

NC Board of Licensed Soil Scientist
Meeting – October 2, 2020
5211 Western Blvd, Raleigh, NC

Meeting Minutes:

Present: Scott Greene, Walter Giese, Don Wells, Patrick Johnson, Steve Broome, Eric Hill, Harry Knight II, William Miller and Deborah Piland (Administrator).

1. Scott Greene called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and introduced the new members, William Miller and Harry Knight II. Scott read the Ethics statement to the Board. No Board members indicated any conflicts of interest with the agenda.
2. Agenda –Scott Greene reviewed the agenda. No other agenda items added or modified. **Scott Greene made a motion to accept the agenda as presented, seconded by Walter Giese, unanimously approved.**
3. A copy of the March 13, 2020 minutes was distributed to the members. After a review and discussion, **Steve Broome made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Walter Giese, 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, 2020 through September 20, 2020. In summary, we have a net income of \$5,760.56 and the total assets are \$78,859.04. After a general discussion, **Walter Giese made a motion to approve the Financial Report, seconded by Eric Hill, 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.

New Business:

1. Walter Giese provided an update on the advisory groups effort in researching minimum standards or guidelines for Licensed Soil Scientist and handed out a position statement to the Board for review. After a discussion of the statement, Scott Greene told the Board that he will distribute this to other groups such as the Soil Science Society and the Consulting Soil Scientist of the Carolinas, Inc. (CSSC) to get their comments and input and will discuss at the next Board meeting.
2. Scott Greene mentioned that there are several State laws that affect Soil Scientists. The “Covid Law” or referred to as; SL 2018-114 Section 11.(c). expired on 8-1-20, but was extended by executive order from the Governor. The LSS Option Permit is still in the works and nothing submitted to the Legislature. The EOP has been effect for a while and is being used by engineers which utilize Licensed Soil Scientists. Lastly, he discussed the status of the new on-site wastewater rules. The proposed new rules go before the Commission for Public Health in February 2021, and then they will go out for public review and comments. There are no actions are needed by the Board at this time.
3. Professional Practice Application submitted to the LSS Board- With the impact of Covid, the spring exams were cancelled and rescheduled for November 2020. The exams will be on-line and can be taken within a range of dates. Those that were reviewed and approved earlier this year will be contacted about taking the exams and no further action is needed from the Board with those individuals. However, there is an extra charge of \$50 to take the exams on-line (remote proctoring fee). **Walter Giese made a motion that we pay this extra fee on behalf of those taking the exam this time only, seconded by Harry Knight II, all voted and unanimously approved.**

Scott Greene, then opened the discussion on the new applications for Professional Practice.

- 1) Kathleen Ann Webber submitted an application for licensing by comity. After a review of the application and discussion, she meets the definition of comity. **Don Wells made a motion to accept the application, seconded by Walter Giese; all attending members voted and approved this motion.**
- 2) Jesse Latriano responded to the previous request on the application for full licensing. Jesse's information is related to the request for approval of 15 years working experience in the field of Soil Science to be eligible to sit for the exam. With a review of the information and a discussion, **Steve Broome made a motion to accept the documentation of at least 15 years of experience and allow Jesse to take the Profession Practice exam, seconded by Patrick Johnson; all attending members voted and approved this motion.**

Scott will follow up with these two individuals and inform them of the Boards response.

4. A complaint was submitted to the Board and Scott Greene is in the process of reviewing and responding. After this, he will follow up with the Board on this matter.

Other Business

1. Scott Greene informed the Board that he has submitted a letter to NC Solid Waste Section addressing the definition of a Licensed Soil Scientist as they are discussing their rules and regulations. No further actions are needed by the Board at this time.
2. Scott Greene mentioned the Professional Development Hours (PDH) requirements for LSS and that there are some on-line classes that a LSS can take for their hours. The PDH's are self-reporting for each individual LSS. If Covid has an impact on a LSS maintaining the required PDH's then the Board can reduce the requirements but that will require legislature approval. There is no plan at this time for making any changes but we will see how things progress. The Board will email members about upcoming virtual classes that they can take.

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

3. Scott Greene informed the Board that he has received a letter from a company that someone is working with them doing Soil Science work, but they are not registered with the Licensing Board. Scott will follow up with them on this and respond back to the Board as needed.
4. Election of NCBLSS Vice Chairman- This is the last meeting for Scott Greene to be the Chairman as next year Walter Giese takes over this position. **Scott Greene nominated Eric Hill to become the Vice Chairman replacing Walter Giese's position. Patrick Johnson seconded this nomination; all members voted and approved this motion.**

Next meeting set for March 5, 2021 at 1:00 pm.

Motion to adjourn made by Patrick Johnson, seconded by Walter Giese, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Wells, LSS Board Secretary