

NC Board of Licensed Soil Scientists

Board Meeting

March 21, 2017

5211 Western Blvd, Raleigh, NC

Present: Alan Clapp, Fred Burt, Reid Hobbs, Scott Greene, Steve Broome (non-voting member), Mike Vepraskas,

Also Present: Elaine Christian, and Anne Brown, Attorney

Called to order at 1:45 pm at Farm Bureau Building, 5211 Western Blvd., Raleigh. Meeting began about 45 minutes late due to traffic congestion that delayed arrival of three members.

1. Ethics reminder read by Alan Clapp. Scott Greene noted that he was listed as a supervisor for Justin Milstein who applied for approval to take the Professional Practice exam.
2. Steve Broome, President of NCSSS, was introduced as a new non-voting member.
3. Approval of minutes from the October 28, 2016 board meeting: **Motion to approve made by Fred Burt, seconded by Reid Hobbs. Unanimous approval.**

4. Financial Report—Mike Vepraskas, treasurer

Our financial condition appears better this year than last. For the period July 2016 through February 2017:

a. Total Income was \$10,080, over \$8000 of that coming from license renewal (\$7,905) reinstatement income (\$220).

For a similar period through February 2016 our income was less (\$565), at \$9,515. The small change is due to increase in renewals and reinstatements.

b. Total expenses were \$8,330. Most of those were for administrative services (\$5,700) and the accountant's fee of \$2000.

For a similar period a year ago, expenses were greater (\$1,539) at \$9,869. The major difference is that the accountant's fee was \$3000 then whereas it is only \$2000 now. The audit for 2017 was less thorough, and as a result two-thirds the cost.

c. Our net income for this period was \$1,986. For the previous period we had a net loss of -\$228. Overall the financial situation looks good.

d. We do have funds in the bank. Our checking account holds \$32,629 while a state managed fund holds \$38,258. In total we have \$72,587 in cash available. Current liabilities total \$9,420, bringing our net total equity to \$63,167. Total equity for the previous year was slightly greater by \$346.

Overall, the board's financial condition appears to be sound at this point; it is great that we have a net income this year as opposed the loss of last year for the same period.

Motion to approve by Edwin Stott, and seconded by Reid Hobbs; unanimously approved.

5. Old Business

- a. Anne Brown reported on questions she was asked to answer at the last board meeting.
- 1) Q: Can the board post complaints online? A: Yes nothing in our bylaws prevents it. Don't post Social Security numbers or EIN numbers.
 - 2) Q: How are complaints and enforcement actions handled? A: Complaints against licensed soil scientists are handled by the board. Decisions can be appealed to the superior court. Complaints against unlicensed practitioners are different. The board can seek an injunction against an unlicensed practitioner. This would be handled by the attorney, and would go before judge to enjoin person and stop action. The board is responsible for legal costs.
 - 3) Q by Edwin Stott: How should complaints be posted online? How much information should be posted? A: Boards should not issue cease and desist orders. No professional board should be doing this. Exceptions could be complaints where public health is at risk. Notifying people of complaints received against them should be fine. Post only complaints where the official form has been properly filled out. Name of person who was complained about should be posted, possible along with the general nature of the complaint.
 - 4) Alan: Geology Board indicated they would allow us to share investigator.

Actions to be taken:

--Edwin Stott will prepare a format for posting complaints.

--Alan will revise complaint form.

- b. Replacing Board Members: Anne Browne reported that according to our bylaws board members shall serve until successors are appointed and approved, even when their term is up. Reid Hobbs, Edwin Stott, and Fred Burt will have terms expiring in June. Fred and Alan will be announcing openings to professional groups.
- c. Anne Brown will do ethics training at a future meeting.

6. New Business

- a. Review of In-Training Status Justin Ahn's Application: Motion to accept by Mike, seconded by Reid, unanimously approved.

b. Review of Justin Milstein’s application for the Professional Practice Exam: moved to accept by Mike, seconded by Scott, unanimously approved.

c. Review of Cory Connell’s application for the Professional Practice Exam: motion to approve by Edwin, seconded by Reid, unanimously approved.

d. Review of applications from Bryan Hancock and Alan Alcock for the Fundamentals Exam: motion to approve by Alan, seconded by Scott second: unanimously approved.

e. Approval for the upcoming Geo3t2 conference in Cary: Conference was awarded 4 hours by a committee consisting of Aziz Amoozegar, Alan Clapp, and Mike Vepraskas. Host was appealing the decision and was asking for 11 hours. Discussion resulted in no change being recommended, and the host was to have the reasons explained to her in a letter written by Alan. Motion made Edwin Stott for a letter to be written to the conference host stating the reasons behind the board’s actions: the application was thoroughly reviewed by two university professors and Alan Clapp (board chair) who found that only 4 hours could be awarded for talks related to soil science. Letter will be written informing person of reasons behind decision. Motion seconded by Fred Burt. Unanimously approved.

f. Update on bills before the General Assembly

i. HB 142—bill was completely rewritten to repeal HB 2, the “bathroom bill”.

ii. S 131—all references to soil science was removed.

iii. S304—all references to soil science were removed.

g. SEI certification: due each year by April 15 by all board members. Ethics report due every 2 years coming due on the day the report was originally made.

h. Fred Burt noted that the Farm Bureau Board gave approval for the NCBLSS to continue to use the conference room at the Farm Bureau for its board meetings.

i. Alan Clapp thanked retiring members Fred Burt, Edwin Stott, and Reid Hobbs for their service.

7. Meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.

Submitted by:

Mike Vepraskas