

Regulatory Review Committee of the BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS, WETLAND PROFESSIONALS and GEOLOGISTS

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

The Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals and Geologists met on March 29, 2022 at the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR), 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia, with the following members present for all or part of the meeting:

Citizens

Robin Jones
Molly Parker
Bennette Burks

Geologists

Michael Lawless
Drew Thomas
David Spears

Soil Scientists

David Hall

Wetland Delineators

Robin Bedenbaugh
Justin Brown

Board members Warren “Ted” Dean, Alexis Jones, Larry Giannasi, and Doug DeBerry were not present at the meeting with regrets.

Staff present for all or part of the meeting were:

Kishore Thota, Chief Deputy Director
Kathleen (Kate) R. Nosbisch, Executive Director
Amy Goobic, Executive Assistant
Breanne Henshaw, Administrative Coordinator

Josh Laws, Assistant Attorney General, was present from the office of the Attorney General.

Mr. Thomas, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

Call to Order

Mr. Thomas advised the Board of the emergency evacuation procedures.

Emergency Evacuation

Ms. Nosbisch stated that Mr. DeBerry, Ms. Jones, Mr. Giannasi, and Mr. Dean send their regrets. Ms. Nosbisch stated Demetrios (Mitch) Melis, DPOR Director, sends his regrets, that Kishore Thota was attending in his place. Ms. Nosbisch introduced Kishore Thota, new DPOR Chief Deputy Director and Breanne Henshaw, Administrative Coordinator for the Board. Board members introduced themselves. Ms. Nosbisch also thanked Amy Goobic, Executive Assistant for assisting with the meeting. Ms. Nosbisch informed the Board of Bonnie Davis’ new role as the Boxing, Martial Arts and Professional Wrestling Advisory Board Operations Administrator.

Announcements

There was no public comment.

**Public
Comment
Period**

Ms. Nobsisch stated the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) exam is transitioning to computer based testing, and will begin with the exam scheduled for March 17, 2023. Mr. Thomas indicated the computer based testing will allow data to be gathered.

**ASBOG – CBT
Conversion
Begins**

Board members reviewed wetland delineation training course by Swamp School. Ms. Nobsisch stated this was for informational purposes.

**Wetland
Delineation
Training**

Discussion was held on the wetland delineation training program as presented and whether it should be considered a “course approved by the Board.” Mr. Brown and Mr. Bedenbaugh expressed concerns that the program did not meet the intent of the regulations and that it seemed to be “self taught.” They agreed that 18VAC145-30-60.B intent was to have a field component of 32 hours instructed by a Professional Wetland Delineator (PWD). The regulation does not refer specifically to a PWD instructor. Board members discussed options to clarify “course approved by the Board” and what could be done to inform the public that the field component should be taught by a PWD. Ms. Nobsisch informed the Board that to change the regulation or to issue a Guidance Document would take an extended amount of time. The Board discussed potential solutions and Ms. Nobsisch recommended adding language to the DPOR website with information regarding wetland delineator courses being offered. The language for the website will be presented to the Board at the next meeting.

Board members were provided an article by Amy Friedenberger, which highlights the Virginia Tech soil judging team. The article was for informational purposes.

**“What’s the big
deal about
dirt?” Virginia
Tech’s Standout
Soil Judging
Team**

Ms. Nobsisch informed the Board that a citizen member of the Board would be included in the rotation for Board Chair and Vice-Chair. She commented that prior to having citizen members on the Board, the rotation included the three professions represented on the Board.

**Citizen Member
Rotation of
Chair and Vice
Chair**

Ms. Nobsisch stated that the election of chair and vice-chair, as well as consideration

Election of

of 2023 meeting dates, must be postponed until the next Board meeting as there was not a quorum present.

**Officers and
2022 Meeting
Dates**

Ms. Nosbisch informed the Board that the public comment period for the fee increase regulatory action, ended March 2, 2022, no comments were received. She stated that the action needs to be voted on by the Board, however as there was not a quorum present, it must be deferred to the next meeting.

Fee Increase

Ms. Nosbisch reviewed the licensee counts as of March 1, 2022: Soil Scientists – 79; Wetland Delineators – 115; Geologists – 887.

**Licensed and
Certified
Population**

Mr. Hall provided an update on the soil scientist professional practice exam. He stated that as a member of the revision committee, they have discussed updating the performance objectives, and reviewing the actual questions as there is concerns with the low pass rate.

**Financial
Statements**

Mr. Thomas provided a brief report on ASBOG, stating that the ASBOG Council Exam Workshop was upcoming, and would be vetting current exam questions. Mr. Thomas and Mr. Lawless will be attending.

Mr. Spears announced that he will be retiring December 1, 2022. Ms. Nosbisch thanked Mr. Spears for his service and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Ms. Nosbisch thanked the Board members in attendance, and expressed the importance of having a quorum to conduct Board business.

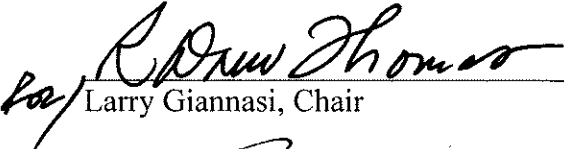
Other Business

Conflict of Interest forms and travel vouchers were completed by all board members present.

