

**MINUTES**  
**SC Soil Classifiers Advisory Council Meeting**  
**March 19, 2019 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 Fincham called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

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

Staff attending included: Hardwick Stuart, Esq., Office of Advice Counsel; Molly Price, Administrator; and Sherri Moorer, Program Assistant.

Others attending included: David R. Vaughan, SC Department of Health and Environmental Control; Tim Stanley, SC Department of Health and Environmental Control; Bret Kyle Davis; and Courtney Glover (Creel Court Reporting).

**Statement of Public Notice**

Mr. Fincham 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. Fincham asked for proposed changes to the minutes of the September 25, 2018, meeting.

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes of the September 25, 2018, meeting.  
DeFrancesco/Thorp/approved

**Chairman's Remarks**

Mr. Fincham welcomed everybody to the meeting. He thanked them for their time and attendance.

**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 –(\$91,899.48) as of January 31, 2019.
- There are no cases in the Office of Investigations and Enforcement.
- There is no Investigative Review Committee report.
- There are no cases in the Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

- License renewals for 2019-2021 will close on March 31, 2019. 37 licenses have been renewed. Licenses that are not renewed by this time will lapse and must apply for reinstatement.
- The CSSE Exam will be given on April 12, 2019. Registration closed on March 1. The exam will be administered at Clemson University.
- The next Council meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2019.
- Mrs. Price reminded the Council members to file their Statement of Economic Interest with the SC Ethics Commission by the noon deadline on March 30, 2019.

### **Council Member Reports**

1. Mr. DeFrancesco said Ron Morton is experiencing health issues. Mr. Morton is keeping his license active, but is not practicing at this time.
2. Mr. DeFrancesco said he will be assisting with DHEC training in the Piedmont on April 2, 2019. Mr. Thorp will assist with training for the Lowcountry. Mr. Fincham said he is available to help, if needed.

### **Application Hearing**

1. Bret Kyle Davis appeared before the Council for an application hearing. This matter was recorded by a court reporter in order to produce a verbatim transcript, if necessary.

**MOTION:** To enter Executive Session for legal advice, with staff remaining. DeFrancesco/Fowler/approved.

**MOTION:** To exit Executive Session. Thorp/Fowler/approved.

Mr. Fincham stated that no votes were taken during executive session.

**MOTION:** To deny the application based on applicant admission that he does not have soil courses. The only apparent qualifying course is Physical Geology 101 and lab on the transcript. The second basis is no evidence of two or more years of experience under a registered soil classifier, or someone with the academic and experience of a soil classifier. DeFrancesco/Brewington/approved.

### **Unfinished Business**

1. **Review and Approval of Continuing Education Provider List.** Mrs. Moorer compiled a list of continuing education activities that Council has approved at previous meetings. This list will be posted on the website as examples to help licensees' select appropriate continuing education activities for license renewals.

**MOTION:** To approve the continuing education provider list, with additions from Council. Thorp/Fowler/approved.

2. **Update on Proposed Regulations for Onsite Wastewater Program.** Mr. Vaughan introduced Tim Stanley as the new program manager for the Onsite Wastewater Program. The proposed regulations are in development, and will have to be modified and updated before they can post a Notice of Drafting. They have added a fee increase, and are attempting to form collaborative efforts with Clemson University to meet the demand on the program. Council thanked Mr. Vaughan for the update. They asked to be notified of the publication and public comment period on the proposed regulations.

### **New Business**

1. **System Standard 610 – Specialized Onsite Wastewater System Designs Discussion.** Mr. Vaughan said there has been confusion over stamping the reports. It is not necessary to stamp every page, because there's a field for the seal on the front page that covers the entire report. Stamps or embossed seals sent digitally are acceptable. DHEC has done training for the staff and asked Council to notify him of any offices that require the original reports.

There has also been a question of wetlands delineation. Approval from the permitting agency is required if the system will be installed in a wetlands area. This is usually obtained from the engineer designing the system.

Mr. Fincham asked about reinstating final inspections. Mr. Vaughan said DHEC is attempting to reinstate the final inspections for a percentage of their permits. This is not intended as a permanent fix, but rather to keep the heavy workload in progress. There are approximately 2,500 applications for 2019. The trend has been climbing for the past five years, but the projection trends are leveling off in both commercial and private sectors.

The Council thanked Mr. Vaughan for updating Council at this meeting.

### **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, September 17, 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. Fowler/DeFrancesco/approved

The meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Sherri F. Moorer*

Sherri F. Moorer, Program Assistant