

**SC SOIL CLASSIFIERS ADVISORY COUNCIL
U.S. FOREST SERVICE
4931 BROAD RIVER ROAD
COLUMBIA, SC 29212
MINUTES OF MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2009**

Members Present:

Charles M. Ogg
Bill R. Smith
Randall K. Fowler
Dennis D. DeFrancesco

Others:

Chris Fincham, SCDHEC
Sherri F. Moorer, SCDNR
Ben Stuckey, Springhill Soil Consulting

Chairman Ogg called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

MOTION: Motion to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2009 meeting as read was made by Dennis DeFrancesco. Bill Smith seconded the motion. Council unanimously concurred.

Old Business

1. Ms. Moorer said she spoke with Derrick Meggie, the legislative liaison for the SC Department of Natural Resources (DNR), about the potential program move to the SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR). Mr. Meggie said he has been working with the attorney at LLR on the proposed legislation for the 2010 Legislative Session, and he will let her know when it's complete. Mr. DeFrancesco suggested putting together a fact sheet about the program that would contain concise information on the profession and the services soil classifiers provide to the public. This would prepare them for any questions or concerns that might come up as the process of presenting the legislation begins. He reminded council that Dave Hargett suggested they speak to their representatives. Council agreed that it would be a good idea.
2. Ms. Moorer told council she spoke with Jim Quinn with DNR's Legal Section. She was talking to him about another matter, but wanted to clarify if there are any instances where Legal needs to be brought in the review process for registration candidates. There have been a couple of instances when candidates did not provide full information for their applications, and the files had to go to Legal for a review to confirm what information the candidate would be required to provide to council. Mr. Quinn told her the advisory council advises the Department on these issues. The Department recognizes that the council members have specialized knowledge about the profession and are familiar with the laws and regulations for the program. Council should feel free to bring any issue of concern to the Legal staff if they have any questions about interpretation of the law or regulations.
3. Mr. Fincham said he is getting good feedback on the new 610 soil form. He is testing it with the registered soil classifiers, but the new form will not be required until it's finalized. Both the old and new form require specific information on soil taxonomy and soil series, so a registered soil

classifier will be required to complete it for DHEC approval. The new form is digital, which will make it faster and easier to complete.

New Business

1. Ms. Moorer said she is working on the Fall 2009/Winter 2010 Newsletter. She would like to have it posted to the website by mid-October. She asked that the council members send her any information for inclusion as soon as possible.
2. Ms. Moorer told council she's had some inquiries on how part time work would count toward the experience requirement. There are situations where applicants are unable to find full time employment in the field with the tough economy, and many are turning to part time or volunteer work to fulfill the experience requirement. Mr. DeFrancesco said he would like for council to maintain discretion in reviewing files, but he realizes the importance of making sure there is some uniformity in the review process. Mr. Smith agreed that he would like to continue to review files on a case by case basis. Council can calculate a table for counting part time experience in the future if this looks like an issue that becomes more common in registration applications.
3. Mr. Fowler said he is working to get a fall field trip together for the Soil Science Society of South Carolina (SSSSC). It will be held in Charleston and will probably be in early December.

Review of Complaints

1. It has come to council's attention that Lafayette Lyle submitted a soil report to DHEC. DHEC denied the permit. Council reviewed the information provided and determined that Mr. Lyle is in violation of the Title and Practice Act in our law. A Cease and Desist letter will be sent to Mr. Lyle, along with information on how to apply for registration as a Professional Soil Classifier in SC.
2. It has come to council's attention that Quore Group in Florence, SC submitted documentation to DHEC for the 610 Standard Form. Council reviewed the information provided, but did not see any soil classifying work that would be in violation of the title and practice act. Council decided not to pursue this complaint since DHEC cannot use the report and it hasn't come up for a permit at this time.
3. Mr. Fowler gave council an advertisement that appeared in a small Beaufort County newspaper. A former DHEC supervisor is advertising septic and land evaluations. There is no name on the advertisement; just a telephone number. Mr. Fowler checked this advertisement and found out the gentleman's name is Dan. There have been no permits filed in Beaufort County by this individual. Council reviewed the information and agreed that there is no violation of the title and practice at this time. DHEC is aware of this individual and council will review it further if they receive additional information on this advertisement.

Review of Candidates

Council approved candidates for registration as follows:

1. Timothy D. Kring: BSA 1987 – University of Georgia
Passed GA Exam – February 20, 2000
GA Certified Soil Classifier #101
SC Soil Classifier #87
License Issued September 10, 2009

Other Business

1. David Clayton Coyle submitted an application for licensure as a Professional Soil Classifier. Council reviewed his file and determined that his work examples do not include a complete soil reports. They requested that Mr. Coyle submit entire soil reports for review by council so they can complete the review of his application.

2. Council nominated officers for 2009 – 2010 as follows:

Chairman: Bill Smith
Vice-Chairman: Dennis DeFrancesco
Secretary: Lance Brewington

MOTION: Motion for officers to serve as nominated was made by Randall Fowler. Charles Ogg seconded the motion. Council unanimously concurred.

3. The next meeting will be held in March or April 2010. Ms. Moorer will contact the council members in February 2010 to get their schedules.

There being no further business:

MOTION: Motion to adjourn was made by Bill Smith. Randall Fowler seconded the motion. Council unanimously concurred. The meeting adjourned at 11:05 A.M.