

SOUTH CAROLINA SOIL CLASSIFIERS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building
110 Centerview Drive, Kingstree Building, Room 107
Columbia, South Carolina 29210
Minutes

Thursday, September 30, 2010

9:30 a.m.

Called To Order:

Dennis DeFrancesco, Vice- Chairman, called the regular meeting of the Soil Classifiers Advisory Council meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Other members present for the meeting included: Mr. Randall Fowler, Lance Brewington, (Secretary); and Dave Hargett.

Dennis DeFrancesco, Vice-Chairman, announced that public notice of the meeting was properly posted on the bulletin boards at the main entrance of the Kingstree Building and by notice mailed to all requesting persons, organizations and news media in accordance with §30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

Staff members participating in the meeting included: Sharon Danzler, Assistant Deputy General Counsel; Lenora Miles, Administrator; Sherri Moorer, Program Assistant; Angela D. Scott, Administrative Assistant; Jennifer Cooper, Administrative Assistant; Linda Summerford, OLC; and Steve Freshley; Investigation.

Others present participating in the meeting included: Chris Fincham, Eric Bailey, Brandon Fulton, Walker Ferguson, John Thorp, Ben Stuckey, and Dawn Ferris.

Introduction of Board Members and All Other Persons Attending:

The Board members, staff and other persons attending the meeting introduced themselves.

Approval of Agenda:

Thursday, September 30, 2010

MOTION:

Mr. Hargett moved to approve the Thursday, September 30 2010, agenda. Mr. Brewington seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Thursday, September 2, 2010

MOTION

Mr. Hargett moved to approve the Thursday September 2, 2010, meeting minutes. Mr. Brewington seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Office of General Counsel – Hearings

No hearings.

Application Hearings (If needed)

No hearings.

Approval/Disapproval of Absent Members:

Dr. Bill Smith received an excused absence.

Chairman’s Remarks:

None.

Administrator’s Remarks for Information:

Update of Licensure:

Mrs. Moorer reported the number of licensed Soil Classifiers as of today:
52- Licensed Soil Classifiers

Mrs. Moorer reported that she is currently working on the website and the applications have been forwarded to Office of General Counsel for approval. Once the applications are approved, they will be posted on the website. She

informed the Board when using licensee look-up they would need the licensees first and last name. In addition, Mrs. Moorer reported that the soil classifiers may renew online and the renewal fee is Two Hundred (\$200.00) Dollars. All licensees must renew by January 31, 2011.

Mr. DeFrancesco asked whether a list of licensees could be posted on the website in PDF format. Mrs. Moorer agreed to post the list on the website.

Financial Report:

NONE

Office of Investigators and Enforcement Report:

Mr. Steve Freshley, Chief Investigator informed Council of how the investigative process is handled. The Office of Investigations and Enforcement is responsible for investigating complaints involving a possible violation of a professional or occupational practice act. He asked Council to consider their peers and nominate two individuals not on the Council to serve on the Investigation Review Committee (IRC). The IRC Committee consists of the following: The Litigation Attorney; Field Investigation; Chief Investigator; Administrator; and someone in the profession. The Committee reviews complaints and investigates for dismissal or forward to Office of General Council for hearing.

Mrs. Sharon Danzler explained the complaint IRC process and procedures.

MOTION:

Mr. Hargett nominated Mr. Ben Stuckey, of Springhill Soil Consulting, Inc., and Mr. John Thorp, of Land Management Group to serve on the Investigative Review Committee as professional members. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Office of General Counsel Report:

Mrs. Sharon Dantzler, Assistant General Council, told Council she would be their advice attorney and answered questions regarding the process for drafting regulations.

Mrs. Moorer informed Council that a complaint form would be posted on the webpage and asked that anyone wanting to file a complaint be referred to the website.

Unfinished Business:

NONE

New Business:

Memorandum of Understanding:

Mr. DeFrancesco presented a draft copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Advisory Council and DHEC.

MOTION:

Mr. Hargett made a motion to table the discussion on the Memorandum of Understanding until the next Soil Classifiers meeting. Mr. Brewington seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Election of Officers:

Mrs. Moorer informed Council that Dr. Bill Smith has elected not to serve as an officer for the upcoming year.

Mr. DeFrancesco called for nominations from the floor for the Office of Chairman. Mr. Brewington moved to nominate Mr. Dennis DeFrancesco to serve as chairman. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed and Mr. Dennis DeFrancesco was elected by acclamation. Mr. DeFrancesco called for nominations for the Office of Vice-Chairman. Mr. Hargett moved to nominate Mr. Randall Fowler to serve as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Brewington seconded the motion. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed and Mr. Randall Fowler was elected by acclamation.

Meeting Dates for 2011:

The 2011 meetings dates are March 22, 2011 and September 20, 2011.

Dr. Dawn Ferris

Dr. Dawn Ferris, Soils Science Coordinator for the Soil Science Society of America, spoke to council about the Certified Soil Scientists Examination (CSSE). The CSSE consists of two examinations: The Fundamentals of Soil Science Exam and the Professional Practice of Soil Science Exam. Council voted to require to require successful completion of both exams for licensure at their December 2006 meeting; however, this motion has never been formally enforced, as applications have been reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Council would like to require successful completion of the Fundamentals of Soil Science Exam and the Professional Practice of Soil Science Exam in the proposed regulations. Dr. Ferris told council that both exams for the CSSE are offered in March and November through colleges and universities nationwide. It is administered at Clemson University in South Carolina on an as-needed basis. Applicants must successfully complete the Fundamentals of Soil Science Exam before they are permitted to sit for the Professional Practice of Soil Science Exam.

Dr. Ferris also spoke to council about continuing education requirements around the nation. Currently, 35 states have licensure or certification programs for soil classifiers or soil scientists, and that number is growing. Requirements for continuing education vary state by state, and a few states do not have a continuing education requirement. Dr. Ferris encouraged council to be aware of the continuing education requirements for soil classifiers and soil scientists in surrounding states when drafting regulations. Mrs. Moorer reminded council that the soil classifiers will be going to biennial license renewals in 2011, and that continuing education will not be reported until the regulations are passed, which will be the 2013 renewal cycle. Council would like to follow the procedures that LLR currently has for handling continuing education with compatible professions: Require the licensee to maintain their own records, and let the staff do random audits.

Review of Regulations

Council reviewed the preliminary draft of the regulations and suggested minor changes and improvements. Mrs. Moorer will E-mail an amended copy of the regulations to council and requested that they send her final comments by October 14, 2010. The First Draft Regulations are due to LLR's Legal Staff by November 1, 2010 and will be published in the State Register on November 26, 2010. The open comment period will be November 26, 2010 – December 27, 2010. The regulations will also be posted on the website. All comments should be directed to Mrs. Sherri Moorer. If a hearing is necessary, it will be held on Thursday, January 6, 2011 at 9:00 A.M. at the office of the SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Synergy Office Park, Kingstree Building, 110 Centerview Drive, Room 115, Columbia, SC.

Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 9:00 A.M in conference room 105.

Adjournment:

Mr. Hargett moved the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Fowler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The September 30, 2010, meeting of the South Carolina Soil Classifiers Advisory Council adjourned at 4:00 p.m.