

MINUTES
South Carolina Environmental Certification Board
Board Meeting
October 30, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.
Synergy Business Park, Kingtree Building
110 Centerview Drive, Upstate Conference Room
Columbia, South Carolina

Call to Order

Following a delay due to technical difficulties, Vice Chair Phillip Thompson-King called the SC Environmental Certification Board meeting to order at 10:23 a.m.

Statement of Public Notice

Vice Chair Thompson-King stated that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S.C. Board of Environmental Certification office, Synergy Business Park, Kingtree 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. Tuck moved to approve the agenda with Item 12(b) tabled until the January meeting. Mr. Swearingen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Introduction of Board Members and Others

Board members present included: Phillip Thompson-King, Doug Kinard, Ken Tuck, Van Ward and Jay Swearingen.

Staff members present included: Johnnie Rose, Board Executive; Hardwick Stuart, Advice Counsel; Cleve Langdale, Program Coordinator; Maurice Smith, Office of Investigations and Enforcement; and Chris Elliott, Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

Also in attendance was Nadine Garret of Creel Court Reporting.

Approval of Excused Absences

MOTION: Mr. Kinard motioned to excuse the absences of Ken Rentiers, Josh Castleberry and Jason Fell. Mr. Ward seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – July 24, 2025

MOTION: Mr. Ward motioned to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2025 Board meeting, with the correction that the meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM, not 10:45 PM.
Mr. Kinard seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Board Chairman’s Remarks

Vice-Chair Thompson-King offered brief remarks thanking board members and staff for their continued service.

Staff Reports

a. Board Executive’s Report – Johnnie Rose

Mr. Rose provided general program updates, specifically noting the opening of legislative session in January. There are a few items that we will continue to update you on, however, at the commencement of the session, I will be updating via email until the session closes.

Mr. Rose also stated, that if you receive any correspondence from the general public, please forward them over to board staff, and board staff will address their concerns.

Mr. Rose stated that as of May 31, 2025, the Board had a cash balance of \$533,788.84.

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

i. OIE Status Report

Mr. Smith presented the OIE Status Report. Since January 1, 2025 there have been 19 complaints, with 1 active, 15 closed, and 3 pending.

ii. IRC Report

Mr. Smith presented the IRC Status Report. There was one case recommended for dismissal and one case recommended for a formal citation.

MOTION: Mr. Kinard made a motion to approve the Investigative Review Conference recommendations. Mr. Ward seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Elliott presented the ODC report and noted two cases have been closed since the first of the year, and a contested hearing will be scheduled for the January board meeting.

Application Hearing – Billin, Adam (EPC)

Mr. Billin 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. Tuck moved to enter Executive Session at 10:58 a.m. for the purpose of receiving legal advice. Mr. Ward seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Tuck moved to exit Executive Session at 11:21 a.m. Mr. Ward seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. No action was taken during Executive Session.

MOTION: Mr. Ward moved to deny the application on the basis that the applicant is not licensed in a jurisdiction of the United States. Mr. Kinard seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

New Business

a. Review of Pass/Fail Reports for the New Standardized Exams through WPI

The Board reviewed the pass and fail reports for the new standardized exams provided by Water Professionals International. The reports the Board reviewed were from August 2025 to October 2025, showing a positive increase with the passing rate.

b. Review and Discussion on the Process for Updating Customized Certification Exams through WPI

This item was tabled until the January meeting.

c. Travel Approval for WPI Conference – LIC26, January 27, 2026 through January 30, 2026 in Hilton Head Island, SC

MOTION: Mr. Tuck moved that up to 3 board members and 2 staff members be approved to travel to the annual WPI conference. Mr. Ward seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Tuck moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:32 a.m. Mr. Swearingen seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.