

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

The Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals and Geologists met on March 8, 2017, at the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia, with the following members present:

Citizens

Bennette Burks
Robin Jones
Molly Plautz

Geologists

Meade Anderson
Drew Thomas

Soil Scientists

Larry Giannasi
Tom Saxton
Angela Whitehead

Wetland Delineators

Robin Bedenbaugh
Doug DeBerry

Board members, Warren Dean, Keith Goodwin, and David Spears were not present at the meeting.

Board staff present for all or part of the meeting were:

Kathleen (Kate) R. Nosbisch, Executive Director
Bonnie Davis, Administrative Assistant

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

Mr. Giannasi, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Call to Order

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

**Emergency Evacuation
Procedures**

Ms. Whitehead moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Bedenbaugh seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by members: Anderson, Bedenbaugh, DeBerry, Burks, Giannasi, Jones, Plautz, Saxton, Thomas and Whitehead.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

- September 1, 2016, Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals and Geologists

Ms. Whitehead seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by members: Anderson, Bedenbaugh, DeBerry, Burks, Giannasi, Jones, Plautz, Saxton, Thomas and Whitehead.

There was no public comment.

Public Comment Period

Ms. Jones arrived to the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

Arrival of Board Member

After reviewing APELSCIDLA regulation 18VAC10-20-740.F. Professional Responsibility, utilization of design, drawings, specifications, or work of another regulant, the Board requested staff draft similar language for review at the next Board meeting on June 21, 2017.

**Request for Regulation
Pertaining to Using the
Work of Another
Wetland Professional**

Ms. Nobsch reminded the Board that the new regulations that became effective March 1, 2015, required eight hours of continuing education each year. Because this placed undue burden on the regulants, after consulting with Board counsel, a six month extension was issued for regulants to submit their continuing education credits which expires with April 2017 renewals. Ms. Nobsch noted that Lee Daniels, Graduate Program Director & Associate Head, Dept. of Crop & Soil Environmental Sciences at Virginia Tech is working on modules for soils scientists. It was noted that continuing education does not have to be DPOR approved, as long as the education is related to your profession.

**Soil Scientist CE
Requirements**

Mr. Giannasi noted that the guidance document is for informational purposes only.

**Guidance Document
regarding Wetland
Boundary Survey**

Ms. Nobsch reported House Bill 2076 State Water Control Board; stormwater management programs, regulations, professional license was passed and signed by the governor. The bill directs the State Water Control Board to adopt regulations requiring that all final plan elements, specifications, or calculations whose preparation requires a license in engineering, architecture, soil science, or a related profession be signed and sealed by a licensed professional.

General Assembly Update

Ms. Nobsch stated that Dawn Gibas with the Soil Science Society of America and the American Society of Agronomy is forming an exam committee to review the Performance Objectives for the Professional Practice Exam and the exam itself. Ms. Gibas is requesting two licensed soil scientists from each state to serve on the exam committee. Larry Giannasi volunteered; the Board needs one more person to serve on the committee. Ms. Nobsch will check with Lexi Jones and if she is unavailable, Ms. Whitehead has some suggestions for Committee members.

**SS Professional Practice
Exam Committee**

Mr. Bedenbaugh stated the Exam Review Committee had a meeting in September and they had enough questions to hold a February 2017 exam. He stated the committee will meet again this year to keep adding questions to the exam bank. Ms. Nobsch stated the Committee has had extensive meetings, and thanked the Committee for their service.

**Update on Wetland
Delineator Exam Review
Committee**

Ms. Nobsch noted Drew Thomas will be attending the Spring ASBOG meeting, and will provide an update at the Board's next meeting on June 21, 2017.

ASBOG

Board members were provided financial statements for informational purposes. Ms. Nobsch noted that the Board is in good financial shape.

Review of Financial Statements

Mr. Giannasi provided the licensee counts as of February 1, 2017: Geologists 955, Soil Scientists 125, and Wetland Delineators 109. It was noted that two Wetland Delineators passed the February exam.

