

Oklahoma Senate Committee on Appropriations

2013-14 Performance Report

State Board of Registration for Foresters

AGENCY MISSION STATEMENT:

The **Mission Statement** of the Forester's Board is to protect the public from misrepresentation by registering individuals qualified to be foresters by reason of education and experience in the various disciplines of forestry.

The statement was approved by the five members of the Board of Registration for Foresters. The exact date is not known, although it could have been during the Sunset Review of 1981 or, at the latest, the initial strategic planning document in 2001.

LEAD ADMINISTRATOR:

Dr. Edwin L. Miller, Chair

OSU Dept. of Ag Sciences & Natural Resources

2117 Copperfield, Stillwater, OK 74074-2150

Home: (405) 372-4494

Work: (405) 744-2747

FAX: (405) 744-5339

Cell: (405) 880-2151

E-mail: ed.miller@okstate.edu

GOVERNANCE:

Here a brief description of the agency's governance structure should be provided. Is the agency headed by a Governor appointee? An appointee of an independent board? Who selects the board, and who are the current members of the board.

The Board of Registration for Foresters is comprised of five appointed members. By law, the Board must always have representation of an educational institution, private forest industry and a public agency. Member qualifications are defined in O.S. 59, Sec. 1204 (must be a U.S. citizen, State resident, qualified as a registered forester in Oklahoma and with ten years or more professional forestry experience). The term of office is five years. Board members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

Current Board members are: Dr. Edwin L. Miller, Stillwater; Dr. Craig R. McKinley, Stillwater; Roger Griffin, Broken Bow; Tom Jackson, Antlers; and Kurtis L. Atkinson, Edmond.

Does the Board have any committees or subgroups? No

GOVERNANCE ACCOUNTABILITY:

Is there an attendance policy for board members/commissioners? If so, is it being followed? No, but Board members may be removed for cause.

MODERNIZATION EFFORTS:

Please provide a listing of all government modernization efforts undertaken by the agency since July 1, 2010. Additionally, please provide any authorizing statutory changes that

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prompted the modernization efforts and whether those efforts have led to cost savings or additional cost burden.

Most forester renewal notices are sent via e-mail rather than U.S. mail which is a considerable savings. Application forms were converted to an e-mailable document to facilitate the application process. Wallet cards issued to registered foresters annually are created and printed electronically in-house, saving some printing costs. The agency is currently working with OSU students to design a website, taking advantage of their need for a class project. To expect a non-appropriated agency to comply with all requirements in CORE using an all-volunteer Board is unreasonable and cost-prohibitive.

What steps has the agency taken to cut costs and/or eliminate waste? Are there efforts that have been successful which you believe could serve as a model for other state agencies seeking to keep costs minimal?

Reduction of postage and printing costs and increased use of e-mail have helped reduce costs, but nothing that others have not already implemented.

CORE MISSION:

What services are you required to provide which are outside of your core mission? Are any services you provide duplicated or replicated by another agency? Are there services which are core to your mission which you are unable to perform because of requirements to perform non-core services elsewhere?

The Board does not provide any services beyond its core mission. No other entity in Oklahoma licenses or registers the forestry profession. The National Society of American Foresters (SAF) offers a forester certification program and there are 14 other states in addition to Oklahoma that operate a forester-licensing or registration program similar to ours.

PRIVATE ALTERNATIVES:

Are any of the services which are performed by the agency also performed in the private sector in Oklahoma? In other states? Has the agency been approached by any foundation, for-profit or not-for-profit corporation with efforts to privatize some of the functions of the agency?

Professional forester registration and licensing would not be appropriate for the private sector to administer. We have not been approached by other entities to take over this function.