MINUTES

South Carolina Environmental Certification Board
Board Meeting
January 22, 2026, 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 meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

Statement of Public Notice

Chair Ken Rentiers stated 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

The invocation was given.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: Mr. Thompson-King moved to adopt the agenda with Item 11(a) continued. Mr. Fell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Introduction of Board Members and Others

Board members present included: Chair Ken Rentiers, Vice Chair Phillip Thompson-King, Doug Kinard, Ken Tuck, Van Ward, Jason Fell, Josh Castleberry and Jay Swearingen. A quorum was present.

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

Approval of Excused Absences

MOTION: Mr. Thompson-King moved to approve the excused absences. Mr. Swearingen seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – October 30, 2025

MOTION: Mr. Thompson-King moved to approve the minutes of the October 30, 2025, meeting. Mr. Swearingen seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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

Chairman Rentiers thanked staff and fellow Board Members for all their hard work and efforts.

Staff Reports

a. Board Executive's Report – Johnnie Rose

Mr. Rose provided general updates and financial information, including a reported balance of $452,973.72.

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

Mr. Smith reported 22 complaints, with 3 active cases and 19 closed.

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

Mr. Elliott reported 3 open cases with 1 scheduled for hearing today that was continued due to the last-minute acquisition of legal representation.

Disciplinary Hearing(s)

The disciplinary hearing was continued per the earlier motion.

Old Business

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

The Board reviewed pass/fail reports and noted this will be an ongoing effort for general improvement. Jason Fell suggested that the 'E' level Water Treatment license may be unnecessary.

b. Review and Approval for Virtual Pocket Cards for Annual Renewals

MOTION: Mr. Thompson-King moved to approve virtual pocket cards for annual renewals. Mr. Tuck seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

New Business

a. Request for Volunteers for Interagency Workforce & Development Initiative

Robert Davis and Deborah Park of the Department of Employment and Workforce presented the initiative to identify critical needs within the industry that could be addressed by their department's mission and resources. They asked for volunteers from the community and requested participation from Board Members. Volunteers included Jason Fell, Ken Tuck, Josh Castleberry, and Jay Swearingen. Discussion included workforce coordination and recognition opportunities.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Thompson-King moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:06 a.m. Mr. Kinard seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.