

**BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS, WETLAND PROFESSIONALS  
and GEOLOGISTS  
MEETING MINUTES**

The Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals and Geologists met on January 9, 2014, at the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia, with the following members present:

J. Meade R. Anderson  
Robert B. Atkinson  
Nancy Barker  
Douglas S. Davis  
Warren (Ted) Dean  
J. James Liu  
Robin E. Reed  
Harry T. (Tom) Saxton  
David Spears  
Angela Whitehead

Board members Angie Hall, Charles E. Nelson and Katherine S. White were not present at the meeting.

Board staff present for all or part of the meeting were:

Kathleen (Kate) R. Nosbisch, Executive Director  
Amy Goobic, Administrative Assistant

Agency staff present for all or part of the meeting was:

Mark N. Courtney, Director

Josh Lief, Senior Assistant Attorney General, was present for the meeting.

Mr. Dean, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

**Call to Order**

Mr. Dean advised the Board of the emergency evacuation procedures.

**Emergency Evacuation  
Procedures**

Mr. Spears moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by members: Anderson, Atkinson, Barker, Davis, Dean, Liu, Reed, Saxton, Spears & Whitehead.

**Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Davis moved to approve the minutes from the following meetings:

**Approval of Minutes**

- July 2, 2013, Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals and Geologists meeting
- August 7, 2013, Professional Soil Scientists Public Hearing
- August 7, 2013, Geologists Public Hearing

Ms. Barker seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by

members: Anderson, Atkinson, Barker, Davis, Dean, Liu, Reed, Saxton, Spears & Whitehead.

**Public Comment Period** – Ryan Reed, President, Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists (VAPSS), was present to address the Board. Mr. Reed stated that VAPSS supports the proposed regulations on soil scientist licensure that the Board would be considering.

**Public Comment Period**

Board members reviewed financial statements for informational purposes.

**Review of Financial Statements**

Ms. Nosbisch provided an update on National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG), informing the Board members of the upcoming Task Analysis Workshop, January 17-18. Mr. Dean stated that he was not able to attend due to a scheduling conflict. Ms. Nosbisch informed the Board that she had a copy of the annual meeting report if anyone was interested in reviewing. She further commented that Mr. Anderson and Mr. Spears were thanked in the report regarding their participation in the Council of Examiners workshop held in Richmond in April.

**Updates – ASBOG, VAWP, VAPSS**

Ms. Nosbisch provided a brief report on the Virginia Association of Wetland Professionals, stating that there would be upcoming training available.

Mr. Reed, VAPSS, provided a brief update for the Board, stating that VAPSS is looking for additional education opportunities. He further commented that VAPSS was enjoying the relationship with the PSSWPG Board.

Board members reviewed the public comments made during the public hearing regarding soil scientist licensure. Discussion was held on public comment made pertaining to a seal for Professional Soil Scientists. Mr. Courtney stated that the statute does not mention the use of a seal. Ms. Nosbisch informed the Board that the use of a seal could be revisited, however, if they would like it to be addresses in the regulations at the present time, it would delay the approval process. Mr. Dean moved to accept the Board's response to the comments. Mr. Davis seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by members: Anderson, Atkinson, Barker, Davis, Dean, Liu, Reed, Saxton, Spears & Whitehead.

**Regulatory Update**

Ms. Whitehead moved to adopt the final soil scientist regulations. Mr. Dean seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by members: Anderson, Atkinson, Barker, Davis, Dean, Liu, Reed, Saxton, Spears & Whitehead.

Ms. Nosbisch informed the Board that no public comments were received for the proposed geology regulations. Mr. Spears moved to adopt the final

geology regulations. Dr. Liu seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by members: Anderson, Atkinson, Barker, Davis, Dean, Liu, Reed, Saxton, Spears & Whitehead.

Board members reviewed the General Assembly's amended language for §54.1-2206.02 of the Code of Virginia, regarding the Wetland Delineator certification. The changes would omit the requirement of a wetland professional to obtain experience only under a certified wetland professional. Ms. Nosbisch informed the Board they would need to file a NOIRA to proceed with the regulatory process to change the regulations. Ms. Nosbisch stated that they may be able to submit for fast-track consideration, as it is a minimal change to the regulations. Mr. Saxton moved to proceed with filing the NOIRA and submit as fast-track. Ms. Barker seconded motion which was unanimously approved by members: Anderson, Atkinson, Barker, Davis, Dean, Liu, Reed, Saxton, Spears & Whitehead.

Ms. Barker moved to adopt the proposed regulatory language provided to the Board. Mr. Davis seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by members: Anderson, Atkinson, Barker, Davis, Dean, Liu, Reed, Saxton, Spears & Whitehead.

Ms. Nosbisch informed the Board that she was in communication with Dawn Ferris, Soil Scientist Society of America, regarding the national exam. Ms. Nosbisch indicated that there were no applicants for the Spring administration of the exam, and the next administration of the exam everything should be in order to utilize the national CSSE exam.

#### **National SSSA Exam Update**

Ms. Whitehead inquired as to whether board members would continue to review applications. Ms. Nosbisch indicated that the applications would continue to undergo Board review. She further indicated there were still items to work through with the national exam.

Ms. Nosbisch provided exam statistics to the Board:

- February - Soil Scientist exam – 1 applicant, passed part 1, failed part 2
- August - Wetland Professional exam – 3 applicants - 2 passed
- March - Fundamentals of Geology – 10 applicants – 6 passed  
Practice of Geology – 7 applicants – 5 passed
- October - Fundamentals of Geology – 7 applicants – 5 passed  
Practice of Geology – 7 applicants – 4 passed

#### **Other Business**

Ms. Nosbisch also reminded the Board of upcoming meeting dates and to complete their financial disclosure statement and Conflict of Interest training.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. **Adjournment**

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Warren (Ted) Dean, Chair

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Gordon N. Dixon, Secretary

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