

MINUTES
SC Soil Classifiers Advisory Council Meeting
September 24, 2019 at 10 a.m.
Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building
110 Centerview Drive, Room 204
Columbia, SC

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

Chairman Fincham called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

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

Staff attending included: Emily Farr, Agency Director; Abhijit Deshpande, Finance Manager; Holly Beeson, Esq., Office of Communications and Governmental Affairs; Darra Coleman; Esq., Office of Advice Counsel; Kathy Burgess, Office of Communications; Patrick Jarvis, Office of Finance; Hardwick Stuart, Esq., Office of Advice Counsel; Chris Elliott, Esq, Office of Disciplinary Counsel; Pam Dunkin, Administrator; Johnnie Rose, Program Coordinator; and Sherri Moorer, Program Assistant.

Others attending included: Tyler Sgro 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 Excused Absences

MOTION: To excuse Randall Fowler's absence. DeFrancesco/Thorp/approved.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Fincham asked for proposed changes to the minutes of the March 19, 2019, meeting.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the March 19, 2019, meeting. Thorp/DeFrancesco/approved

Chairman's Remarks

Mr. Fincham thanked everybody for attending the meeting.

Administrative Report

Mrs. Dunkin introduced herself to the Council as the new Administrator. She gave the Administrative Report for the Advisory Council:

- The Council currently has 43 licensed soil classifiers.
- The Council has a cash balance of -(\$110,830.86) as of August 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.
- The CSSE Exam will be given on November 15, 2019. Registration is open until October 4, 2019. The exam will be administered at Clemson University.
- The LLR website has been updated, and the links have changed. The main website is located at <https://llr.sc.gov/> and the Council website is located at <https://llr.sc.gov/soil/>
- Mrs. Moorer is working on a fall newsletter to post to the website. Mrs. Dunkin asked Council members to submit content to her by September 20, 2019.
- Council meeting dates for 2020 have been scheduled for 2020 as follows. Meetings will be held at the SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, 110 Centerview Drive, Conference Room 204, Columbia, SC, and will begin at 10 a.m.:
 - March 10, 2020
 - September 15, 2020

Council Member Reports

Mr. Thorp said the Lowcountry soil tours for DHEC evaluators went well. He appreciated the help of the other Council members with this event, and there was good interaction with the wastewater program. Mr. DeFrancesco said the training in Greenville in April also went well, and thanked Mr. Fincham for his assistance with preparing for the event. Mr. Fincham attended both events and was encouraged by the interactions amongst the individuals in the field.

Application Hearing

1. Tyler Sgro appeared before the Council for an application hearing. He was not represented by Counsel. This matter was recorded by a court reporter in order to produce a verbatim transcript, if necessary.

MOTION: For a fifteen minute adjournment. Thorp/DeFrancesco/approved.

The Council adjourned from 11:00 a.m. – 11:17 a.m.

MOTION: To enter Executive Session for legal advice. Thorp/DeFrancesco/approved.

MOTION: To exit Executive Session. Brewington/DeFrancesco/approved.

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

MOTION: For the Council to recognize the definition of full time employment according to the Affordable Care Act, which is 30 hours per week on the job. Also to recognize the SC Code of Laws, Section 40-65-30(C)(3), which states “to be licensed as a professional soil classifier, an applicant must have completed two or more years of training under the supervision of a registered or licensed soil classifier or someone who meets the minimum academic and experience requirements of a licensed soil classifier –” to count part time experience toward satisfaction of the experience requirement so long as it equals 3,000 total hours. Recommend that Council provide conditional approval of the

application provided the applicant provides additional work logs that meet the required 3,000 hours. Move that Council accepts the current hours submitted in Applicant Exhibit One. Thorp/DeFrancesco/approved.

The Council took a five minute break from 12:35 p.m. – 12:40 p.m.

New Business

1. **License Fee Analysis and Consideration of Amendment to Regulation 10-40.** Director Farr gave a presentation of the license fee analysis prepared by the Finance Department, which proposes a 25% fee increase.

MOTION: To accept the recommended 25% increase. Thorp/DeFrancesco/approved.

2. **2020 Election of Officers.**

MOTION: To continue with the current officers of Christopher Fincham as Chairman and John Thorp as Vice-Chairman. DeFrancesco/Brewington/approved.

3. **Continuing Education Audits.**

MOTION: To accept continuing education documentation from Alexander Baldwin and George Lankford, and request documentation of the ethics course or review of law and regulations from William Fulton, Toney Jacobs, and Adrian Pruett. DeFrancesco/Thorp/approved.

The Council gave staff permission to clear the audit deficits upon receipt of the additional documentation.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Executive Session

The Council did not go into executive session.

Notice of Next Meeting

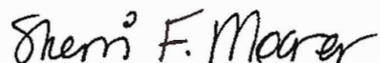
The next meeting of the SC Soil Classifiers Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at the SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, 110 Centerview Drive, Room 204, Columbia, SC, and will begin at 10 a.m.

There being no further business:

MOTION: To adjourn. Thorp/DeFrancesco/approved

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sherri F. Moorer, Program Assistant