

SC SOIL CLASSIFIERS ADVISORY COUNCIL

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

4931 BROAD RIVER ROAD

COLUMBIA, SC 29212

MINUTES OF MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2008

Members Present:

John H. Thorp

Charles M. Ogg

Bill R. Smith

M. Lance Brewington

Randall K. Fowler

Others:

Sherri F. Moorer

Chairman Thorp called the meeting to order at 10:15 A.M.

MOTION: Motion to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2007 meeting with minor modifications was made by Lance Brewington. Bill Smith seconded the motion. Council unanimously concurred.

Old Business

1. Ms. Moorer distributed a letter she received from David K. Huff, Chairman of the Georgia Soil Classifiers Certification Committee. They recently voted to waive the examination requirement for individuals licensed as soil scientists in other jurisdictions, but maintain that all candidates must meet the education and experience requirements in their law. Georgia implemented the ARCPACS as their official examination on January 1, 2008.
2. Mr. Thorp asked Dr. Smith if there are any professors at Clemson University that would be willing to teach continuing education courses. Dr. Smith said there are currently three professors in soils at Clemson, and one is retired. They currently offer the Certified Crop Advisors Training in the fall of the year. This is a day and a half course. Although this is not strictly a soils event, one day does focus on soils. Mr. Fowler told council that North Carolina offers opportunities for continuing education, but many of them aren't directly focused on soils. All other states with laws registering soil classifiers or soil scientists have a continuing education requirement. He said the SC Code of Laws, Section 40-65-10(g) states that the practice of soil classifying "shall mean any service or work the adequate performance of which requires

education in the physical, chemical, biological and soil sciences, training and experience in the application of the special knowledge of these sciences to soil classification.” Mr. Thorp asked Ms. Moorer if she could have our legal advisor review the law to see if this section would allow council to implement a continuing education component to license renewals. Education is ongoing, and he believes it is important, especially with the focus of soil classifying work drifting toward wastewater and hydrology. Ms. Moorer told council that if they want to propose adding continuing education, there needs to be a way to fulfill that requirement in SC. Mr. Fowler suggested resuming field trips, or offering three day field reviews. He said on-line courses could also count toward fulfilling the requirement. Mr. Ogg said council would also need to suggest an acceptable number of hours and what the cycle would be for collecting those hours. He suggested starting with a low requirement of hours over a period of two or three years. Mr. Fowler said he would get information on the continuing education requirements in Georgia and North Carolina. Ms. Moorer said she have Buford Mabry of the SC Department of Natural Resources Legal Department review the statute to see if council can impose a continuing education component on license renewals.

New Business

1. Ms. Moorer distributed a list of the approved soil courses for the education requirement in our law. The law currently requires at least fifteen semester hours in soils, however, a number of registrants have inquired about having geology courses count toward this requirement. Mr. Fowler said fifteen hours is considerable and he can understand implementing some substitute courses, but the concentration still needs to be on soils. Mr. Brewington said he could understand counting one geology course toward the requirement, but he still believes the additional twelve hours need to be in soils courses. Dr. Smith said physical geology and geomorphology are closely related to soils, and those courses should count toward the requirement. Mr. Ogg asked council what hiring firms require. Do they look at the actual coursework, or do they go by the area the degree is in? For example, USDA requires 15 hours of soil courses. Mr. Thorpe said there is no hard policy on coursework with private firms, but if they want an employee to become registered then they might make it a consideration. Mr. Fowler pointed out that while the approved course list is a good reference, they have been reviewing candidates on a case-by-case basis. He agrees that at least twelve hours of the requirement should be in soils courses and it would be acceptable to substitute one course with something in a related field. Council agreed to continue reviewing candidates on a case-by-case basis. They will review the approved course list for possible modifications.

Review of Candidates

Council approved candidates for registration as follows:

1. Byron Lane Rivenbark: MS Forest Resources 2002 – University of Georgia
Passed ARCPACS – March 28, 2007
SC Soil Classifier #69
Licensed November 13, 2007

2. Traivis Levorn Young: BS Environmental Science 1999 – Alabama A&M University
Passed Georgia Exam – May 4, 2001
GA Certified Soil Classifier #169
SC Soil Classifier #70
Licensed November 13, 2007

3. Jacob Blair Presley: BS Agronomy 2003 – NC State University
Passed ARCPACS – October 29, 2006
NC Soil Scientist #1283
SC Soil Classifier #71
Licensed December 7, 2007

4. Kevin Louis Smith: BSA 2000 – University of Georgia
Passed Georgia Exam – December 6, 2000
GA Certified Soil Classifier #187
SC Soil Classifier #72
Licensed December 7, 2007

5. Jeffrey David Vaughan: Doctor of Philosophy 1997 (Soil Science) – NC State University
Passed ARCPACS – October 16, 1999
NC Soil Scientist #1227
SC Soil Classifier #73
Licensed December 7, 2007

6. Troy Neal Smith: BSES 2005 – University of Georgia

Passed Georgia Exam – August 28, 2006

GA Certified Soil Scientist (Number Unavailable)

SC Soil Classifier #74

Licensed March 13, 2008

Disapproved Candidates

1. Council put the application for Michael H. Athanas on hold. Mr. Brewington said it came to his attention that Mr. Athanas might have done soil classifying work in SC without a license. He will provide the information he has to Ms. Moorer, and she will contact Leonard Gordon with DHEC to see if they can obtain additional information on this issue.
2. Council put the application of Gary Scott Kreiser on hold. Mr. Kreiser has one year, ten months of experience under a registered soil scientist. Ms. Moorer will contact his employer in late May to verify his continued employment. If he has successfully completed the two year experience requirement at that time, council will review his application again.
3. Council disapproved Matthew Haydon O'Brien for registration. Mr. O'Brien has violated the practice act in our law on several occasions. O'Brien was notified of the title and practice act in our law in July 2004 when a Cease and Desist Letter was mailed to him. He called Ms. Moorer after receiving it to indicate that he was unaware of our law and to request an application; however, he did not apply for licensure until September 19, 2007. It has come to Council's attention that Mr. O'Brien performed work on the White Soils Tract in May 2006, once again in violation of our law. Council feels this demonstrates a breach of the Code of Ethics. Also, Mr. O'Brien only has one year, three months of verified experience under a registered soil scientist, so he does not fully meet the experience requirement in our law.

Other Business

1. Mr. Thorp asked Ms. Moorer if she could develop a form to mail to other state boards when applicants apply for registration by comity. He wants to obtain information on licensure status, passing examination scores, and possible disciplinary action directly from the state boards. Ms. Moorer said she would make a verification form and E-mail it to council for their review.
2. Ms. Moorer will mail applications for James Wendell Overby, Barret Lee Kays, and Laura Elizabeth Kanagy to council for review. Mr. Overby and Dr. Kays are applying for licensure by comity with NC. Ms. Kanagy is applying to become a soil classifier-in-training in SC.

There being no further business:

MOTION: Motion to adjourn was made by John Thorp. Randall Fowler seconded the motion. Council unanimously concurred. The meeting adjourned at 12:50 P.M.