

**MINUTES**  
**SC Soil Classifiers Advisory Council Meeting**  
**September 9, 2025 at 10 a.m.**  
**Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building**  
**110 Centerview Drive, Upstate 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 in person included, Christopher Fincham, Vice-Chairman, M. Lance Brewington; and Jason Goff.

Staff attending in person included, Mary League, Office of Advice Counsel, Virginia Wetzel, Office of Governmental Affairs, Wattie Wharton, Office of Investigations and Enforcement, Charles Turkal, Office of Investigations and Enforcement, Johnnie Rose, Board Executive, and Sherri Moorer, Administrative Coordinator.

Others attending included Nadine Garrett (Creel Court City 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. Members of the public who wish to observe may do so by live streaming at: <https://llr.sc.gov/soil/videos.aspx>

**Adoption of Agenda**

**MOTION:**     **Mr. Goff** moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brewington, which was unanimously approved.

**Approval of Excuses Absences**

**MOTION:**     **Mr. Fincham** made a motion to excuse Randall Fowler from the meeting. Mr. Goff seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:**     **Mr. Brewington** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2025, meeting. Mr. Fincham seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**Chairman's Remarks**

Mr. Thorp stated that the economy is good, and strong demand remains for soil classifier services in South Carolina. The SC Onsite Wastewater Association has established good liaisons between the private consultants and installers.

**Board Executive Report**

Mr. Rose gave the Board Executive's Report:

- Mr. Rose stated that all Board meetings are open to the public, and streamed on YouTube. A link is posted on each Board website.
- The Council had 52 licensed soil classifiers. Three licenses have been issued since the last Council meeting.
- A draft of the updated SC Soil Classifiers Roster was included in the meeting handouts. The next step is to issue the survey for the licensees to indicate what counties they serve. That information will be integrated into the draft and submitted to the Department review process for posting on the website. The goal of this new roster is to provide additional information and guidance to the public.
- Continuing education audits will be reviewed at the next Council meeting. Audits will be done through CE Broker and Council will audit 10% of licensees who renewed.
- Council Meetings are scheduled for March 11, 2026, and September 15, 2026.
- The Soil Science Society of America fourth quarter exams will be offered November 5-19, 2025. Registration is open October 1-27.

### **Financial Report**

Mr. Rose stated that as of July 31, 2025, the Council had a cash balance of \$65,127.29.

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

Mr. Wharton stated that three complaints have been filed in the Office of Investigations and Enforcement. There are no active investigations, one “do not open” case, and no closed cases.

### **Investigative Review Conference Report**

Mr. Wharton stated that Case 2024-1 is recommended for a formal complaint.

**MOTION:**      **Mr. Thorp** made a motion to approve the case for formal complaint. Mr. Goff seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Fincham recused himself from Case 2025-1 due to prior knowledge.

Mr. Wharton stated that Case 2025-1 is recommended for dismissal.

**MOTION:**      **Mr. Goff** made a motion to approve the dismissal. Mr. Brewington seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Rose stated there is now one active case in the Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

### **New Business**

1. **Legislative Update.** Mrs. Wetzel gave an update on legislative action carrying over to the 2026 session, which begins January 13, 2026:
  - Act 91 for the Surface Water Study Committee will expand to cover groundwater in the 2026 session. Their report is due March 2, 2026.
  - H.3656 prohibits the Department of Environmental Services from denying property owners the right to repair or replace a well or septic tank solely because of any other

available water or sewer service, or both. This bill is sponsored by Representative Ligon and Representative Hardee, and is pending in the House Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environmental Affairs.

- H.3950 was amended to create a certification program in the Department of Environmental Services statute that would allow engineers who complete their training program to do soils reports on conventional systems. The bill is sponsored by Representatives Hixon Forrest. The bill passed the House and is referred to the Senate Committee on Labor, Commerce and Industry.  
Mr. Thorp commented on the definition of “conventional systems”.
- H.3021 adds the “Small Business Regulatory Freedom Act,” which will conduct a review of regulations pending reauthorization and make recommendations to the General Assembly for retaining or removing regulations. The bill passed in the House and is referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.
- S.318 enacts the “Commission on Fiscal Restraint and Government Efficiency,” that will evaluate all regulations with the intent to repeal regulations that burden small business. The bill passed the Senate and is awaiting a House committee assignment.

**2. Review and Discussion for Virtual Pocket Cards for Biennial Renewals.** Mr. Rose stated that 98% of licensees renewed online during the 2025-2027 renewal period. The Department has an option for licensees to download a virtual pocket card when they renew online. Virtual cards would streamline the renewal process, and result in cost savings to the Council.

**MOTION:** Mr. Fincham made a motion to accept the virtual card option, with an option to request a hard copy card. Mr. Goff seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### **Council Elections**

**MOTION:** **Mr. Goff** made a motion to retain the current officers. Mr. Brewington seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### **Agenda Topics for Future Meetings**

At Mr. Thorp’s request Mrs. League provided clarification of the role of a Council member versus the role of a society member. She reminded the Council members to clearly define the role in which they are serving when speaking to people, to avoid any confusion.

Mr. Fincham asked about the disciplinary process referred to in the Investigative Review Conference report. Mrs. League gave the Council an overview of the process, and advised that the Board Member manual provides a detailed description of the process and options available in a disciplinary matter to a respondent and the Board. Mr. Rose will highlight this section in his monthly message to members.

Mr. Rose asked the Council members to send agenda items to staff.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

There being no further business:

**MOTION:**      **Mr. Fincham** made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Goff seconded the motion, which unanimously passed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.