

NC Board of Licensed Soil Scientist  
Meeting – March 4, 2022  
5211 Western Blvd, Raleigh, NC

**Meeting Minutes:**

Present: Walter Giese, Don Wells, Carl Crozier, Eric Hill, Russ Davis (call in), Karen Wallace (call in), Harry Knight, II, Sloan Griffin (Ex-Officio), Anne Brown, (AGO) and Deborah Piland (Administrator).

1. Walter called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and introduced the new members, Mr. Carl Crozier, Ms. Karen Wallace and Mr. Sloan Griffin. Walter read the Ethics statement to the Board. Carl indicated that he personally knows one of the applicants applying for In Training Status. Eric mentioned his involvement with the complaint investigation (case # 11-18-21), no other Board members indicated any conflicts of interest with the agenda.
2. Agenda –Walter reviewed the agenda and two items were added, one removed. 1) Scott Greene will give an update on the national committee that he is serving on. 2) A change to the In Training Status and Professional Eligibility requirements. 3) The removed item was Board Training by Anne Brown. Harry made a motion to accept the revised agenda, seconded by Russ, unanimously approved.
3. A copy of the October 1, 2021 minutes were distributed to the members. After a review and discussion, Russ made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Harry, 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 February 18, 2022. In summary, we have a net income of \$1,579.60 for this period and the total assets are \$69,635.02. After a general discussion, Russ made a motion to approve the Financial Report, seconded by Eric, unanimously approved.

**Old Business:**

1. Ethics Education is required every two years. Board members can go to class or complete online training. No Board members needs this education at this time.
2. Don mentioned that there were several items that Dr. Broome was reviewing and handling with the SSSA and since he is no longer on the LSS Board, someone needs to follow up on them. Carl will look into the SSSA issues and can follow up with Dr. Broome as needed.
3. Scott Greene called in and informed the Board that he is serving on a national committee and they are reviewing the professional exam soil scientist and they have decided to rewrite that exam. The current exam has a 28% passing rate. This committee has completed the Performance Objectives that will be used in the study guide. Everyone will get a copy of the Performance Objective for review and comment. Scott said it will take a while to rewrite the exam and he will update the Board of the status of the exam reform in October.

**New Business:**

1. A Soil Scientist-In-Training Application was submitted to the LSS Board for Caitlin Caudle. Walter reviewed the application and a brief discussion took place. Harry made a motion to approve the application for Caitlin Caudle, Don seconded that motion, all members voted and approved this motion.
2. A Soil Scientist-In-Training Application was submitted to the LSS Board for Joseph Wilson. Walter reviewed the application and a brief discussion took place. Russ made a motion to approve the application for Joseph Wilson, Harry seconded that motion. Carl recused himself. All other members voted and approved this motion.
3. Professional Practice Application was submitted to the LSS Board. Emily Romano completed the application to take the professional practice exam. After a review of the application and a discussion, she meets the criteria as she has taken the fundamental exam, passed it and has the educational requirements. Harry made a motion to accept the application, seconded by Carl; all attending members voted and approved this motion.

4. In Training Status and Professional Eligibility. Walter and Anne have reviewed the General Statute and the current rules and informed the LSS Board that once someone is approved for Soil Scientist In Training, then they can go ahead and take the Professional Exam. A discussion took place on this topic and in general summary. once they pass that exam, then they can work the required time duration and once that is completed, then they can become licensed. Therefore, Walter made a motion; that once someone is approved for Soil Scientist In Training, then they can be eligible to take the Professional Exam. If and when they pass that exam, they can work the required time duration for the required experience and once that is completed, then they can become licensed. Harry seconded this motion; all attending members voted and approved this motion.
5. Sloan informed the Board that the Soil Science Society had the virtual January meeting and wants to get back to having in person meetings next year. They are now trying to get speakers for the January 2023 meeting. They will send information about that to all members.
6. Someone contacted Walter about local governments that uses the term "Soil Scientist" even if that individual is not licensed by the LSS Board. A discussion took place on this topic. Anne read the General Statute where local governments are exempt from requiring licensing for Soil Scientist. Walter will follow up with that person about this exemption status and Anne will review as needed.
7. A complaint was submitted to the Board, Case # 10-1-21. Walter read the complaint in detail and discussed the findings of the investigation. The information was submitted to the Board for review and discussion. Russ made a motion to find "No Fault" against the LSS in Case # 10-1-21 for the complaint. Harry second this motion, all voted and unanimously approved.
8. A complaint was submitted to the Board, Case # 11-18-21. Walter read the complaint in detail and discussed the investigation. The information was submitted to the Board for review and discussion. Eric recused himself from this discussion and any actions. Harry made a motion for the Board to go into Executive Session to discuss further. Don seconded this motion. All Ex-Officio members and the recused member left the meeting room. An Executive Session took place and a discussion of the complaint. The Executive Session was then closed. Russ made a motion to take no disciplinary action against the LSS in Case # 11-18-21 for the complaint. Harry second this motion, all voted and approved.

### **Other Business**

For all complaints submitted to the LSS Board, they will be given a Case ID #, which will be the date of the submitted complaint.

Next meeting set for October 7, 2022 at 1 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Don Wells, LSS Board Secretary