

MINUTES
South Carolina Environmental Certification Board
Board Meeting
April 24, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.
Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building
110 Centerview Drive, Upstate Conference Room
Columbia, South Carolina

Call to Order

Chairman Rentiers 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.

Invocation

Ken Tuck gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: **Mr. Thompson-King** moved to approve the April 24, 2025, agenda.
 Mr. Ward seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Introduction of Board Members and Others

Board members participating included: Ken Rentiers (Chair), Phillip Thompson-King (Vice Chair), William Van Ward, Jay Swearingen, Ken Tuck, Doug Kinard, Josh Castleberry, and Jason Fell.

Staff Members participating included: Johnnie Rose, Board Executive; Molly Price, Program Director; Cleve Langdale, Program Coordinator; Hardwick Stuart, Advice Counsel; Chris Elliot, Office of Disciplinary Counsel; Maurice Smith, Investigations and Enforcement; Hardwick Stuart, Advice Counsel; and Elizabeth Holt, Creel Court Reporting.

Approval of Excused Absences

No absences were noted.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOTION: **Mr. Swearingen moved** to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2025, Board Meeting and the April 4, 2025, Exam Review Committee Meeting. Mr. Thompson-King seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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

Chair Rentiers thanked the Board and staff for their continued commitment and praised their service.

Staff Reports

a. Board Executive's Report – Johnnie Rose

Mr. Rose reported on license renewal timelines, informing the Board the 2025-2026 renewal will open on April 1, 2025, closing June 30, 2025. He reminded members that the Statement of Economic Interest filings had been completed. The Board's cash balance as of February 28, 2025, was \$446,043.90.

b. Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE) – Maurice Smith

OIE Status Report

Mr. Smith reported 40 complaints from January 1 to April 18, 2025. There were 3 active investigations, 31 cases closed, and 6 pending.

Investigative Review Conference (IRC) Report

The Board reviewed one case for dismissal, one case for a formal complaint, one case with a formal complaint and citation issued, and one letter of caution.

MOTION: **Mr. Thompson-King moved** to approve the IRC recommendations. Mr. Tuck seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

c. Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) Report – Chris Elliot

Mr. Elliot reported 4 active cases. No board action was required. A hearing may be scheduled for the July meeting.

Application Hearings

a. Brook, Michael – EWD

Mr. Brook appeared before the Board for an application hearing. He was not represented by counsel. All persons testifying were sworn in by court reporter. Application hearings are recorded by a certified court reporter in the event a verbatim transcript is necessary.

b. Henry, Matthew – EWD

Mr. Henry appeared before the Board for an application hearing. He was not represented by counsel. All persons testifying were sworn in by court reporter. Application hearings are recorded by a certified court reporter in the event a verbatim transcript is necessary.

- MOTION:** **Mr. Thompson-King moved** to enter Executive Session for legal advice.
Mr. Castleberry seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- MOTION:** **Mr. Thompson-King moved** to leave Executive Session.
Mr. Ward seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. No actions were taken during Executive Session.
- MOTION:** **Mr. Swearingen moved** to approve Mr. Brook for a B-level Rock Driller license.
Mr. Fell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- MOTION:** **Mr. Swearingen moved** that Mr. Henry be required to sit for the B- level examination before being eligible for licensure.
Mr. Thompson-King seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

New Business

- MOTION:** **Mr. Thompson-King moved** that New Business item ‘a’, ‘Review and Update of Examination Symposium’ – be deferred until after the other New Business items.
Mr. Fell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

b. Review of and Recommendation of Water Professionals International (WPI) 2025 Standardized Exams by Exam Review Committee.

Committee members presented their findings. Water Distribution and Water Treatment exams were recommended for approval. Wastewater Treatment exams received detailed critique for question quality and unclear certification level distinctions, and were not recommended for approval.

c. Decision on Water Professionals International (WPI) 2025 Standardized Exams

- MOTION:** **Mr. Castleberry moved** to approve WPI’s 2025 Standardized Exams for all levels of Biological Waster and Water Distribution, and for levels D-A of Water Treatment.
Mr. Thompson-King seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- MOTION:** **Mr. Tuck moved** to remove the fourth hour from all exams except the ‘A’ and ‘B’ level exams.
Mr. Thompson-King seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

a. Review and Update of Examination Symposium

Molly Price provided an update on the current logistics and agenda for the Examination Symposium. The Board deferred final planning for the Exam Symposium until the standardized exams are implemented and additional feedback is received from participating associations.

Public Comments

There were no Public Comments.

Adjournment

MOTION: **Mr. Thompson-King** moved to adjourn at 12:38 p.m.
 Mr. Ward seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.