

MINUTES
SC Soil Classifiers Advisory Council
October 10, 2017 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 Thorp called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

Other members participating included Chris Fincham, Vice Chairman; and Dennis DeFrancesco.

Members participating by telephone conference call included Randal Fowler.

Staff attending in the office included: Molly Price, Administrator; Hardwick Stuart, Esq., Office of Advice Counsel; Sherri Moorer, Program Assistant; David Vaughn, Department of Health and Environmental Control; Brett Fowler, Department of Health and Environmental Control; Robin Mack, Department of Health and Environmental Control; Renee Shealey, Department of Health and Environmental Control; and Nadine Garrett (Creel Court Reporting).

Statement of Public Notice

Mr. Thorp stated that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, 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. Thorp asked for proposed changes to the minutes of the November 1, 2016, conference call meeting.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the November 1, 2016, conference call meeting.
Fincham/DeFrancesco/approved

Administrative Report

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 \$58,198.17 as of August 31, 2017.
- License renewals closed on March 31, 2017. 93% of licensees renewed online in 2017, compared to 77% who renewed online in 2015.
- 5% of individuals who renewed were selected for a random CE audit. Audits will be performed as a later agenda item.
- Andrew Lee Croy, PSC99, volunteered for the SSSA Exam Committee on February 14, 2017.
- The CSSE Exam will be given on November 17, 2017. Registration for this administration of the exam closed on October 6, and one person is registered for the Fundamentals

exam. Registration for the April 20, 2018 administration of the exams will be open January 15 – March 9, 2018.

- 2018 Council meetings have been scheduled for March 6, 2018, and September 25, 2018. Meetings will be held 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.
- Mrs. Moorer is working on a newsletter to post on the website in January or February 2018. Please let her know if you have any items for it.
- Information on personalized license tags will be sent by DMV in late November or early December. There's usually a short response time allowed on this, so consider whether you'd like to get a personalized license tag for your car. Mrs. Moorer will forward the information to Council members as soon as it's available.
- The Statement of Economic Interest will need to be filed by noon on March 30, 2018. Sherri will forward Information on this filing in January 2018.
- 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.

Council Member Reports

Mr. Thorp said the economy in the lowcountry has improved. Applications for onsite septic systems have increased to levels as high as eight to ten years ago.

Unfinished Business

1. **Interpretation of Licensure Requirements.** Mrs. Moorer presented responses to her inquiry on how experience is counted in North Carolina, Georgia, and certification with the Soil Science Society of America. They require that qualifying experience be obtained after earning a degree.

MOTION: To enter executive session ~ for legal advice, with staff remaining. DeFrancesco/Fincham/approved.

MOTION: To come out of executive session. Fincham/DeFrancesco/approved.

Mr. Thorp said no votes were taken in executive session.

Mr. Stuart said the Council has broad discretion in counting experience, and can continue to review applicants on a case-by-case basis.

New Business

1. **Regulatory Review Pursuant to Executive Order 2017-09.** The Council reviewed the SC Code of Regulations, Chapter 108, and identified Chapter 108-5 (continuing education) for review. Council identified Chapter 108-7 (fees) for deletion, because fees are listed in Chapter 10-40.

MOTION: To approve the 2017 Regulatory Report pursuant to 2017-09, and authorize John Thorp to sign the report. The Council intends to discuss and potentially amend 108-5, and delete 108-7. Sections 1; 2; 3; 4; 6; and 8 will not be changed. DeFrancesco/Fincham/approved.

2. **Overview of Regulatory Review from DHEC.** David Vaughan with the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control gave the Council an overview of proposed regulatory changes. DHEC is changing three of the four regulations related to onsite wastewater, mostly in regards to fees and licensing of contractors. They propose to add a three tier system for gravity systems, electrical components, and master contractors. DHEC would also like to utilize soil evaluations from third parties that is not dependent on information going through the 610 process. These changes will be presented to the Board next month and will be published in the State Register on November 24, 2017. Council would like to know when the proposed regulations publish in the State Register, and for Mr. Vaughan to keep them informed of the potential regulation changes.
3. **Continuing Education Audit.** Robert Eppinette, Chris Fincham, Robert Kendall, and John Christopher Roberts were randomly selected for a continuing audit.

MOTION: To approve continuing education for the four individuals selected for audit. DeFrancesco/Fincham/approved.

4. **Council Member Vacancy.**

MOTION: To enter executive session for legal advice, with staff remaining. DeFrancesco/Fincham/approved.

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

MOTION: To recommend Michael Lance Brewington for the council vacancy based on his activity in the profession, service on the Investigative Review Committee, and interest in continuing to serve the profession. DeFrancesco/Fincham/approved.

5. **2017 Election of Officers**

MOTION: To re-elect John Thorp as Chairman, and Chris Fincham as Vice Chairman. DeFrancesco/Fowler/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, March 6, 2018, 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 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherri F. Moorer

Sherri F. Moorer, Program Assistant