

# Texas Accredited Forester Council

## Bylaws

### Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be the Texas Accredited Forester Council.

### Article II – Office

The principal office of the Texas Accredited Forester Council shall be at the offices of Texas Forestry Association (TFA), 1903 Atkinson Drive in Lufkin, Texas.

### Article III – Purpose

The purpose of the Texas Accredited Forester Council (herein referred to as the “TAFC”) shall be:

To recognize degreed forestry professionals who have met the educational and experience requirements established by the TAFC.

### Article IV – Membership

The TAFC membership is open to foresters who have a Bachelor of Science degree or higher in Forestry from a school with a professional curriculum accredited by the Society of American Foresters or approved by the Texas Accredited Forester Governing Board (herein referred to as the “Governing Board”); and who have five or more years of professional forestry experience as a degreed forester. A written or verbal examination is not required.

Membership may be terminated by (1) voluntary resignation, (2) failure to pay dues, (3) unethical conduct detrimental to the integrity of the forestry profession, as determined by the Governing Board; or (4) failure to maintain CEU requirements.

### Article V – Officers

The TAFC will be governed by a Chairman, Vice Chairman and ten board members who will be elected by the Governing Board and confirmed by the TFA Executive Committee. The term limit for a Chairman and Vice Chairman is two years. Board members will serve staggered three-year terms. A board member may serve consecutive terms. In addition, the following three permanent members will serve on the board: the Dean of the College of Forestry and Agriculture at SFASU; the Department Head of the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management at TAMU; and, a forest landowner appointed by TFA’s Texas Forest Landowners Council. The TFA Executive Director will serve as the Secretary-Treasurer to the TAFC.

In the event the Chairman is unable to complete the full term of office, the Vice Chairman shall succeed and complete the unexpired term prior to serving the full term as Chairman. In the event the Vice Chairman succeeds to the office of Chairman due to a vacancy in that office, or is otherwise unable to complete the term, a special election to fill the unexpired term shall be held at the first appropriate board meeting. In the event the offices of both Chairman and Vice Chairman become vacant, the Governing Board shall appoint a temporary Chairman who will serve until a new Chairman and Vice Chairman can be elected to fill the unexpired terms. Such election shall be held at the first appropriate meeting.

#### Article VI – Duties and Responsibilities of Officers

The Chairman shall be responsible for developing and continuing T AFC activities during the term of office and for organizing the membership towards meeting the objectives. The Chairman shall preside at meetings of the T AFC, oversee business affairs, appoint committees as necessary, serve as the T AFC’s representative and perform all other duties commonly incident to the office.

The Vice Chairman, in the absence of the Chairman, shall preside at all meetings, and act for the Chairman in all T AFC matters.

#### Article VII – Meetings

The Governing Board of the T AFC will meet a minimum of twice a year. Other meeting times will be at the call of the Chairman, providing notice at least ten (10) days in advance of the meeting. Notifications shall include announcements of official business to be brought before the Governing Board of the T AFC. Official business matters which cannot be delayed until the next regular meeting may be submitted to the Governing Board by postal mail or electronic mail.

#### Article VIII – Quorum

A simple majority of the Governing Board must be present to conduct official business of the T AFC, except as noted otherwise. Proxies count in determining a quorum.

#### Article IX – Dues

TFA member annual dues: \$30 per year plus the appropriate category of TFA membership dues.

Non-TFA member annual dues: \$150 per year.

The annual dues for each member shall be payable when billed and members who do not pay their annual dues will be ineligible to hold office and will be subject to loss of T AFC membership.

## Article X – Continuing Education

Texas Accredited Foresters will be required to complete 10 hours of continuing education (CE) each year to maintain eligibility. CE units must be submitted to and approved by the Governing Board.

## Article XI – Failure to Maintain Eligibility, Reinstatement, Removal

Texas Accredited Foresters who fail to maintain eligibility by December 31 of the two-year eligibility term will become inactive. Inactive Texas Accredited Foresters who fulfill the CE requirements within the following year shall be reinstated upon payment of \$60 reinstatement fee. Inactive Texas Accredited Foresters who do not fulfill the CE requirements during the following year will be removed as Texas Accredited Foresters and shall not be eligible to reapply for membership until the year following removal.

## Article XII – Amendments

Change proposals may be submitted to the Chairman or Vice Chairman. The Chairman or Vice Chairman in conjunction with the TFA Executive Director will review the requested change with those making the request. After review, the change will be submitted to the TAFC for acceptance or denial. A two-thirds vote of all TAFC members is required to change the bylaws. Voting may be done by written or electronic proxy.

Amended Article X September 10, 2019

# Texas Accredited Forester Code of Ethics

A Texas Accredited Forester is expected to maintain the highest possible professional standards in their work. Being responsible for the stewardship of natural resources, they must therefore follow exemplary guiding principles in their professional conduct. All members wishing to obtain the Texas Accredited Foresters status agree to abide by this code as a condition of membership.

## Knowledge of Natural Resources/Continuing Education

- It is the professional and ethical responsibility of a Texas Accredited Forester to manage natural resources for both current and future generations. The application of scientifically proven practices is of utmost importance.
- A Texas Accredited Forester will build on their professional education and training by continuing to learn new information and stay up to date on current practices and management options.

## Professionalism

- A Texas Accredited Forester has a responsibility to benefit society through their knowledge and expertise. They are expected to cooperate within the profession by interchanging information, advertising in an honest and dignified manner, and treating the public, clients, employees and other professionals with respect.

## Public Outreach

- As a representative of the forestry profession, a Texas Accredited Forester will endeavor to present accurate information to the public and to also challenge statements concerning the profession of forestry that are untrue and/or factually misrepresented.

## Interactions with Clients and Employers

- Loyalty to the profession and their clients is an expectation of a Texas Accredited Forester. This includes maintaining confidentiality of information where appropriate, avoiding conflicts of interest, and honest reporting of effort performed and expected payment for services rendered.
- Texas Accredited Foresters will advocate for sustainable forest management that meets the client's objectives and professional standards. They must then also advise any overruling authority of the expected consequences when deviating from those professional standards.
- Texas Accredited Foresters will also always make it known upon whose behalf they are acting, whether it is themselves, a client, or the Texas Forestry Association.

## Interactions with Professional Foresters

- A Texas Accredited Forester is expected to establish high personal standards of ethical behavior for themselves, and should expect those same standards from other Texas Accredited Foresters.
- Texas Accredited Foresters are charged with safeguarding the profession and this accreditation from persons lacking adequate training or ethics. If a Texas Accredited Forester has knowledge and established evidence of unprofessional conduct against another accredited forester, they are required to report such evidence to the Governing Board.