

NC Board for Licensing of Soil Scientists

Board Meeting
March 2, 2018

Farm Bureau Office
Western Blvd, Raleigh, NC

Present: Alan Clapp, Scott Greene, Mike Vepraskas, Walter Giese, Patrick Johnson (Public), and Don Wells, Elaine Christian, Administrative Manager, Deborah Piland, Staff

Not Attending: Steve Broome, NCSST; Anne Brown, Attorney; Clark Wipfield

1. Ethics statement read by Alan Clapp, no conflicts announced.
2. Agenda --addition to agenda, Jacob McGaughey will be taking Fundamental Exam. Motion to accept by Don Wells, seconded by Alan Clapp. Unanimously approved
3. Approval of Minutes for the October, 2017 Board Meeting—Motion to accept by Scott Greene, seconded by Don Wells. Unanimously approved. Minutes will be placed on board website.
4. Treasurer's report by Mike Vepraskas- motion to approve by Walter Giese, seconded by Patrick Johnson. Unanimously approved
5. Old Business
 - a. Statement of Economic Interest due by April 15. All appointed members must complete by April 15.
 - b. Ethics Education every 2 years required. Can go to class or complete online training. Alan will inform members who need education.
 - c. Board Terms: Mike Vepraskas (Academic) and Alan Clapp (Local Government) have terms expiring on June 30, 2018. Governor's office would like to have names submitted, and board may recommend candidates. Interested parties should apply online through Boards and Commissions.
 - d. 2L Rules and Comments: Don Wells—Section 0.0103 (e): A geologist or engineer must sign reports related to contamination assessments. The re-adoption review process of this rule will begin in May 2018. This rule section needs to be modified to allow licensed soil scientists to sign reports for contaminated sites. One option may be to adopt language similar to 2T rules that may include wording allowing soil scientists to sign permits for contaminated sites. Alan Clapp will submit letter with NCBLSS suggestions at the appropriate time.

e. 2018 Spring Exam date is 20 April

Don Wells asked about exam costs. It was noted that board breaks even on exam costs.

6. New Business

Complaint against Adrian Pruett made to the NCBLSS by Trena S. Miller. Scott Greene appointed as complaint investigator. The Board's responsibilities are specified in Section .0500-Disciplinary Action and Procedure:

“(a) Duty of the Board. When the Board becomes aware of a complaint, it shall send a “letter of inquiry” to the soil scientist involved and to the complainant. The soil scientist shall reply to this and any other inquiry of the Board within 30 calendar days. Failure to respond shall constitute violation of the rules in this Chapter. After receiving and considering the response from the soil scientist, the Board may send additional letters of inquire to the soil scientists and other persons involved.

(b) Findings of the Board. Upon consideration of responses to inquiries, the Board shall determine what action shall be taken:

(1) if the Board determines that no disciplinary action is necessary, all parties previously contacted will be so informed;

(2) if the Board determines that the infraction is deemed minor, then the licensee may be offered a “letter of warning”. This “letter of warning” shall note the licensee’s acceptance of such action by the Board and shall specify the Board’s cause for concern. Other persons previously contacted shall be informed by the Board has acted upon this matter;

(3) if the Board determines that a formal hearing should be held, G.S. 150B is applicable;

(4) if the Board determines that another person involved is licensed by the State, relevant information shall be sent by letter to the respective professional board.

Complaint from Trena S. Miller read by Scott Greene. Adrian Pruett's response to each of her 11 charges have not yet been received. Alan Clapp indicated the Board needs to respond to Ms. Miller within 30 days. A second board meeting will be held by telephone to make a decision on the complaint once Pruett's response is received.

7. Review of Professional Practice Exam Applications

a. Alexander Thompson—no action needed, previously approved for retake

b. Cory Connell—no action needed, previously approved for retake

c. Alan Alcock—pending: only one reference was from a LSS and two are required. He will not be permitted to take exam unless another LSS reference obtained by Wed. March 7, 2018.

d. Evan Morgan—pending, references are from 2015 and current references are needed dated in 2018. He will have until Wed. to submit updated references.

8. Fundamentals Exam: Three candidates are retaking the exam. No action needed.

9. Election of officers: Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer will need to be selected due to expiring terms of Alan Clapp and Mike Vepraskas.

Motion by Alan Clapp to appoint Scott Greene chair upon completion of term of Alan Clapp. Seconded by Don Wells. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Mike Vepraskas to appoint Don Wells as Secretary/Treasurer upon completion of term of Mike Vepraskas. Seconded by Walter Giese. Approved unanimously.

Motion by Don Wells to appoint Walter Giese as Vice-Chair upon completion of term of Scott Greene. Seconded by Alan Clapp. Unanimously approved.

10. SSSA will no longer require Professional Practice for Certified Professional Soil Scientists. Whether the NCBLSS should follow the same path was discussed. No action taken.

11. SSSA has a new classification of Certified Soil Technician (CST). Discussed but no action taken.

12. Motion to adjourn at 3:05 PM, by Don Wells, seconded by Scott Greene. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted

Mike Vepraskas