

Discipline Case: 2011-02

Subject Member: Mr. Angus Hope, RPF

Referred to: Complaints Resolution Committee

Date of Decision: February 2013

Allegations

On May 26, 2011, the ABCFP received a complaint in respect to the professional practice of Angus Hope, RPF. The complaint alleges that:

- Mr. Hope has over several years continuously submitted substandard and inaccurate appraisal data to the Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO), a number of which had monetary implications and could potentially affect stumpage rates.
- Mr. Hope underwent a professional practice review in 2010; despite the practice review, the appraisal data submissions have not improved.

The registrar accepted the complaint on the basis that, if proven, the allegations would involve a breach of the *Foresters Act*, the bylaws, or the resolutions of the association. The complaint was referred to the Standing Investigations Committee to conduct an investigation under section 24 of the *Foresters Act*. The Terms of Reference provided to committee identified that Mr. Hope may have contravened Bylaw 11.4.1 – To inspire confidence in the profession by maintaining high standards in conduct and daily work.

Decision

The investigation noted that none of the errors were found to be the result of poor field practices or the failure to gather adequate appraisal information. The evidence did not support a conclusion that Mr. Hope was intentionally trying to introduce bias in the appraisals in favour of lower stumpage rates for his clients. His actions were simply the result of a lack of due diligence in entering data into the Ministry appraisal system. There is also no evidence that Mr. Hope received any personal benefit from the appraisal errors note in the complaint.

Mr. Hope has acknowledged that there were errors made in his appraisal submissions for which he is professionally responsible. These errors should not have been made, and should have been discovered and rectified had the review process he employed been adequate. He has acknowledged that he did not maintain a high standard with several appraisal submissions when preparing the submissions.

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Mr. Hope has subsequently contracted the completion and submission of appraisals to a third party and will not be submitting appraisals in the future. However, he will continue to be the licensee representative on future appraisal submissions.

One goal of the complaint resolution process is to reach a settlement that meets the requirements of and is acceptable to both the complainant and the member subject to the complaint. After discussions with the complainants and with Mr. Hope, the parties to the complaint have agreed that an appropriate settlement for this complaint will include:

1. Mr. Hope will send a letter of apology with regards to his professional behaviour to the complainants and to the ABCFP.
2. The ABCFP will publish this case digest which outlines the complaint and names Mr. Hope.

Mr. Hope has sent his letter of apology to the complainants and to the ABCFP. The publication of this case digest will constitute the final action required to complete the agreement between the parties to the complaint.

This complaint is now closed.