

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

The Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals and Geologists met on September 4, 2024, at the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR), 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia.

Members present for all or part of the meeting:

Citizens

Cayman Lowe

Geologists

Ernest Beasley
Michael Lawless

Soil Scientists

Larry Giannasi
David Hall
Alexis Jones

Wetland Delineators

Doug DeBerry
Justin Brown

Members absent from the meeting with regrets:

Geologists

Shannon George
Matt Heller

Wetland Delineators

Robin Bedenbaugh

Citizens

Bennette Burks
Steven Yob

Staff present for all or part of the meeting were:

Brian P. Wolford, Deputy Director
Jeb Wilkinson, Special Assistant to the Director
Steve Kirschner, LRPD Deputy Director
Kate Nosbisch, Executive Director
Ecila Williams, Licensing Operations Administrator
Karen Reid, Administrative Coordinator
Greg Emerson, Executive Director- Examinations

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

Grace Flores-Hughes, BPOR Liaison, was not present at the meeting with regrets.

Members of the audience:

C. Robin Jones
R. Drew Thomas

Ms. Jones, Acting Chair, having a quorum, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Call to Order

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

Emergency Evacuation

Ms. Nosbisch announced Brian Wolford was recently named Agency Director. She introduced Jeb Wilkinson, Special Assistant to the Director, Cayman Lowe, new Citizen member, Ernest Beasley, new Geologist member, and Karen Reid, new Administrative Coordinator. Ms. Nosbisch also welcomed C. Robin Jones and R. Drew Thomas, former Board members. The Board members and staff introduced themselves.

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Lawless moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Giannasi seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by members: Beasley, Brown, DeBerry, Giannasi, Hall, Jones, Lawless, and Lowe.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. DeBerry moved to approve the minutes for the PSSWPG Board Meeting, June 11, 2024.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hall seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by members: Beasley, Brown, DeBerry, Giannasi, Hall, Jones, Lawless, and Lowe.

There was no public comment.

Public Comment Period

Ms. Jones, Acting Chair read the following resolution for consideration by the Board:

Resolution for R. Drew Thomas, Geologist

**RESOLUTION TO
R. Drew Thomas**

WHEREAS, **R. Drew Thomas**, did faithfully and diligently serve as a Board member of the Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals, and Geologists from 2015 to 2024;

WHEREAS, **R. Drew Thomas**, did devote generously of his time, talent and leadership to the Board;

WHEREAS, **R. Drew Thomas**, did endeavor at all times to render decisions with fairness and good judgment in the best interest of the citizens of the Commonwealth and these professions; and

WHEREAS, the Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals, and Geologists wishes to acknowledge its gratitude for devoted service of a person who is held in high esteem by the members of the Board and the citizens of the Commonwealth;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals, and Geologists this 4th day of September 2024, that **R. Drew Thomas**, be given all honors and respect due him for his outstanding service to the Commonwealth and its citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be presented to her and be made a part of the official minutes of the Board so that all may know of the high regard in which she is held by this Board.

The Board members agreed to the resolution by consensus.

Ms. Jones, Acting Chair read the following resolution for consideration by the Board:

Resolution for C.
Robin Jones,
Citizen

**RESOLUTION TO
CARLYLE “ROBIN” JONES**

WHEREAS, **Carlyle “Robin” Jones**, did faithfully and diligently serve as a Board member of the Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals, and Geologists from 2015 to 2024;

WHEREAS, **Carlyle “Robin” Jones**, did devote generously of her time, talent and leadership to the Board;

WHEREAS, **Carlyle Robin Jones**, did endeavor at all times to render decisions with fairness and good judgment in the best interest of the citizens of the Commonwealth and these professions; and

WHEREAS, the Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals, and Geologists wishes to acknowledge its gratitude for devoted service of a person who is held in high esteem by the members of the Board and the citizens of the Commonwealth;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals, and Geologists this 4th day of September 2024, that **Carlyle “Robin” Jones**, be given all honors and respect due her for her outstanding service to the Commonwealth and its citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be presented to her and be made a part of the official minutes of the Board so that all may know of the high regard in which she is held by this Board.

The Board members agreed to the resolution by consensus.

Ms. Nosbisch stated the Examination Director Report was provided for informational purposes.

Examination
Director Report

Ms. Nobsisch stated the Executive Director Report was provided for informational purposes.

Executive Director Report

Mr. Giannasi shared with the Board that the Soil Scientists applicants for this profession appear to be decreasing, and that he would like to see the numbers for a five-year trend on the next Board meeting agenda.

Ms. Nobsisch informed the Board that there has been no regulatory movement.

Regulatory Update

Ms. Nobsisch opened the floor for nominations for Board Chair. Mr. DeBerry nominated Mr. Brown as Board Chair. Mr. Giannasi seconded the motion. Mr. Brown accepted the nomination. Ms. Nobsisch asked if there were any additional nominations for Board Chair. There being none, Ms. Nobsisch closed the floor for nominations. The motion was unanimously approved by: Beasley, Brown, DeBerry, Giannasi, Hall, Jones, Lawless, and Lowe.

Election of Officers

Ms. Nobsisch opened the floor for nominations for Board Vice Chair. Mr. Lawless nominated Ms. Jones as Board Vice Chair. Mr. Giannasi seconded the motion. Ms. Jones accepted the nomination. Ms. Nobsisch asked if there were any additional nominations for Board Vice Chair. There being none, Ms. Nobsisch closed the floor for nominations. The motion was unanimously approved by: Beasley, Brown, DeBerry, Giannasi, Hall, Jones, Lawless, and Lowe.

Ms. Nobsisch provided an update on Epic X.

Epic X Update

Ms. Jones shared with the Board information regarding Continuing Education Unit (CEU) opportunity for Soil Scientists at Virginia Tech from October 23, 2024 to October 24, 2024.

Soil Scientists Update

Mr. DeBerry shared with the Board information regarding the number of applicants pursuing the Wetland Professionals and that there has been a recent uptick for the State Services Water Program with the Department of Environmental Quality.

Wetland Professionals Update

Mr. Emerson shared with the Board the current number of applicants for Wetland Professionals. Mr. DeBerry thanked Mr. Emerson and the Examinations Department.

Mr. Lawless shared with the Board that there was no new information to report.

Geologists Update

The licensee counts as of August 1, 2024: Soil Scientists – 79; Wetland Delineators – 131; Geologists – 912.

Licensed and Certified Population

Ms. Nosbisch informed the Board that the financial statements were included for informational purposes.

Financial Statements

Ms. Nosbisch informed the Board that she will be seeking approval for Shannon George to attend Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) 2024 Fall Meeting.

Other Business

Ms. Nosbisch reminded the Board that the Board Member Training Conference is scheduled for October 10, 2024, to October 11, 2024, in Williamsburg, VA.

Director Wolford shared with the Board the importance of the Board Member Training Conference and encouraged the Board members to attend.

Mr. Giannasi shared a “A Day in the Life of a Soil Scientist” presentation to the Board.

A Day in the Life of a Soil Scientist

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 11:16 a.m.

Adjourn

Alexis Jones, Acting Chair

Brian P. Wolford, Secretary