

**BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS AND WETLAND PROFESSIONALS
MEETING MINUTES**

The Board for Professional Soil Scientists and Wetland Professionals met on April 19, 2012, at the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia, with the following members present:

Robert B. Atkinson
Nancy Barker
Douglas S. Davis (arrived 10:20 am)
Charles E. Nelson
Angela C. Whitehead

Board members Angie Hall and H. Thomas Saxton were not present at the meeting.

Staff present for all or part of the meeting were:

Gordon N. Dixon, Director
Mark N. Courtney, Deputy Director of Licensing and Regulation
Kathleen (Kate) R. Nosbisch, Executive Director
Justin Garofalo, Board Administrator
Amy Goobic, Administrative Assistant

Josh Lief, Senior Assistant Attorney General, was present for the meeting.

Finding a quorum of the Board present, Ms. Barker, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Call to Order

Ms. Barker advised the Board of the emergency evacuation procedures.

**Emergency Evacuation
Procedures**

Ms. Nosbisch recognized World Wetlands Day, February 2 and Soil Stewardship Week, April 29-May 6. Ms. Nosbisch thanked board members for their service to the board and to their professions.

**Recognition of World
Wetlands Day and Soil
Stewardship Week**

Dr. Atkinson moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Whitehead seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by members: Atkinson, Barker, Nelson and Whitehead.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Nelson moved to approve the minutes from the following meeting:

Approval of Minutes

- January 10, 2012, Board Meeting

Dr. Atkinson seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by members: Atkinson, Barker, Nelson and Whitehead.

Public Comment Period – Kevin Seaford, President of the Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists (VAPSS), was present to address the Board. Mr. Seaford stated that he was in attendance to hear

Public Comment Period

the discussion on the national exam for soil scientists. He expressed that VAPSS has concerns regarding reciprocity if the national exam is not used by the Virginia Board.

Mr. Dixon reported that in an effort to streamline and reduce spending, the agency was considering implementing a secure website for board members to access board meeting agendas and materials. Mr. Dixon further reported on the merger of the Board for Professional Soil Scientists and Wetland Professionals and the Geology Board, stating that as part of the Governor's Reform Commission package, the merger would take effect July 1, 2012. Mr. Dixon stated that a decision had not yet been made on which staff will manage the Board. The Board will consist of 3 Soil Scientists, 3 Wetland Professionals, 3 Geologists, 3 citizen members and the State Geologist. Discussion was held on the number of meetings and the format of the meetings, as geologists review their applications during meetings. Mr. Courtney stated that the number of meetings would be the same, the Geologists may stay after the meeting to review applications and that the first meeting may be longer due to the changes and election of officers.

Director's Report

Board members were provided board financial statements for informational purposes.

Review of Financial Statements

Discussion was held on the Soil Scientist Society of America (SSSA) national soil scientist exam. Ms. Whitehead stated that there are discrepancies in the information covered by the SSSA exam and the current exam given by DPOR, however, she felt the SSSA exam was very comprehensive.

Discussion of Soil Scientist Exam

Mr. Nelson moved to accept the SSSA National exam. Ms. Whitehead seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by members: Atkinson, Barker, Davis, Nelson and Whitehead.

The Board recessed from 10:30 am. until 10:43 a.m.

Recess

Ms. Nosbisch explained that the Soil Scientist draft regulations were to include the changes from certification to licensure, changes were made to clarify language and to remove language that is included in the statutes. Discussion was held on the addition of the national exam and costs associated, to the regulations.

Regulatory Update

Board members reviewed the draft regulations. Mr. Nelson moved to accept the draft regulations as recommended by staff, and authorize staff to make changes as discussed at the meeting. Proposed regulations will be sent to board members for review prior to submission for executive branch review. Ms. Whitehead seconded the motion which unanimously approved by members: Atkinson, Barker, Davis, Nelson and Whitehead.

Ms. Nosbisch acknowledged the effort staff member, Justin Garofalo, put forth in the draft regulations presented to the Board.

There was no other business.

Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

Adjournment

Nancy Barker, Chair

Gordon N. Dixon, Secretary

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