

Case: 2015-02

Subject Member: Registered Professional Forester

Referred to: Complaints Resolution Committee

Date of Decision: May 2015

Allegations

This complaint was submitted by the ABCFP president as per Section 22(2) of the *Foresters Act*. The allegations stemmed from a Forest Practices Board (FPB) audit of forest road crossings and related to an RPF's role in the planned harvest of timber on a Woodlot license. The FPB audit found that a new crossing that was installed to access the timber was not constructed adequately and was missing the appropriate paperwork. The subject member associated with the crossing in the FPB audit was identified because he was hired by the Woodlot licensee to look after the timber development. The subject member insisted that the crossing was a log culvert, not a bridge; therefore the requirements for installation were different. The FPB audit however, showed that the crossing met the definition of a bridge.

The Complaints Resolution Committee (CRC) reviewed the allegations and asked for clarification regarding the subject member's role in the crossing installation. The subject member confirmed that he did not have a written contract with the licensee and was not involved in the design or installation of the crossing in question. The crossing was installed by a logging contractor as part of the road and cut block development, separate from the planning work conducted by the subject member.

Decision

The CRC considered the allegations and the subject member's response; finding that without a direct line of responsibility for the audited crossing, the subject member did not have responsibility for the work. While the CRC was concerned about the lack of oversight for the planning and installation of the crossing, they did not find that the subject member was responsible; as it was not included in any scope of his work. As per Bylaw 13.16.4, the CRC believed that there was insufficient grounds to support an investigation and recommended to the registrar that the case be dismissed. The registrar agreed with this recommendation and the complaint is now closed.