

NC Board of Licensed Soil Scientist  
Meeting – March 1, 2019  
5211 Western Blvd, Raleigh, NC

**Meeting Minutes:**

Present: Alan Clapp, Scott Greene, Mike Vepraskas, Walter Giese, Don Wells, Anne Brown (attorney), Chris Murray (NCSSS), Patrick Johnson and Elaine Christian (Administrator), Deborah Piland (Administrator Assistant).

1. Scott called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm and read the Ethics statement to the Board. Scott Greene will recuse himself from considering the application of Aaron Cinque, as he is listed the as supervising soil scientist. No other Board members indicated any conflicts of interest with the agenda.
2. Agenda –no additions to the agenda were made; motion to accept current agenda was made by Alan Clapp, seconded by Walter Giese, unanimously approved.
3. Approval of minutes from the October 5, 2018 meeting. After a review and discussion, minor edits were made. Alan Clapp made a motion to approve the October 5, 2018 minutes with edits, seconded by Walter Giese, unanimously approved.
4. Approval of Financial Report. Don Wells summarized the two provided documents; the Profit & Loss statement and the Balance Sheet. These reports are from July 1, 2018 through February 18, 2019. After a review and discussion, Mike Vepraskas made a motion to approve the Financial Report, seconded by Alan Clapp, unanimously approved.
5. Approval of conference call minutes from May 8, 2018. After a review and discussion, minor edits were made. Mike Vepraskas made a motion to approve the May 8, 2018 minutes with edits, seconded by Alan Clapp, unanimously approved.

**Old Business:**

1. Ethics Education is required every two years. Board members can go to class or complete online training. Scott Greene will inform members who needs this education.
2. Update on the 2L Rules: Don Wells discussed section .0103 (e) and based on feedback from Debra Watts with NCDEQ, full 2L rules are set for re-adoption in November 2023. If anything new becomes available, then he will notify the Board. A copy of section 2L .0103 (e) was handed out to members.
3. Spring Exam date is April 12, 2019 on the NC State campus.
4. Discussion of minimum soil report for EOP and LSS submittals to the LHD. Walter Giese gave an update on this topic and informed the Board that it is very difficult and complex to list every required component. He suggested that it is probably best to have a position statement from the LSS Board to address the type of work being performed by LSS members. Members of the Board will continue to review the work requirements to prepare a position statement and inform the Board with the findings and recommendations.
5. Adrian Pruitt Complaint. No action at this time as we are waiting on a response from the complainant.

**New Business:**

1. Complaints submitted to the LSS Board.
  - a) A complaint was made against Robin Maycock for possible trespassing on private property. The Chairman has responded to both parties as required. However this may be for local law enforcement to handle and not the Board. A request was made to the complainant to see if they have notified the local law enforcement, and if so what was their comment. No response at this time. This case is on hold until a response is provided.
  - b) A complaint was made against Alexis Jones for practicing soil science in North Carolina without a license. Alan Clapp contacted the complainant concerning this case, as the form was not

completed correctly. Alan informed them that Alexis has filed an application with the LSS Board to become licensed in North Carolina and the regulations allow them to practice while the application is in for review. During this conversation the complainant officially dropped the complaint against Alexis Jones. No further action is needed.

**2. Professional Practice Applications submitted to the LSS Board.**

- a) Dalton Buchanan submitted an application for full licensing. After a review and discussion of the application, it is complete. Walter Giese made a motion to approve the application for Buchanan, seconded by Alan Clapp, unanimously approved.
- b) Alexis Jones submitted an application for full licensing under "Comity". After a review and discussion of the application, it is complete. Mike Vepraskas made a motion to approve the application for Jones, seconded by Walter Giese, unanimously approved.

**In Training Status Application**

- c) Aaron Cinque submitted an application for In-Training status. After a review and discussion of the application, it is complete. Mike Vepraskas made a motion to approve the application for Cinque, seconded by Alan Clapp, approved by voting members.

