

**MINUTES**  
**SC Soil Classifiers Advisory Council**  
**Conference Call Meeting**  
**March 8, 2016 at 10 a.m.**  
**Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building**  
**110 Centerview Drive, Room 204**  
**Columbia, SC**

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

Chairman Fowler called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Other members participating in the call included Dennis DeFrancesco, Vice-Chairman, John Thorp, and Chris Fincham.

Members attending in the office include: Bill Smith.

Persons attending in the office included: Sherri Moorer, Program Assistant; Mary League, Esq., Office of Advice Counsel; Ben Stuckey, and Jennifer Cash (Creel Court Reporting).

**Statement of Public Notice**

Mr. Fowler 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 §30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Fowler asked for proposed changes to the minutes of the October 27, 2015, and November 23, 2015, conference call meetings.

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes of the October 27, 2015, and November 23, 2015, conference call meetings. Smith/Thorp/approved

**Staff Reports**

1. Mrs. Moorer gave the Administrative Report for the Advisory Council:
  - There are 45 active licensees in the State.
  - The Council has a cash balance of negative \$18,172.97 as of January 31, 2016.
  - There are no cases in the Office of Investigations and Enforcement.
  - There are no cases in the Office of Disciplinary Counsel.
  - There is no Investigative Review Report.
  - The next Council meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2016.
  - The Soil Science Society of America is evaluating the Certified Professional Soil Science (CPSS) program and related exams. An email from Luther Smith including a poll for a conference call to discuss state requirements for licensure was forwarded to each Council member on March 3, 2016. Mrs. Moorer encouraged Council members to participate in the conference call.

- Mrs. Moorer reminded the Council members to file their Statement of Economic Interest with the SC Ethics Commission no later than March 30, 2016, at noon.

#### **Council Member Reports**

1. Mr. DeFrancesco advised the Council members to make sure they get an email confirmation from the Ethics Commission confirming that their 2016 Statement of Economic Interest filing is complete.

#### **Unfinished Business**

1. **Update on DHEC 4591** – Mr. Fincham said there was no vote on the regulations by the House subcommittee. It was passed on to Committee, but is being sent back to subcommittee in the next two weeks. The regulations aren't in subcommittee with the Senate, and there is no schedule on when it will be reviewed. The wastewater industry took note of the Council's vote at the November 23, 2015, conference call meeting, and there are efforts to form a private SC Wastewater Association (SCWA). The purpose is to get a private entity to communicate with legislators on issues that affect the industry.
2. **Update on DHEC Liaison** – Mr. Fincham said Leonard Gordon has retired from DHEC. David Vaughn has taken his place and would be a good choice as a DHEC Liaison.

**MOTION:** To make contact with David Vaughn to serve as the DHEC Liaison with the Soil Classifiers Advisory Council. DeFrancesco/Fincham/approved.

#### **New Business**

1. **Election of Officers** – Council elected officers for 2016.

**MOTION:** To elect John Thorp as Chairman. DeFrancesco/Fincham/approved

**MOTION:** To elect Chris Fincham as Vice-Chairman. DeFrancesco/Smith/approved

2. **Review/Clarification on Experience Requirement for Licensure** – Mr. Thorp said the Council needs consistency in how to count education and experience toward the licensure requirements. One item of concern is whether to count experience earned prior to completing the education requirement, or start the clock on experience after obtaining a degree. Mr. Fincham said the Soil Science Society of America starts the clock on experience after completing the education requirement. Mrs. Moorer told Council that the law and regulations do not specify an order to meeting the requirements. Mr. Thorp will check on how the requirements are interpreted in North Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia and send them to Mrs. Moorer to forward to Council for discussion at the next Council meeting.

#### **Public Comments**

**MOTION:** To thank Mr. Fowler and Mr. DeFrancesco for their service as officers on Council. Thorp/Smith/approved.

**Notice of Next Meeting**

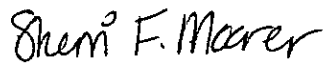
The next meeting of the SC Soil Classifiers Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, October 11, 2016, at the SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, 110 Centerview Drive, Room 204, Columbia, SC, and will begin at 10 a.m.

There being no further business:

**MOTION:** To adjourn. Thorp/DeFrancesco/approved

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sherri F. Moorer, Program Assistant