

MINUTES
SC Soil Classifiers Advisory Council Meeting
March 16, 2021 at 10 a.m. by Virtual Video/Teleconference

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

Chairman Thorp called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

Other members participating included M. Lance Brewington; Dennis DeFrancesco; and Randall Fowler.

Staff attending included Hardwick Stuart, Esq., Office of Advice Counsel; Pam Dunkin, Administrator; Johnnie Rose, Program Coordinator; and Sherri Moorer, Program Assistant.

Others attending included Dawn Gibas, Soil Science Society of America; and Sean Cary (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 provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. In accordance with the Governor's directives regarding social distancing, the meeting is being held via video and teleconference. Members of the public who wish to attend may do so by telephone or the Internet. For login information, please email Contact.Soil@llr.sc.gov

Approval of Agenda

MOTION: To approve the agenda. DeFrancesco/Brewington/approved.

Approval of Excused Absences

MOTION: To excuse Chris Fincham from the meeting.
DeFrancesco/Thorp /approved

Chairman's Remarks

Mr. Thorp said he did not have any remarks. He and Mr. DeFrancesco have an item to discuss under "Council Member Reports."

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Thorp asked a motion to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2020, meeting.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the September 15, 2020 meeting. DeFrancesco/Brewington/approved

Administrative Report

1. Mrs. Dunkin gave the Administrative Report:

- The Council staff have resumed working in the office as of March 15, 2021.
- The Council currently has 45 licensed soil classifiers.
- The Council had a cash balance of –(\$)124,488.14 as of February 28, 2021.

- License renewals opened on November 1, 2020 with an expiration date of January 31, 2021. To date, 42 individuals renewed online and three mailed in paper renewal applications. Late renewals will be open until March 31, 2021.
- Chris Fincham has been reappointed to the Advisory Council. His term is February 28, 2020 – February 28, 2025.
- The CSSE Exam testing window is April 14-20, 2021. The exams are offered by remote proctoring. Remote proctoring and on-demand exams will be discussed under “New Business.”
- Proposed regulations for changes to the DHEC Onsite Wastewater Systems are in the State House for review. The document number is 4979 and is included in the meeting materials. The proposed regulation changes have been referred to the House Regulations and Administrative Procedures Committee, and the Senate Medical Affairs Committee. The 120-day review expiration date for automatic approval is May 12, 2021.
- Mrs. Dunkin reminded the Council members to file their Statement of Economic Interest by noon on March 30, 2021.
- The next Council meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2021.
- 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.

Council Member Reports

1. Mr. DeFrancesco said he had concerns about an item in the proposed DHEC regulation changes. Section 102.1(2)(c) allows site evaluations by “another licensed person qualified to practice professional soil classifying under S.C. Code Section 40-65-40(7) provided that the burden of documenting qualifications under S.C. Code Section 40-65-40(7) is on the licensed professional.” This means that individuals licensed in any profession that does soil work may perform these services.

MOTION: Mr. Thorp made a motion to go into executive session, but withdrew the motion to allow for more discussion on the topic.

Mr. Thorp said he did comment on the proposed regulations during the open comment period, but his comments focused on the 610 standards. He did not notice this clause in the version of the proposed regulations that published in the State Register.

MOTION: To enter executive session. DeFrancesco/ Fowler/approved

MOTION: To exit executive session. Fowler/DeFrancesco/approved

New Business

1. **CSSE On-Demand Exams.** Ms. Gibas said that Internet Based Testing (IBT) began last year. The Soil Science Society of America would like to offer the Fundamentals Exam as On-Demand testing, with the Professional Practice exam to follow later in 2021. This means that candidates can schedule an exam any time, without having to wait for a testing window to open. Candidates who fail the exam will have to wait 2-3 weeks before retaking the exam. IBT randomizes the test questions, so candidates will not see the same exam twice. A live proctor will monitor and record the candidates during the testing, and flag any suspicious behavior for review.

MOTION: To recommend this form of testing be accepted.

Thorp/Fowler/approved

Mr. DeFrancesco left the meeting at 11:46.

- 2. 2021 Continuing Education Audits.** Mrs. Dunkin said 16 licensees have set up accounts through CE Broker to track their continuing education. The goal is to move toward 100% audits; however, there is more work to be done with CE Broker to get the system set up properly. She proposes conducting the 2021 audits as have been done in the past, with notices being sent to selected individuals, who will send their documentation directly to Mrs. Moorers. Moving forward, licensees will be encouraged to set up a free account with CE Broker in preparation for audits in 2023. Mrs. Dunkin reminded the Council members that there are exemptions in place for this renewal period, which will be considered while reviewing audits at the next meeting.

Notice of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the SC Soil Classifiers Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, and will begin at 10 a.m.

There being no further business:

MOTION: To adjourn. Fowler/Brewington/approved

The meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherri Moorers

Sherri F. Moorers, Program Assistant