

**MINUTES**  
**SC Soil Classifiers Advisory Council Meeting**  
**September 12, 2023 at 10 a.m.**  
**Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building**  
**110 Centerview Drive, Midlands Conference Room**  
**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 10:08 a.m.

Other members participating included Chris Fincham, Vice-Chairman; M. Lance Brewington; and Jason Goff.

Staff attending included Mary League, Office of Advice Counsel; Molly Price, Program Manager; Johnnie Rose, Board Executive; Cleve Langdale, Program Coordinator; and Sherri Moorer, Administrative Coordinator.

Others attending included Travis Brown, Matthew Kirchner, and Katherine Boone (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.

**Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION:** To approve the agenda.  
Goff/Fincham/approved.

**Approval of Excuses Absences**

**MOTION:** To excuse Randall Fowler from the September 12, 2023, meeting.  
Fincham/Brewington/approved..

**Chairman's Remarks**

Mr. Thorp stated the business cycle remains robust, and they hope to get more qualified soil classifiers licensed in South Carolina.

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes of the March 14, 2023, meeting.  
Fincham/Goff/approved.

**Board Executive Report**

Mr. Rose gave the Board Executive Report:

- Molly Price was introduced as the new Program Director for the Council.
- Cleve Langdale was introduced as the new Program Coordinator for the Council.
- Joseph Epting has left the agency. Mary League is serving as Advice Counsel for this meeting.
- Mr. Rose welcomed the Council to the new meeting room.
- Mr. Rose congratulated Jason Goff on his reappointment to the Advisory Council. Mr. Goff's term has been extended through June 30, 2028.
- The Council currently has 45 licensed soil classifiers and one soil classifier-in-training.
- The Council had a cash balance of \$47,728.97, as of July 31, 2023.
- The Soil Board for the Soil Science Society of America recently voted to move back to window testing for the SSSA exams. Continuous testing will phase out on September 30, 2023, and four testing windows will be offered for the exam. SSSA will communicate with individuals registered for the exam to notify them of the deadline for continuous testing and implementation of testing windows.

### **Legal Opinions**

**MOTION:** To defer this item until after the Application Hearing.  
Thorp/Goff/approve

### **Office of Investigations and Enforcement Report**

Mr. Rose stated there are no cases in the Office of Investigations and Enforcement.

### **Investigative Review Conference Report**

Mr. Rose stated there is no Investigative Review Conference report.

### **Office of Disciplinary Counsel Report**

Mr. Rose stated there are no cases in the Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

### **Council Member Reports**

There were no Council Member Reports.

### **Application Hearing**

1. Mr. Travis Brown appeared before the Council for an Application Hearing. He was not represented by counsel. Mr. Matthew Kirchner served as a witness. All persons testifying were sworn in by the court reporter. Application hearings are recorded by a certified court reporter in the event a verbatim transcript is necessary.

**MOTION:** To enter executive session for legal advice.  
Fincham/Goff/approved.

**MOTION:** To exit executive session.  
Goff/Fincham/approved.

Mr. Thorp stated the documentation presented was insufficient to determine the nature of Mr. Brown's work and supervision. He suggested two options: Mr. Brown can withdraw this application and reapply,

or he can continue with this application with additional witnesses at the next Council meeting. Mr. Brown elected to continue at the next meeting.

### **Advisory Opinions**

Mrs. League stated that H4466 authorizes DHEC to create a pilot program in designated areas of the state that allows septic tank installers to conduct septic tank field evaluation tests for the Department. The bill has passed the House, and will be taken up in the Senate when the legislature reconvenes for the 2024 session. The agency will monitor this bill. Licensees can contact their legislators and attend legislative meetings if they have questions or concerns about this bill.

### **New Business**

#### **1. 2024 Meeting Dates.**

Mr. Rose proposed the following meeting dates. All meetings will be held at the SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, 110 Centerview Drive, Pee Dee Conference Room, and will begin at 10 a.m., unless otherwise indicated:

- March 12, 2024
- September 10, 2024

**MOTION:** To approve meeting dates as presented.  
Thorp/Goff/approved.

#### **2. Election of Officers.**

**MOTION:** To postpone this vote until the next meeting.  
Fincham/Thorp/approved.

#### **3. Designate Council Member(s) to Attend Legislative Meetings.**

**MOTION:** That Mr. Fincham is the primary designee, Mr. Thorp is secondary, and any other Council members based on their availability.  
Thorp/Brewington/approved.

#### **4. 2023 Continuing Education Audits.**

**MOTION:** That all individuals selected for the continuing education audit were compliant.  
Fincham/Brewington/approved.

### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **Executive Session**

There was no Executive Session.

There being no further business:

**MOTION:** To adjourn.  
Fincham/Brewington/approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Sherri F. Moorer*

Sherri F. Moorer, Administrative Coordinator