

MINUTES
SC Soil Classifiers Advisory Council Meeting
March 12, 2024 at 10 a.m.
Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building
110 Centerview Drive, Pee Dee Conference Room
Columbia, SC

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

Vice-Chairman Fincham called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Other members participating included Randall Fowler, M. Lance Brewington and Jason Goff.

Staff attending included Mary League, Office of Advice Counsel; Johnnie Rose, Board Executive; and Sherri Moorer, Administrative Coordinator.

Others attending included Dennis DeFrancesco, Jason Eppinette, and Nadine Garrett (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 provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. Members of the public who wish to observe may do so by live streaming at: <https://llr.sc.gov/soil/videos.aspx>

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Excuses Absences

MOTION: To excuse John Thorp from the meeting.
Fincham/Goff/approved.

Chairman's Remarks

Mr. Fincham stated there is a lot of business in South Carolina, and the Council is happy to see more applications for licensure.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the September 12, 2023, meeting.
Goff/Fowler/approved.

Board Executive Report

Mr. Rose gave the Board Executive's Report:

- The Council has 48 licensed soil classifiers, and one certified Soil Classifier-In-Training. Three licenses have been issued since the last Council meeting.
- The Council had a cash balance of \$41,958.23 as of January 31, 2024.
- Statement of Economic Interest form filings are due by noon on March 30, 2024.

Legal Opinions

There were no legal opinions.

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

Mr. Brewington asked about scheduling a field day for professional soil classifiers. Mr. Fincham said there are efforts to create a SC Onsite Wastewater Association that includes soil classifiers, DHEC officials, engineers, and installers. A field day is a good idea to launch this organization.

Mr. Fowler asked about the account for the South Carolina Society of Soil Classifiers. Mr. DeFrancesco said he was the previous treasurer. Mr. Thorp closed the account and donated the \$669.19 balance to an Environmental group at Clemson University.

New Business

1. Election of Officers.

MOTION: For Mr. Thorp to remain as Council Chairman.
Brewington/Fowler/approved.

MOTION: For Mr Fincham to remain as Council Vice-Chairman.
Fowler/Goff/approved.

2. Investigative Review Conference (IRC) Member Appointments. Mr. Rose stated that Agency management would like each Board to have at least three professional members on the Investigative Review Conference. Mr. DeFrancesco expressed interest in serving.

MOTION: To appoint Dennis DeFrancesco as a professional member of the Investigative Review Conference.
Fincham/Brewington/approved.

3. Review of Application for Certification as Soil Classifier-In-Training or Licensure as Professional Soil Classifier. Mr. Fowler stated it came to his attention that the Soil Classifier application prohibits Council members from serving as a Professional Reference. This makes it difficult for in-state applicants, because Council members perform 60% - 80% of the work done in the state. Mrs. League, Advice Counsel, stated there are no references to this in law or statute, so the Council can make a motion to revoke this policy. A new statute prevents Boards from asking questions about "moral turpitude," combined with the current Council law and regulations, means applicants must provide employment verifications, and are not required to provide professional references. Council members verifying experience must recuse themselves, if the issue goes to an application hearing.

MOTION: To revise the applications and forms to allow Council members to provide employment verifications for applicants.
Fowler/Brewington/approved.

4. **2024 Legislative Update.** Mr. Rose stated that H.4486 is scheduled for the Senate Medical Affairs Subcommittee meeting on March 13, 2024, at 10 a.m. in the Gressette Building, Room 207. Individuals submitting comments or testimony must do so on behalf of the profession.
5. **2025 Council Meeting Dates.** Mr. Rose stated that Council meetings will be held at the SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, 110 Centerview Drive, Pee Dee Room, Columbia, SC, and will begin at 10 a.m. on the following dates:
 - March 11, 2025
 - September 9, 2025

MOTION: To accept the 2025 Board meeting dates.
Fincham/Fowler/approved.

Agenda Topics for Future Meetings.

- Mr. Rose stated there will be a follow up on the 2024 Legislative Update.
- Mr. Brewington requested a refresher on continuing education for license renewals.

Public Comments

Mr. DeFrancesco thanked the Council members for their work and dedication to the profession. He misses serving on the Council and is happy to assist in his new capacity as a professional member of the Investigative Review Committee.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

There being no further business:

MOTION: To adjourn.
Fowler/Fincham/approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherri F. Moorer

Sherri F. Moorer, Administrative Coordinator