

NC Board for Licensing of Soil Scientists

Board Meeting
October 27, 2017

Farm Bureau Office
Western Blvd, Raleigh, NC

Chair Alan Clapp called the board meeting to order at 1:00 PM with the following in attendance:
Alan Clapp-Chair, Scott Greene-Vice Chair, Mike-Secretary-Treasurer, Steve Broome
(President NCSST), Walter Giese, Patrick Johnson, Clark Wipfield, Don Wells

Also attending: Anne Brown, Attorney; Elaine Christian, Administrative Manager

1. Ethics statement read by Alan Clapp
2. Agenda Reviewed—Motion to approve by Scott Greene, Seconded by Clark Wipfield;
unanimously approved
3. New members introduced:

Walter Giese—replacement for Edwin Stott
Clark Wipfield—replacement for Reid Hobbs
Patrick Johnson—replacement for Fred Burt
Steve Broome—President, Soil Science Society of NC

2. Treasurers Report-Mike Vepraskas
 - a. for the period July to September 2017: Current assets total \$81,562. Currently we have 173 members.
 - b. Compilation Summary prepared by CPA for fiscal year ended June 30, 2017 was presented to the board. This was a compilation meaning the Board's financial statements are not audited or checked for accuracy.

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Scott Greene, seconded by Clark Wipfield; Vote as unanimous to approve.

3. Legal issues discussed by Anne Brown

No problem posting complaints online in principle. Her conservative advice was not to post because they are unproven allegations and could prompt litigation.

Filing enforcement law suits: Boards should no longer issue cease and desist orders to violators. Instead boards could file enforcement action and let a judge decide—judge is a neutral body.

4. New Business Items

a. Professional Applications Reviewed

Alexander Thompson—applying for taking the professional practice exam on November 17—motion to approve—Don Wells, Mike Vepraskas seconded, unanimous approval.

William Trent Bostic—application for professional practice exam—motion to approve—motion to approve—Don Wells, Clark Wipfield seconded, unanimous approval.

Third applicant was a retake, no action needed for Corey Connell.

b. Five students will take Fundamentals Exam on same day. No action needed.

c. Deadline for Submitting Applications suggested being March 2, 2018. SSSA requires March 9, but that is the date they must receive applications, so has to be moved up one week.

d. NCBLSS Website—suggestions for improvement called for. None suggested.

e. Complaint form reviewed. Alan Clapp stated it meets minimum requirements in state statutes. No additions/deletions suggested.

F. Walter Giese moved that the minutes and agenda of business meetings be posted on line, after being approved at the following meeting.—Clark Wipfield seconded; Voted unanimously for approval.

g. Bills affecting Soil Science and Occupational Licensing Boards

Senate Bill 16: An Act to Provide Further Regulatory Relief to the Citizens of North Carolina—Pertains to things that affect soil scientists including—Wastewater System Permit Extension: Section 19 (G.S. 130A-336): (b1) amended to extend an improvement permit or authorization for wastewater system construction issued between 2000 and 2015 to be extended to 2020. , affecting erosion control, compliance boundaries.

House Bill 56: An Act to amend Various Environmental Laws: The bill “Clarifies Roles of Geologists and Soil Scientists in Wastewater System Site Evaluations”. Amends Section 18. (a) G.S. 130A-335(a1). Geologists were filing reports on engineered option permits. Soil scientists were objecting because geologists were performing soils evaluations. This bill clarifies what soil scientists can do (duties listed in Chapter 89F of General Statutes) and what geologists can do (geologic and hydro geologic condition evaluations) and eliminates any overlap.

h. Rules Review

Public Review of Septic Rule Revision—will take effect on April 1, 2017.

Public review of “2L Rules” affecting underground storage tanks and contaminated sites. Don Wells will represent board during meetings for public comments. Rule predates Soil Science Licensing Act and licensed soil scientists are not mentioned. Soil reports could be written by geologists or engineers as a result.

i. Steve Broome raised the issue of Boards for Licensed Geologists and Licensed Soil Scientists merging. In 2015 the NC Legislature recommended boards must have 1500 members to remain active. Neither the geologists nor soil scientists meet the 1500 member minimum, but it would be met if the two boards merged.

Clark Wipfield noted that states (e.g., Wisconsin and Texas) have joint boards. There is strength in numbers. Steve Broome will approach Rick Kolb, chair of the Geology Licensing Board, about speaking at the annual meeting of the SSSNC.

5. Ethics education due—each board member must complete ethics training every 2 years. Financial disclosures must be completed each year.

6. Board Terms—Succession Plan—Mike Vepraskas and Alan Clapp will be leaving the board on July 1, 2018. The board will need to elect new officers for chair, vice-chair, and secretary-treasurer for coming year.

7. Other Business

a. Reports filed every year by the Business Manager include: Fee Report Information; Approval of Cost Collection for Civil Penalties, Fines, and Forfeitures; Annual Information Reporting; internal Control Certification; Occupational Licensing Report.

b. Three letters of good standing have been issued by the NCBLSS office for members. Submitted two letters in 2016/2017 and one for 2017/2018.

c. Question: Can people licensed in other states practice? See (89F-12): we have comity not reciprocity. A person who meets the licensing requirements for NC can be licensed without taking exams if they apply.

d. Archives—time limits must be kept in mind: Applications for licensing must be kept forever, minutes kept forever, financial reports must be kept for a minimum of 7 years but board action needed. Elaine will come with recommendation for how long financial reports are to be kept at next meeting.

8. Next Meeting: March 2, 2018

9. Motion to Adjourn at 2:40 PM by Scott Wipfield, seconded by Don Wells; Unanimous approval, meeting adjourned.

Submitted by,

Mike Vepraskas
Secretary, NCBLSS