

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

The Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals and Geologists met on June 20 2018, 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
David Spears
Drew Thomas

Soil Scientists

Larry Giannasi
Angela Whitehead

Wetland Delineators

Robin Bedenbaugh
Doug DeBerry

Board members, Warren “Ted” Dean and Keith Goodwin, 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

Elizabeth Peay, Assistant Attorney General, was present from the office of the Attorney General.

Mr. Spears, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Call to Order

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

**Emergency Evacuation
Procedures**

Ms. Nosbisch stated Mr. Dean (Geologist), Mr. Goodwin (Wetland Delineator), and Mr. DeBoer send their regrets. She introduced Brittany Utz with Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission (JLARC).

**Welcome and
Introductions**

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

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Peay arrived to the meeting at 10:04 a.m. Ms. Nosbisch introduced Ms. Peay to the Board upon her arrival.

**Arrival of Assistant
Attorney General**

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

Approval of Minutes

- December 5, 2017, Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals and Geologists

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

There was no public comment.

Public Comment Period

Mr. Spears stated the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) developed a new membership category “Nationally Accredited Professional Geologist (NAPG). The Board also received communication from ASBOG's President Weiland regarding this matter. The Board understands that ASBOG is assisting AIPG in the development of the new category although ASBOG acknowledges that licensure is through state statutes and rules, not AIPG certification. Further, ASBOG is not endorsing the AIPG initiative on this new member category; however, it is facilitating the necessary coordination with its Member States as the work proceeds.

AIPG New Member Category

The Board agreed by consensus that staff would send a letter stating that the new category does not compete with state certification, nor can it be used to meet 18VAC145-40-80.2. Waiver of examination for certification in Virginia. The letter will also be sent to the Board members.

Ms. Spears stated it is important to have a representative at the Council of Examiners (COE) Workshop because the states write the exam questions. Mr. Anderson stated you get the true appreciation of what goes into the exams. Mr. Thomas indicated he is interested and available to represent the Board at this meeting. Ms. Nobsch will follow up with all geologists.

ASBOG

Ms. Nobsch reported she has been contacted by the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) requesting a representative from Virginia to help review and update the exam. Mr. Giannasi agreed to be the Virginia representative. Ms. Nobsch thanked him for volunteering for this committee and indicated she would provide him with pertinent information.

Exam Update

Ms. Nobsch stated Mr. Murray has taken another position within DPOR. The Wetland Delineator Board members recognized Mr. Murray's contributions to the exam review process. She thanked the Wetland Delineator members for their hard work on the exam, and stated the Exam staff will continue to provide support and she will let them know when the next Wetland Delineator Exam meeting will be.

There was a discussion regarding the benefits of continuing education (CE) for geologists. Mr. Thomas indicated he wanted to conduct an independent survey of fellow geologists to inquire about their position regarding CE. Soil Scientists indicated it would be helpful if CE

Continuing Education

requirements were by renewal year and not calendar year. This would require a change in statute.

The Board reviewed the number of Geologists in Training. Mr. Spears noted that the numbers continue to increase with May being the best month yet, noting we are only half way through the calendar year.

GIT Counts

Mr. Spears provided the licensee and certification counts as of June 1, 2018: Geologists 940, Soil Scientists 101, and Wetland Delineators 114.

Licensed and Certified Population

Ms. Nosbisch reported that the Wetland Delineator proposed regulation prohibiting the use of work of another without written consent Fast Track is still in the Secretary's Office.

Regulatory Update

Discussion was held on HB 883, part of the red-tape regulatory reform, which directs DPB to administer a three-year regulatory reduction pilot program aimed at reducing by 25% the regulations and regulatory requirements, as defined in the bill, of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation and the Department of Criminal Justice Services by July 1, 2021.

General Assembly Update

Board members considered the following 2019 meeting dates:

Consideration of 2019 Meeting Dates

- Wednesday, February 20, 2019
- Wednesday, May 29, 2019
- Wednesday, August 21, 2019
- Tuesday, November 19, 2019

Mr. Giannasi moved to approve the 2019 meeting dates. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by members: Anderson, Bedenbaugh, Burks, DeBerry, Giannasi, Jones, Plautz, Spears, Thomas, and Whitehead.

Ms. Nosbisch informed the Board that according to the rotation policy, the vice-chair assumes the position of chair and then a board member from the next profession is elected vice-chair. Ms. Nosbisch opened the floor for nominations for Board Chair. Ms. Jones nominated Mr. Goodwin, current vice-chair, for position of Chair. As there were no other nominations from the floor, Ms. Nosbisch closed the nominations. Mr. DeBerry seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by members: Anderson, Bedenbaugh, Burks, DeBerry, Giannasi, Jones, Plautz, Spears, Thomas, and Whitehead.

Election of Officers

As Soil Scientists are the next profession in the rotation, Ms. Nosbisch opened the floor for nominations for Board vice-chair. Ms. Whitehead moved to nominate Mr. Giannasi for the position of vice-chair. As there

were no other nominations from the floor, Ms. Nosbisch closed the nominations. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by members: Anderson, Bedenbaugh, Burks, DeBerry, Giannasi, Jones, Plautz, Spears, Thomas, and Whitehead.

The Board recessed from 11:10 a.m. until 11:15 a.m.

Recess

Ms. Nosbisch provided a presentation on Board Member Roles and Responsibilities.

Board Member Roles and Responsibilities

Board members were provided financial statements for informational purposes. Ms. Nosbisch noted that the Board is in a solid financial position.

Review of Financial Statements

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

Resolution – Tom Saxton

RESOLUTION TO
Harry Thomas Saxton

WHEREAS, Harry Thomas Saxton, did faithfully and diligently serve as a Board member of the Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals, and Geologists from 2009 to 2018;

WHEREAS, Harry Thomas Saxton, did devote generously of his time, talent and leadership to the Board;

WHEREAS, Harry Thomas Saxton, 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 27th day of March 2018, that Harry Thomas Saxton, 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.

The Board members agreed to the resolution by consensus.

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 12:01 p.m.

Adjournment

David Spears, Chair

Jay W. DeBoer, Secretary

DRAFT