

BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS, WETLAND PROFESSIONALS and
GEOLOGISTS MEETING MINUTES

The Soil Scientists Section of the Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals and Geologists met on June 1, 2023 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:

Larry Giannasi (SS)
David Hall (SS)
Robins Jones (Citizen)

Demetrios Melis, Director, Kishore Thota, Chief Deputy Director, and Board Member, Alexis Jones were not present at the meeting with regrets.

Staff present for all or part of the meeting were:

Stephen Kirschner, LRPD Deputy Directory
Kathleen (Kate) R. Nosbisch, Executive Director
Joe Haughwout, Regulatory Affairs Manager
Bonnie Davis, Regulatory Operations Administrator

Josh Laws, Assistant Attorney General, was not present from the office of the Attorney General.

Ms. Nosbisch called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Call to Order

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

**Emergency
Evacuation**

Ms. Nosbisch opened the floor for nominations for Chair to the Regulatory Review Committee. Mr. Hall nominated Mr. Giannasi as Chair. Mr. Giannasi nominated Mr. Hall as Chair. As there were no other nominations from the floor, Ms. Nosbisch closed the nominations. Ms. Jones seconded the motion for Mr. Giannasi as Chair. Mr. Giannasi accepted the nomination. Mr. Giannasi was approved Chair of the Committee by: Giannasi, Hall, and Jones.

**Election of
Committee Chair**

Ms. Jones moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Hall seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by members: Giannasi, Hall, and Jones.

**Approval of
Agenda**

There was no one present for public comment.

**Public Comment
Period**

Mr. Haughwout provided information on the Governor's directive to reduce regulatory burden by 25%.

**Statutes and
Regulatory Review**

Ms. Nosbisch stated that DPOR's legislative package was due May 26, 2023 for

DPOR Administration to consider for the 2024 General Assembly session. She stated the Committee should review proposed statute changes submitted by the Wetland Delineators and determine what changes they may wish to consider.

The Committee began a line-by-line review of the statutes. The Committee took into account the Universal Licensure Recognition statute which becomes effective July 1, 2023, when making proposed changes to the statutes. A long discussion took place regarding how licensed Onsite Soil Evaluators can design wastewater systems, although a licensed Soil Scientists cannot unless you are also a licensed Onsite Soil Evaluator; quorum for board meetings; and experience and education requirements for licensed Soil Scientists.

The Committee requested that an exemption for Soil Scientists designing septic systems be added to the Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals, and Geologists agenda of the next scheduled Board meeting on June 27, 2023 for discussion to submit a request to the Board for Waterworks and Wastewater Works Operators and Onsite Sewage System Professionals (WWWOSSP Board).

The Committee took a recess from 11:13 a.m. to 11:25 a.m.

Recess

The Committee continued review of the statutes and regulations. Discussions took place regarding decoupling the exams. The Committee requested staff contact the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) and determine if decoupling the exam would impact the Fundamentals Exam or the Professional Practice Exam. The Committee requested that the information be added to the agenda of the next scheduled Board meeting on June 27, 2023.

**Statutory and
Regulatory Review
continued**

The Committee completed review of the statutes and regulations and agreed by consensus to present the changes to the regulations and statutes at the next Board meeting on June 27, 2023.

Ms. Nosbisch stated that Director Melis had stated at another board meeting that there may be another Agency deregulation bill put forward in the 2024 General Assembly Session.

There was no other business.

Other Business

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

**Conflict of Interest
Forms/Travel
Vouchers**

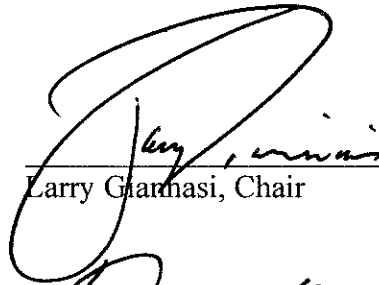
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

Adjournment

Soil Scientists Section of the Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals and Geologists

June 1, 2023

Page 3 of 3

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Giannasi". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Larry Giannasi, Chair

A smaller, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Demetrios Melis". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Demetrios Melis, Secretary

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

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

- 1. Name: Carlyle Robin Jones
- 2. Title: Board Member
- 3. Agency: Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals and Geologists
- 4. Meeting/IFF Date: Reg Review Meeting June 1, 2023

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

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

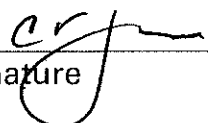
I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

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

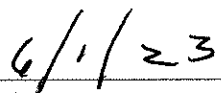
or

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: David Hall
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals and Geologists
4. Meeting/IFF Date: Reg Review Meeting June 1, 2023

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:

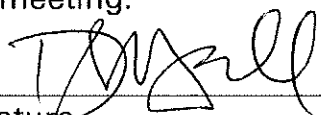
I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

or

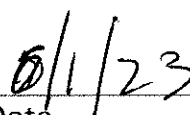
I did not participate in the transaction.

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: Larry Giannasi
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals and Geologists
4. Meeting/IFF Date: Reg Review Meeting June 1, 2023

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

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

_____ *No*

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

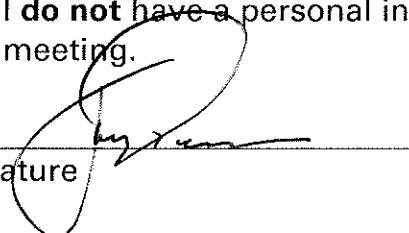
I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

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

6-1-23