

MINUTES
SC Soil Classifiers Advisory Council
March 10, 2015 at 10 a.m.
Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building
110 Centerview Drive, Room 204
Columbia, SC

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

Chairman Fowler called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. Other members attending included Dennis DeFrancesco, Vice-Chairman, Bill Smith, and John Thorp.

Other persons attending included: Molly Price, Administrator; Sherri Moorer, Program Assistant; Donnell Jennings, Office of Advice Counsel; Chris Fincham; and Nadine Garrett (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 14, 2014, meeting. There were none.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the October 14, 2014, meeting. Smith/DeFrancesco/approve.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Fowler asked for proposed changes to the agenda for the March 10, 2015, meeting. There were none.

Staff Reports

1. Mrs. Price told Council there are no cases in the Office of Investigations and Enforcement.
2. Mrs. Price told Council there is no Investigative Review Committee Report.
3. Mrs. Price told Council there are no cases in the Office of General Counsel.
4. Mrs. Price introduced herself as the new Administrator for the Soil Classifiers Advisory Council. She reported that there are currently 50 active licensees in the State. 40 individuals have renewed their licenses since renewals opened on November 1, 2014. Renewals will close on March 31, 2015, and continuing education audits will begin in mid-April. The Council has - \$12,329.58 as of January 31, 2015. The next Council meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2015. Gene Hardee resigned from Council, and the Department will appoint a replacement. Mrs. Price reminded the council members to file their Statement of Economic Interest by noon on March

30, 2015. She proposed conducting future meetings by telephone conference call if the agenda is short. Council agreed to this proposal.

Mr. Jennings told Council that the Executive Director is reviewing the resumes of interested applicants for the open seat on Council. If a Council Member wishes to endorse a candidate, they should send a letter of endorsement to Mrs. Moorer.

MOTION: To enter executive session for legal advice on the appointment of the new Council member. Thorp/Smith/approved.

MOTION: To allow Mrs. Moorer to remain during Executive Session. DeFrancesco/Thorp/approved.

MOTION: To come out of executive session. Smith/Thorp/approved.

Mr. Fowler stated that no votes were taken in executive session.

MOTION: For each Council member to submit a recommendation for the open seat on Council to Mrs. Moorer by March 30, 2015. DeFrancesco/Smith/approved.

5. Mr. Jennings talked to Council about the Media Policy and Rules of Engagement Regarding Lobbying. He told Council members that communications for the media should go through Leisa Kudelka in Communications to guarantee a unified and consistent response to media inquiries. He also reminded Council that they cannot lobby the General Assembly; they can only speak to members as an individual licensee and not as a member of the Council. The Council does not have specific language in the practice act to suggest statutory changes; they can only promulgate regulations. This is something they may want to change if the statute is opened for update in the future.

Council Member Reports

1. Mr. Fowler and Mr. Fincham talked to Council about Bill 3538 in the State House that will make changes to soil based on-site disposal systems. It has passed the House, and has been introduced in the Senate.
2. Mr. Thorp is allowing a potential future candidate for licensure to shadow him. This candidate is taking online courses through NC State University.

Unfinished Business

1. Mr. Jennings told Council he is in the process of gathering information from Georgia regarding comity licensure. He has calls in to their Department, but those calls have not been returned. He would like to carry over the discussion on Georgia to the next meeting. North Carolina allows licensure based on comparable requirements, so comity applications for licensure in North Carolina are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

New Business

1. Council discussed nomination of officers for 2015.

MOTION: To nominate the current officers of Randall Fowler as Chairman, and Dennis DeFrancesco as Vice-Chairman. Smith/Thorp/approved.

2. Mrs. Moorer told Council that the Soil Science Society of America is changing the scoring for examinations to pass/fail. A copy of the memo was included in the meeting handouts.
3. Mrs. Price talked to Council about continuing education audits. She and Mrs. Moorer will develop a fillable-format form for licensees to use for tracking continuing education. She proposed that Council randomly audit a percentage of licensees. The documentation will be posted on the secure website, and each council member will be assigned individuals to review. The audits will be reviewed at the next meeting.

MOTION: To conduct a random audit of 10% of licensees. Thorp/Smith/approved.

MOTION: To work with Mrs. Price to develop the continuing education form and audit process. DeFrancesco/Thorp/approved.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Notice of Next Meeting

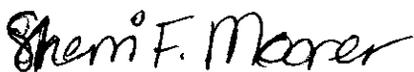
The next meeting of the SC Soil Classifiers Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2015, at the SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, 110 Centerview Drive, Room 204, Columbia, SC, and will begin at 10 a.m. The meeting will be conducted by conference call, if possible.

There being no further business:

MOTION: To adjourn. Smith/Thorp/approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sherri F. Moorer, Program Assistant