton (Late Arrival)

Staff Participating:

- Dan Stapleton, Assistant Executive Officer, Licensing
- Deniele Casarubbia, Staff Services Analyst, Licensing
- Mazonika Kemp, Records Administrator

Call to Order**Review of Draft February 2026 PFEC Open Session Meeting Minutes****Member Lindler moves to approve the minutes.****Member Sendek seconds the motion.****Roll Call:**

Dan Sendek	Aye
Danielle Lindler	Aye
David Lile	Abstain
Jason Poburko	Aye
Frank Mulhair, Chair	Aye

The motion passes with one abstention.

Executive Officer Report

E.O. Stapleton revealed that there was one new complaint of unlicensed practice in Calaveras County. A letter was sent to the individual and there has been no response to date. The letter was also sent to the following grantor organizations prior to the complaint:

- Cal Fire grants
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- Tahoe National Forest Foundation
- The California Department of Conservation (for RCDs)
- NCRS
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- The Wildlife Board.

In terms of renewals, Licensing is currently more than ½ way through the 2026 renewal year with everything looking normal in terms of the number of withdrawals and voluntary relinquishments.

Regarding exams, 65 sat for the April RPF exam. 47 took the exam on computers. The exam participation for April is a 20-year high. E.O. Stapleton expects another high turnout for the October exam.

At their May meeting, the Board approved the draft plead for exam fee amendments. With the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) approval, the application fee will be \$450 in 2027. The draft plead also included the revisions to qualifying forestry work experience. There were two friendly amendments considered and approved by the Board. The Board and Board Chair made it clear they support modifications to the rules to increase RPF exam participation and licensing output.

E.O. Stapleton reported that the APF program will be resubmitted for review to the Board either in June or July so it can be re-sent to OAL with the recommended changes and clarifications.

Since Bob Heald has retired as Master Examiner, YG Gentry will fill in for one exam (October 2026). Professor Doug Piirto has been offered the contract starting in January 2027.

Bob Heald, who has worked for the Board in various appointed or contracted positions since 1984, will receive a Distinguished Service Award from the Board in July or August.

Since E.O. Stapleton will be retiring this year in either November or December, the Board's EO received permission to fill his position prior to his retirement so he can train the new Licensing EO. The position will likely be flown in July or August.

CRM Update

Member Lile presented updates on efforts to increase the number of CRM licenses. He noted that the program currently receives only a few applications each year.

One strategy to increase both applications and licenses is to expand educational opportunities that allow individuals to complete the educational requirements for CRM qualifications.

Another approach is to enhance outreach efforts by promoting available career opportunities and increasing awareness and understanding of the CRM program.

Discussion of Continuing Education for RPF's

There was a general discussion for continuing education requirements.

Discussion of Exam Grading Policy and Process

The PFEC reviewed the policy for the Review of Applications for Registration as a Professional Forester under Title 14, California Code of Regulations (14 CCR), Sections 1600.

There was discussion to revise the application process that would require applicants to provide written verification from their qualifying supervisors. The proposed change is intended to help alleviate the workload of the Licensing Office by ensuring supporting documentation is submitted with the application.

Discussion of Processes Associated with the Proposed APF Program

The PFEC reviewed the language for the process of accepting APF Applications.

Discussion of Exam Format

Citing PRC 769, E.O. Stapleton presented a need to develop a new format for the forester's examination.

Discussion of how the Department of Consumer Affairs Treats Unlicensed Practice

The PFEC reviewed the Department of Consumer Affairs' policies and procedures regarding unlicensed practice to explore potential improvements with handling those who practice forestry without a license.

Public Forum

None

Meeting Adjourned