

**MINUTES**  
**SC Soil Classifiers Advisory Council Meeting**  
**September 25, 2018 at 10 a.m.**  
**Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building**  
**110 Centerview Drive, Room 204**  
**Columbia, SC**

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**Call to Order and Introduction of Council Members and All Other Persons Attending**

Chairman Thorp called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Other members participating included: Christopher Fincham, Vice-Chairman; Randall Fowler; Dennis DeFrancesco; and M. Lance Brewington.

Staff attending included: Mary League, Esq., Office of Advice Counsel; Erin Baldwin, Office of Disciplinary Counsel; Molly Price, Administrator; and Sherri Moorer, Program Assistant.

Others attending included: David R. Vaughan, SC Department of Health and Environmental Control; Robin Mack, SC Department of Health and Environmental Control; Steven Melin; Ben Stuckey; and Derek Williams (Creel Court Reporting).

**Statement of Public Notice**

Mr. Thorp stated that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S.C. Soil Classifiers Advisory Council office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, and on the council website 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.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Thorp asked for proposed changes to the minutes of the March 6, 2018, meeting.

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes of the March 6, 2018, meeting. DeFrancesco/Fowler/approved

**Chairman's Remarks**

1. Mr. Thorp introduced M. Lance Brewington to the Council. LLR Director Emily Farr appointed him to serve on Council for a term of March 1, 2018 – February 28, 2023.

**Administrative Report**

Mrs. Price gave the Administrative Report for the Advisory Council:

- The Council currently has 46 licensed soil classifiers.
- The Council has a cash balance of –(\$88,636.38) as of August 31, 2018.
- There are no cases in the Office of Investigations and Enforcement.
- There is no Investigative Review Committee report.
- License renewals for 2019-2021 will open on November 5, 2018. Notices will be sent to licensees by email and U.S. Mail the last week of October.

- Staff is coordinating with CE Broker to conduct continuing education audits for the Board starting in 2019.
- A draft of the Fall 2018 Newsletter that will be posted on the Council website in November is in the meeting handouts for Council review.
- The CSSE Exam will be given on November 16, 2018, and April 12, 2019. Registration for the November administration will be open until October 5. Registration for the April administration will be open January 7 – March 1, 2019. The exam will be administered at Clemson University.
- The next Council meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2019.

Mrs. Baldwin reported that there are no cases in the Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

### **Council Member Reports**

- 1. Third Annual NC Soils and Technology Workshop.** Mr. DeFrancesco said the NC Soils and Technology Workshop will be held on November 1, 2018, at Lake Norman State Park in Morrisville, NC, beginning at 8:30 a.m. This is a free opportunity to earn continuing education hours.
- 2. Recognition of Former Council Member Dr. Bill Smith.** Mr. DeFrancesco would like to honor Dr. Bill Smith with a formal legislative proclamation for his long service on Council. Mrs. League said Mrs. Price can work with the Department's legislative liaison on this initiative.

### **New Business**

- 1. Notice of Proposed Regulations for Onsite Wastewater Program.** Mr. Vaughan presented Council with an overview of their proposed regulation changes for the Onsite Wastewater Program.

Major points of the proposed changes include:

- Increasing opportunities and business in the private sector.
- Reducing burdens on customers.
- Clarifying standards.
- Adding new standards for hybrid designs developed throughout the state.
- A schedule of fees as follows:
  - **Level 1** - \$150 for a standard system.
  - **Level 2** - \$150 to utilize a third party involvement, submitted on a Soil Verification Form to compliment the Soils Report and Site Evaluation Form used by DHEC Staff.
  - **Level 3** - \$350 to use a soil report and have DHEC go to the site to issue the permit and lay the system out.
  - **Level 4** - \$1,250 for an expedited process.
  - The purpose of this change is to even out the work flow, and to eliminate refunds. The electronic permitting process will require check boxes to verify that the applicant understands the requirements for each level before they pay.

- Complying with statutory requirements for a tiered licensure program for installers. To move from the current 2 tier system to a 3 tier system with increasing responsibility in direct correlation to the complexity of the system being installed, and biennial continuing education requirements similar to licensure board requirements:
  - **Tier 1** – can only install a gravity-based system.
  - **Tier 2** – can install systems and do repairs.
  - **Tier 3** – can install engineered systems on the 610 standard, do final inspections and notify DHEC when the system is installed, and can do repairs to the system.

There will be four stakeholder meetings throughout the state regarding the regulation updates. These meetings will be posted on the DHEC website and on the Department’s Facebook page. The proposed regulations will be presented at the October 11, 2018, Board meeting. The proposed regulations will publish in the State Register on October 26, 2018, if approved by the Board. The open comment period will be October 26 – November 27, 2018. Comments can be received and acknowledged prior to this open comment period. Mr. Vaughn stated that DHEC will delay the implementation of the regulation changes for three years from when the regulations go into effect, to give the program time to be put in place and to allow supporting programs an opportunity to prepare for the changes. Mr. DeFrancesco asked Mr. Vaughn to email Mrs. Moorer information on the proposed regulation changes to include in the Soil Classifier’s Fall Newsletter.

**2. Approval of Professional Investigative Committee Review Members.**

**MOTION:** To approve Michael Athanas and Steven Melin to serve as professional members of the Investigative Review Committee. Fincham/DeFrancesco/approved.

**3. Review and Approval of Continuing Education Provider List.** Mrs. Moorer provided the Council members with a list of continuing education providers that they approved on previous audits. She asked for providers of professional ethics courses to add to this list. Council will review and finalize the list at a future meeting.

**4. 2019 Election of Officers**

**MOTION:** For Chris Fincham to serve as Chairman, and John Thorp to serve as Vice-Chairman. DeFrancesco/Fowler/approved.

**Unfinished Business**

**1. Uniform Guidelines for Application Review.** Mr. Fowler said potential applicants have ask him about the education requirement for licensure. The Council requires 15 semester hours of soils courses for licensure, but the field of Earth science is broadening and it’s difficult to ascertain what other courses can count toward this requirement. Mr. Thorp said he received calls regarding the how part time or contract work counts toward the two-year experience requirement. The Council has discussed developing uniform standards for evaluation of applications, but the variation and constantly changing nature of the field makes it impossible to do so. Mrs. Moorer

said the Council can establish parameters for application reviews if they determine that a consistent standard can be applied to the review process in the future.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**Executive Session**

The Council did not go into executive session.

**Notice of Next Meeting**

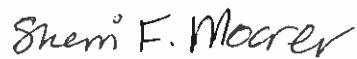
The next meeting of the SC Soil Classifiers Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2019, at the SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, 110 Centerview Drive, Room 204, Columbia, SC, and will begin at 10 a.m.

There being no further business:

**MOTION:** To adjourn. Thorp/DeFrancesco/approved

The meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sherri F. Moorer, Program Assistant