

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

The Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals and Geologists met on December 2, 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

Steven Yob

Geologists

Ernest Beasley
Shannon George
Matt Heller

Soil Scientists

Jay Conta
Larry Giannasi

Wetland Delineators

Justin Brown
Nathan Kuhn

Members absent from the meeting with regrets:

Citizens

David Johnson
Cayman Lowe

Geologists

Michael Lawless

Soil Scientists

Alexis Jones

Wetland Delineators

Doug DeBerry

Staff present for all or part of the meeting were:

Brian P. Wolford, Deputy Director
Jeb Wilkinson, Chief Deputy Director
Steve Kirschner, LRPD Deputy Director
Kate Nobsch, Executive Director
Ecila Williams, Licensing Operations Administrator
Jhustyna McBride-Dunn, Regulatory Operations Administrator
Joe Haughwout, Regulatory Affairs Manager
Stephen Martin, Senior Advisor
Greg Emerson, Executive Director- Examinations

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

Enid Candelaria-Vega, BPOR Liaison, was not present at the meeting with regrets.

Members of the audience:

Robin Bedenbaugh- Former Board Member, Wetland Delineator
Bennette Burks- Former Board Member, Citizen

Thaddeus Kraska- Townes Site Engineering

Mr. Brown, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:17 a.m. Having no quorum, all actionable items were held until a quorum was obtained.

Call to Order

Mr. Brown and Ms. Nosbisch advised the Board of the emergency evacuation procedures.

Emergency Evacuation

Ms. Nosbisch welcomed Jeb Wilkinson as the new Chief Deputy Director, Stephen Martin as the new Senior Advisor for the Agency, and Jhustyna McBride-Dunn as the new Regulatory Operations Administrator. Ms. Nosbisch informed the Board that Karen Reid, former Administrative Coordinator, transferred to another Agency and she is currently seeking a replacement. Ms. Nosbisch introduced guests and staff of the audience. Board members and staff introduced themselves.

Welcome/Introductions

Mr. Brown read the following resolution for consideration by the Board:

Resolution for Bennette Burks, Citizen

RESOLUTION TO
Bennette D. Burks

WHEREAS, Bennette D. Burks, 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, Bennette D. Burks, did devote generously of his time, talent and leadership to the Board;

WHEREAS, Bennette D. Burks, 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 2nd day of December 2024, that Bennette D. Burks, 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 him and be made a part of the official minutes of the Board so that all may know of the high regard in which he is held by this Board.

Mr. Brown read the following resolution for consideration by the Board:

Resolution for
Robin
Bedenbaugh,
Wetland
Delineator

RESOLUTION TO
Robin Bedenbaugh

WHEREAS, Robin Bedenbaugh, 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, Robin Bedenbaugh did devote generously of his time, talent and leadership to the Board;

WHEREAS, Robin Bedenbaugh, 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 2nd day of December 2024, that Robin Bedenbaugh, 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 him and be made a part of the official minutes of the Board so that all may know of the high regard in which he is held by this Board.

Mr. Brown read the following resolution for consideration by the Board:

Resolution for
David Hall, Soil
Scientist

RESOLUTION TO
David Hall

WHEREAS, David Hall, did faithfully and diligently serve as a Board member of the Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals, and Geologists from 2018 to 2024;

WHEREAS, David Hall, did devote generously of his time, talent and leadership to the Board;

WHEREAS, David Hall, 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 2nd day of December 2024, that David Hall, 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 him and be made a part of the official minutes of the Board so that all may know of the high regard in which he is held by this Board.

Ms. Nosbisch presented to the Board an email from Evan Bishop, Geologist, asking the Board to provide assistance to sponsor a bill to change current regulation that would re-allow Geologists to conduct necessary work and submit permits to the Virginia Department of Health for installation of water wells.

**Public Comment
Period**

Ms. Nosbisch provided an update regarding PSSWPG examinations for informational purposes

**Examinations
Update**

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

**Executive Director
Report**

Ms. Nosbisch reminded the Board that Financial Disclosure statements are due by February 1, 2025.

**Financial
Disclosure**

Mr. Beasley shared a “A Day in the Life of a Geologist” presentation to the Board and DPOR staff.

A Day in the Life of a Geologist

Ms. George, Ms. Nosbisch, and Mr. Yob provided an update on the Board Member Training Conference that occurred on October 10-11, 2024, for informational purpose.

Board Member Training Conference Update

Mr. Conta addressed the Board with information from the Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists (VAPSS) Newsletter stating that Drew Thomas, former board member, is seeking VAPSS support for geologists to have mandatory licensure from DPOR rather than current voluntary licensure.

Soil Scientists Update

Mr. Brown shared with the Board that there was no new information to report at this time.

Wetland Professionals Update

Ms. George shared with the Board information from the 2024 Fall ASBOG Annual Meeting that occurred from October 22-26, 2024, in Ft. Collins, Colorado.

Geologists Update

The licensee counts as of November 1, 2024: Soil Scientists – 80; Wetland Delineators – 145; Geologists – 920.

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 EpicX is currently in development with a Wave 1 launch in March 2025.

EpicX Update

The Board took a recess from 11:21 a.m. to 11:42 a.m.

Recess

Mr. Giannasi arrived at 11:30 a.m.

Arrival of Board Member

Having a quorum present, the Board can continue with the meeting.

Determination of Quorum

Mr. Yob moved to approve the agenda with an amendment. Mr. Heller seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by members: Beasley, Brown, Conta, George, Giannasi, Heller, Kuhn, and Yob.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Giannssi moved to approve the minutes for the following date:

**Approval of
Minutes**

PSSWPG Board Meeting, September 4, 2024

Mr. Heller seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by members: Beasley, Brown, Conta, George, Giannasi, Heller, Kuhn, and Yob.

Mr. Kirschner provided to the Board information regarding the final fee adjustment with amendments. After a discussion, Mr. Yob moved to adopt the amended fee adjustment and authorize staff to file the final fee adjustment as amended. Mr. Gianassi seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by members: Beasley, Brown, Conta, George, Giannasi, Heller, Kuhn, and Yob.

Regulatory Update

Mr. Haughwout informed the Board that the public comment period for the proposed fee adjustment closed on October 25, 2024 with one comment received. After a brief discussion, Mr. Giannasi moved to approve the proposed response to the public comment. Ms. George seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by members: Beasley, Brown, Conta, George, Giannasi, Heller, Kuhn, and Yob

Ms. McBride-Dunn informed the Board that general review actions for the Professional Soil Scientists Regulations, Regulations Governing Certified Professional Wetland Delineators, and Geologists regulations are at the Proposed stage in Executive Branch review. Next steps are to prepare the filing to be submitted to the Virginia Registrar and open public comment. The Board's exempt actions related to House Bill 1182 for Wetland Professionals and House Bill 287 for Geologists went into effect as of October 1, 2024.

Mr. Haughwout informed the Board that during Executive Branch review of the proposed amendments for the Soil Scientists regulations feedback was received from the Department of Planning and Budget regarding revisions to the proposed regulation. The Board reviewed and considered proposed revisions. After a brief discussion, Mr. Gianassi moved to adopt the proposed revisions to the proposed regulation re-adopt the proposed regulation. Mr. Yob seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by members: Beasley, Brown, Conta, George, Giannasi, Heller, Kuhn, and Yob

Mr. Kirschner provided Board Member Training reviewing the Complaint and Investigation process.

**Board Member
Training**

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 12:49 p.m.

Adjourn

Justin T. Brown, Chair

Brian P. Wolford, Secretary

DRAFT