

NC Board of Licensed Soil Scientist  
Meeting – March 5, 2021  
5211 Western Blvd, Raleigh, NC

**Meeting Minutes:**

Present: Scott Greene, Walter Giese, Don Wells, Patrick Johnson, Steve Broome, Eric Hill, Harry Knight II, Edward Stephens, Anne Brown (Attorney) and Deborah Piland (Administrator).

Walter Giese called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and introduced the new member, Edward Stephens.

Due to a time constraint with Anne Brown, a discussion took place in reference to the proposed Authorized On-Site Wastewater Evaluator rule (AOWE). Scott Greene informed the Board that he read where a Registered Environmental Health Specialist (RS) and/or State personnel shall not be allowed to do the evaluations as it could be perceived as a conflict of interest to those individuals. Also, this proposed law would require licensed soil scientist to be under two licensing boards (LSS Board & On-site Wastewater Contractors and Inspectors Certification Board). The LSS Board already has a conflict of interest statement. Anne said that if there is an issue to be reviewed that it could be a “case by case; situation and she mentioned how the Ethics Commission could way in on the decision.

After a discussion on this topic, **Scott Greene made a motion for Walter Giese to reach out to the Ethics Commission and see if they feel that if a State or County employee (RS) working for someone in the private sector (ie, developer, landowner) outside of their county or jurisdiction, if it may be a conflict of interest.** If not, then Walter Giese will draft a letter on behalf of the LSS Board and send in for comment on the proposed new law. However, if the Ethics Commission does believe it will be a conflict of interest, then the LSS Board will not respond to this issue.

**Harry Knight second this motion, all were in favor and motion carried.**

After this discussion, Anne left the meeting at 1:30 pm.

1. Agenda –Walter Giese reviewed the agenda. **Scott Greene made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by Don Wells, unanimously approved.**
2. A copy of the October 2, 2020 minutes was distributed to the members. After a review and discussion, **Patrick Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Scott Greene, unanimously approved.**
3. Approval of Financial Report. Don Wells summarized the provided documents, the Profit & Loss statement and the Balance Sheet. The Profit & Loss statement and the Balance Sheet reports (green page) are from July 1, 2020 through February 19, 2021. In summary, we show a net loss of \$3,651.43 for this time period and the total assets are \$69,447.05. After a general discussion, **Eric Hill made a motion to approve the Financial Report, seconded by Steve Broome, unanimously approved.**

**Old Business:**

Walter Giese read the Ethics statement to the Board and reminded everyone that ethics education is required every two years. Walter informed the Board of the possible conflict of interest with reviewing information on Mr. Dustin Edwards and will recuse himself from the discussion of Mr. Edwards.

**New Business:**

1. Walter Giese and Scott Greene provided an update on the advisory groups and several State laws that affect Soil Scientist. Other than the previous discussed AOWE issue, there are no actions are needed by the Board at this time.
2. A complaint was submitted to the Board from Shelley Riselvato against Evan Morgan, LSS. The information was submitted to the Board for review and discussion. Scott Greene conducted an

investigation into the complaint and based on his review of the information, **Scott made a motion to find “No Fault” against Evan Morgan for the complaint. Steve Broome second this motion, all voted and unanimously approved.**

3. Professional Practice Applications submitted to the LSS Board. Walter Giese, then opened the discussion on the new applications for Professional Practice.

- 1) Tyler Sgro submitted an application for licensing by comity. After a review of the application and discussion, he meets the definition of comity as he took the fundamentals and professional practice exams in South Carolina and passed both. **Don Wells made a motion to accept the application, seconded by Eric Hill; all attending members voted and approved this motion.**
- 2) Justin Ahn completed the application to take the professional practice exam. After a review of the application and a discussion, he meets the criteria as he has taken the fundamental exam, passed it and has the educational requirements. Scott Greene **made a motion to accept the application, seconded by Patrick Johnson; all attending members voted and approved this motion.**
- 3) Dustin Edwards completed the application for In-Training Status. Walter Giese recused himself. After a review of the application and a discussion, he meets the criteria as he has taken the fundamental exam, passed it and has the educational requirements. Eric Hill **made a motion to accept the application, seconded by Scott Greene; all allowed members voted and approved this motion.**

#### **Other Business**

1. Walter Giese brought up the issue and/or topic of having a reduced licensing fee for anyone that has retired, as a way to keep them on record. An example is if someone is at or over the age of 65 and works 15 days or less per year, then maybe their licensing fees can be reduced some amount. Scott Greene followed up by stating that in his opinion, we as a profession are just existing and not growing. Our current membership is around 160 LSS members. No further actions are needed by the Board at this time.
2. Scott Greene mentioned the concern with the National Exam being used by NC. He suggested that maybe NCSU develop an exam for the NCLSS Board to administer. Scott Greene **made a motion for Steve Broome to discuss with NCSU to see if they would be willing to develop a Professional Exam for us to use. Eric Hill second this motion, all members voted and approved this motion.**

Next meeting set for October 1, 2021 at 1 pm.

**Motion to adjourn made by Scott Greene, seconded by Eric Hill, motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Don Wells, LSS Board Secretary