Licensed Population

Ms. Nobsch reported that February 2nd was World Wetlands Day, and staff sent an email to the wetland delineators recognizing the day, and it was published on DPOR's Facebook page. She also noted that April 2nd is Geologists Day, and December 5th is World Soil Day. These professions will be sent an email, and the recognized day will be posted on DPOR's Facebook page. Ms. Nobsch thanked each profession for their service.

Important Dates

Ms. Nobsch thanked the Board members for submitting their Statement of Economic Interest Disclosure Forms prior to the established deadline.

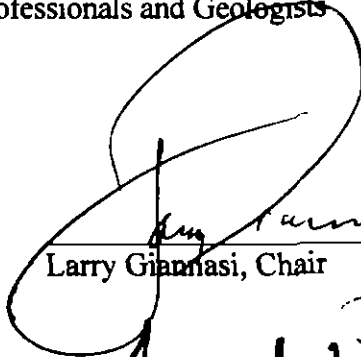
Statement of Economic Interest

The Board reviewed regulation 18VAC145-30-50 Qualification Experience in Wetland Delineation. Mr. Bedenbaugh stated that the draft language required at least three of the reports have confirmation letters from the Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Bedenbaugh requested clarification of why the language was removed. He stated that it is a surrogate of the field practicum that helps us know that the applicant has met the qualifications. Mr. DeBerry stated it is nice to have that level of scrutiny. Ms. Nobsch stated that anything more restrictive may not be approved. Mr. DeBerry stated it is more restrictive, but it is standard of practice. Ms. Nobsch reminded the Board this was addressed earlier this year and the Board was advised it should not be done. The Board requested additional research to be presented at the June 21, 2017 meeting.

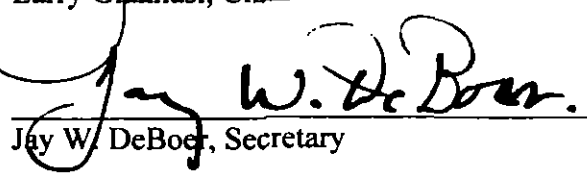
Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Adjournment



Larry Giannasi, Chair



Jay W. DeBoer, Secretary

**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 8, 2017

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

NONE

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

NONE

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

NONE

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 D. Burks.
Signature

3/8/2017
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 8, 2017

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

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

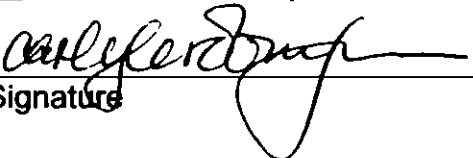
I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

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

3/8/17
Date

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

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

1. Name: Molly Plautz
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals and Geologists
4. Meeting/IFF Date: Board Meeting March 8, 2017

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

NA.

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:

MP 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.

Molly Plautz
Signature

3/8/17
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: Board Meeting March 8, 2017

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:

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

Larry Giannasi

Date

3-8-17

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

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

1. Name: Tom Saxton
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals and Geologists
4. Meeting/IFF Date: Board Meeting March 8, 2017

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

3-8-17

Date

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

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

1. Name: Angela C. Whitehead
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals and Geologists
4. Meeting/IFF Date: Board Meeting March 8, 2017

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

NA

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.

Angela Whitehead

Signature

3-8-17

Date

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

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

1. Name: Meade Anderson
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals and Geologists
4. Meeting/IFF Date: Board Meeting March 8, 2017

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

Nature of Personal Interest Affected by Transaction:

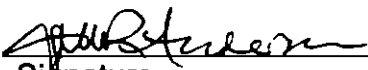
I declare that I am a member of the following business, profession, occupation or group, the members of which are affected by the transaction:

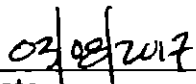
I am able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

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: 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 8, 2017

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

3.8.17
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 8, 2017

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

3/8/2017
Date

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

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

1. Name: Doug DeBerry
2. Title: Board Member
3. Agency: Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals and Geologists
4. Meeting/IFF Date: Board Meeting March 8, 2017

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

3-8-2017

Date