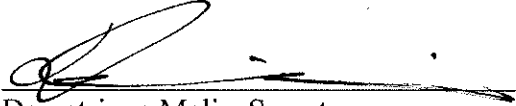
**Conflict of
Interest
Forms/Travel
Vouchers**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Adjournment



Larry Giannasi, Chair



Demetrious Melis, Secretary

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT**

**TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
for Officers and Employees of State Government**

1. Name: David Spears
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals and Geologists
4. Meeting/IFF Date: Board Meeting March 29, 2020

5. I have a personal interest in the following transaction:

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

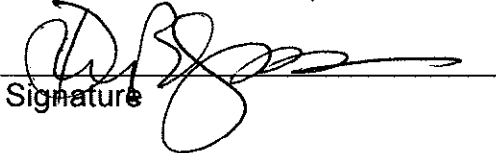
I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

or

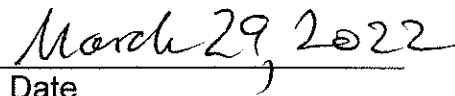
I did not participate in the transaction.

6. I do not have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.

Signature



Date



**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT**

**TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
for Officers and Employees of State Government**

1. Name: Robin Jones
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals and Geologists
4. Meeting/IFF Date: Board Meeting March 29, 2020

5. I have a personal interest in the following transaction:

N/A

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

N/A

I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

N/A

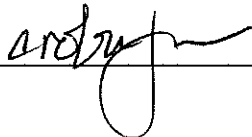
I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

or

I did not participate in the transaction.

6. I **do not** have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.

Signature



Date

3/29/22

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT**

**TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
for Officers and Employees of State Government**

1. Name: Molly Parker
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals and Geologists
4. Meeting/IFF Date: Board Meeting March 29, 2020

5. I have a personal interest in the following transaction:

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

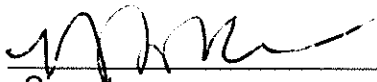
I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

or

I did not participate in the transaction.

6. I **do not** have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.



Signature

3/29/22

Date

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT**

**TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
for Officers and Employees of State Government**

1. Name: David Hall
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals and Geologists
4. Meeting/IFF Date: Board Meeting March 29, 2020

5. I have a personal interest in the following transaction:

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

or

I did not participate in the transaction.

6. I do not have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.



Signature

3/29/22

Date

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT**

TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
for Officers and Employees of State Government

- 1. Name: Justin T. Brown
- 2. Title: Board Member
- 3. Agency: Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals and Geologists
- 4. Meeting/IFF Date: Board Meeting March 29, 2020

5. I have a personal interest in the following transaction:

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

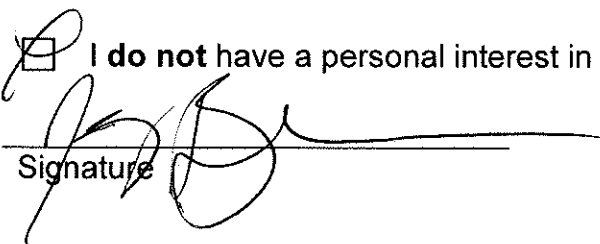
I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

or

I did not participate in the transaction.

6. I do not have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.


Signature

3/29/2022
Date

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT**

TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
for Officers and Employees of State Government

1. Name: Bennette Burks
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals and Geologists
4. Meeting/IFF Date: Board Meeting March 29, 2020

5. I have a personal interest in the following transaction:

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

or

I did not participate in the transaction.

6. I do not have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.

Bennette Burks
Signature

3/29/2022
Date

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT**

TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
for Officers and Employees of State Government

1. Name: R. Drew Thomas
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals and Geologists
4. Meeting/IFF Date: Board Meeting March 29, 2020

5. I have a personal interest in the following transaction:

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

or

I did not participate in the transaction.

6. I **do not** have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.

R. Drew Thomas
Signature

3.29.2022
Date

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT**

TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
for Officers and Employees of State Government

1. Name: Robin Bedenbaugh
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals and Geologists
4. Meeting/IFF Date: Board Meeting March 29, 2020

5. I have a personal interest in the following transaction:

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

or

I did not participate in the transaction.

6. I **do not** have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.

Robin L. Bedenbaugh
Signature

3/29/2022
Date

**STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CONFLICT OF INTERESTS ACT**

**TRANSACTIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
for Officers and Employees of State Government**

1. Name: Michael D. Lawless
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals and Geologists
4. Meeting/IFF Date: Board Meeting March 29, 2020

5. I have a personal interest in the following transaction:

NONE

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

N/A

I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

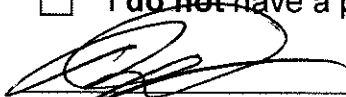
N/A

I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

or

I did not participate in the transaction.

6. I ~~do not~~ have a personal interest in any transactions taken at this meeting.



Signature

3/29/22

Date