

NC Board of Licensed Soil Scientist

Meeting – October 1, 2021

5211 Western Blvd, Raleigh, NC

Meeting Minutes:

Present: Walter Giese, Don Wells, Steve Broome, Eric Hill, Russ Davis, Harry Knight, II (call in), Edward Stephens (Ex-Officio) and Deborah Piland (Administrator).

1. Walter called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and introduced the new member, Mr. Russ Davis. Walter read the Ethics statement to the Board. No Board members indicated any conflicts of interest with the agenda.
2. Agenda –Walter reviewed the agenda and two agenda items were added. Don made a motion to accept the revised agenda, seconded by Russ, unanimously approved.
3. A copy of the March 5, 2021 minutes were distributed to the members. After a review and discussion, Steve made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Eric, unanimously approved. A copy of the June 30, 2021 minutes were also distributed to the members. After a review and discussion, Steve made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Don, unanimously approved.
4. 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, 2021 through September 15, 2021. In summary, we have a net income of \$8,988.39 and the total assets are \$77,043.81. After a general discussion, Russ made a motion to approve the Financial Report, seconded by Steve, unanimously approved.

Old Business:

1. Ethics Education is required every two years. Board members can go to class or complete online training. Walter and Harry were late on this but have recently completed it. No other Board members needs this education at this time.
2. Steve brought up the discussion of “In Person Testing” for the fundamental and professional exams, which were given two times per year, but due to covid, they switched to on-line testing. Currently the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) is reviewing policy and procedures to see if they will now accept in person testing. Once Steve hears back from SSSA, he will let the Board know what their decision is on this matter.
3. Deborah informed the Board that ten previous licensed soil scientists have not renewed their licenses. She will send them a letter for reinstatement.

New Business:

1. A Soil Scientist-In-Training Application was submitted to the LSS Board for Lindsay Crocker. Walter reviewed the application and a brief discussion took place. Don made a motion to approve the application for Lindsay Crocker, Eric seconded that motion, all attending members voted and approved. Harry abstained from the vote as he could not review the application in person.
2. The Board has received an application from Heath Clapp for Professional Practice. Walter then opened the discussion as related to when someone can become eligible to be a Professional. Currently the rules state that it is a minimum of three years from when they receive their degree and/or complete the required hours of Soil Science courses as stated in 89-F. After a discussion on this topic, Don made a motion that the applicant (Heath Clapp) does not have the required time based on when he earned his degree. Russ second this motion. All members voted and approved this motion, except for Steve as he abstained from the vote.
3. Scott Greene has been appointed to a national committee on reviewing and rewriting of the professional exam. Scott will keep the Board updated on the progress of this.
4. Walter brought up the topic of a study guide for the professional exam. Walter got a copy of a study guide dated 2002 and he called the person that made it, Mr. Lee Burras. Walter would like to put this study guide on the web site for all to review and use. Steve will review it and contact the SSSA to see if they have any information about this study guide or any issue with it being posted on the web site. Steve will provide any SSSA correspondence to Anne Brown (Board Attorney) for her to review. After they get a response and review it, they will inform the Board of their findings.

5. Walter brought up the topic of random audits of professional development hours (PDH's) for LSS's. He asked the Board if we want to audit anyone at this time. The Board is not required to conduct PDH audits but we can as needed. No action was made on this topic at this session and it is open for future discussions.
6. AOWE Rules have passed and the first class is scheduled for November 12, 2021. There will be additional certification classes to become a certified evaluator. With past discussions on these rules, one item brought to the Boards attention was that any County or State employees would not be eligible to become a certified AOWE evaluator. Walter had a discussion with the State Ethics Commission on this topic and they do agree with this stance, as they indicated it could be a perceived conflict of interest for State or County employees. No actions were taken by the Board at this time.
7. Walter informed the Board that our current 89 F rules do not have a provision for reciprocity agreements with South Caroline or Virginia. No actions were taken by the Board at this time.

Other Business

Edward Stephens informed the Board that the upcoming Soil Science Society will be virtual this year. They will send information about that to all members.

Next meeting set for March 4, 2022 at 1 pm.

Motion to adjourn made by Don, seconded by Russ, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Wells, LSS Board Secretary