**Announcement of Ones Taking Exam (No action needed)**

- d) Alexander Thompson (Professional Practice-Retest)
- e) Cory Connell (Professional Practice-Retest)
- f) William Trent Bostic (Professional Practice-Retest)
- g) James Edward Rice (Fundamental-Retest)

**Application for Professional Corporate Certificate of Registration**

- h) Ground Truth Soil Consulting, PLLC – John C. Roberts submitted an application for Professional Corporate Certificate of Registration. After a review and discussion of the application, it is complete. Mike Vepraskas made a motion to approve the application for Professional Corporation of Ground Truth Soil Consulting, PLLC, seconded by Walter Giese, unanimously approved.

- 3. Certificates-Paper Size. Elaine Christian, the Administrator for the LSS Board mentioned the current paper size of an official LSS License is an odd size and requires special ordering and printing. Also, this odd size paper has to be folded when mailed to the licensee. She recommended that the Board allow a regular size paper (8.5 x 11) be used for Licenses. Don Wells made a motion to change the current odd size paper to a standard 8.5 x 11 paper size to be used for Licenses, seconded by Mike Vepraskas, unanimously approved.
- 4. Advisory group to research a minimum soil reporting standard or guideline. This item was discussed in new business above, no additional comments were made.
- 5. 89 F statute discussion. Scott Greene and Alan Clapp mentioned that several companies have discussed with them a concern they have about the LSS Boards requirements for individuals to become licensed. Currently we require an approved candidate to take and pass two exams and then work a required amount of time under a licensed professional. The Soil Science Society of America does not require two exams to be certified by them. Walter Giese said he has spoken to at least five current licensed soil scientists and he and others feel that it is good for the profession to keep our current policy of taking and passing two exams along with the required work time. Don Wells inquired if it is possible for someone that has the educational requirements that has taken and passed the fundamental exam, if they could go ahead and take to professional exam at the next available time, and if they pass the professional exam, just work under a licensed soil scientist for the required time, and then once that is completed, they become licensed. After a discussion on this topic, Scott Greene read that Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) has a requirement for working the time under a licensed professional before sitting for the exam, so it is their requirement and not the LSS Board. Scott encouraged all members to review standards and keep this topic open to see how we can help and encourage new licensed members.
- 6. NCBLSS Website conversion. Alan Clapp was informed that our current web site will no longer be supported by the Crop and Soil Science Department with NC State. Therefore we have two

options, 1) Have NC State University hosts it and change the URL to, NCLSSBoard.wordpress.ncsu.edu or 2) use a private company to host and manage the web site. If we choose to have NCSU host it, then Dr. Crouse will continue to be our web master at no cost, if we go to a private company we will have reoccurring fees associated with them developing and hosting our web site. After a discussion on this topic, Alan Clapp made a motion to switch our current web site over to the word press version with NC State and allow Dr. Crouse to maintain it as our web master, seconded by Walter Giese, unanimously approved.

7. Discussion on Professional Exam inquiry to SSSA from Board. Don Wells mentioned that he had talked to Dr. Steve Broome about those who have taken the professional exam and did not pass it. Dr. Broome asked SSSA if they would give any feedback to those individuals that failed the professional exam, SSSA said they would not. There is study type information on line about the professional exam, however it is outdated. Walter Giese had examples of the study guide. Dr. Steve Broome has a study session every Thursday at NC State for those taking the Fundamental Exam and with this session, NC State has an 80% passing rate on the fundamentals. Mike Vepraskas said he would reach out to other Professors at NC State and see if they would be willing to update the study packet for the professional exam. He will inform the Board once he talks to others within the Soil Department.
8. Next meeting set for October 4, 2019 at 1 pm.
9. Motion to adjourn made by Mike Vepraskas, seconded by Alan Clapp, Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:46 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Don Wells, LSS Board Secretary