

MINUTES

South Carolina Environmental Certification Board

Board Meeting

February 6, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building
110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, South Carolina
Midlands Conference Room

Call to Order

Ken Rentiers, Chairman, called the SC Environmental Certification Board meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Statement of Public Notice

Mr. Rentiers announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S.C. Board of Environmental Certification office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. Members of the public who wish to observe may do so in person or by live streaming at: <https://lr.sc.gov/env/videos.aspx>

Staff members in attendance: Johnnie Rose, Board Executive; Molly Price, Program Director; Cleve Langdale, Program Coordinator; Carolyn Sutherland, Advice Counsel; Chris Elliot, Disciplinary Counsel and Maurice Smith, Investigations and Enforcements.

Invocation

Ken Tuck gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: Mr. Castleberry made a motion to approve the February 6, 2025, agenda. Mr. Thompson-King seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Introduction of Board Members and Others

Mr. Ken Rentiers introduced himself and the following board members: Vice Chair, Phillip Thompson-King, Ronald J. Swearingen, Douglas Kinard, Jason Fell, William Van Ward, Ken Tuck, and Joshua Castleberry. Also present was Katherine Boone – Creel Court Reporting.

Approval of Excused Absences

No absences were noted.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – November 7, 2024

MOTION: Mr. Thompson-King made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2024, meeting. Mr. Swearingen seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Board Chairman's Remarks – J. Kenneth Rentiers, Chair

Chair Rentiers thanked the Board members and staff for their diligence and efforts in maintaining certification standards and commended the team for their work in organizing the meeting.

Staff Reports

Board Executive's Report and Financial Report – Johnnie Rose

Mr. Rose provided updates on legislative matters, renewal processes, and board finances. The Board's cash balance as of December 31, 2024, was \$501,574.90. He also reminded board members of the upcoming renewal period beginning in April and emphasized the importance of timely Statement of Economic Interest filings.

Office of Investigations and Enforcement – Maurice Smith

Mr. Smith reported zero complaints filed this year and 3 active investigations from January 1, 2025 to February 6, 2025.

Office of Disciplinary Counsel Report – Chris Elliot

Mr. Elliot reported 4 active cases with 2 nearing resolution, but no actions required by the Board.

Application Hearings

Scott Law – Biological Wastewater Operator Reciprocity

MOTION: Mr. Thompson-King made a motion to approve Scott Law for an A-level Biological Wastewater Operator license based on experience, education, and examination. Mr. Tuck seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Scott Monahan – Biological Wastewater and Physical/Chemical Wastewater Reciprocity

MOTION: Mr. Thompson-King made a motion to approve Scott Monahan for an A-level Biological Wastewater and A-level Physical/Chemical Wastewater license based on experience, education, and examination. Mr. Tuck seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Old Business

Virtual Registration Pocket Cards for Annual Renewals

Mr. Rose requested additional time to gather more information before presenting a final recommendation at a future meeting. The item was deferred to the next meeting.

New Business

WPI Update and Authorization for Examination Review Committee to Review and Approve National Standardized Examinations

Molly Price, Program Director, provided an update on the 2025 WPI conference and the new exams being developed. She outlined the timeline for moving forward with new exams, including

the need for board approval and the potential for customized exams. The board discussed the pros and cons of using the new standardized exams versus developing customized exams. The board agreed to schedule an exam review committee meeting and a special called meeting in late February or early March to review and approve the exams. The board discussed the importance of public awareness and communication with licensees regarding the new exams.

Review and Approval of Examination Symposium

Discussion of the examination symposium was deferred to the next meeting.

Review and Recommendations of Updated Continuing Education Courses and Guidelines

Johnnie Rose presented the new continuing education guidelines from WPI. Molly Price explained the potential benefits of using CE Broker for compliance and auditing purposes, emphasizing the need for a pilot audit to familiarize everyone with the system.

Review and Approval of Auditing Process for Continuing Education Credits for Compliance

MOTION: Mr. Castleberry made a motion to approve a 4% audit of Continuing Education. Mr. Tuck seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

A recess was taken from 11:58 to 12:03.

Election of Officers

MOTION: Mr. Thompson-King made a motion to elect Ken Rentiers as Chair. Mr. Kinard seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Kinard made a motion to elect Phillip Thompson-King as Vice Chair. Mr. Ward seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Public Comments

Jim Matthews expressed appreciation for the board's efforts and requested copies of the new need-to-know list and revised continuing education list.

John Young highlighted the short timeline for reviewing exams and the need for more volunteers.

Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Thompson-King made a motion to adjourn at 12:23 p.m. Mr. Castleberry seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.