



**Soil Classifiers Certification Advisory Committee
(SCCAC)
Minutes of the 53rd Meeting
Two Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, GA 30303
Thursday, May 27, 2010**

Call to order.

Presiding: David Huff, Chairman

Members present: David Huff, Chair; Greg Harless, Secretary; Vaughn Berkheiser (via telephone); Lisa Flagg; Mike Pitts; and Thomas Martin, P.E. A quorum was achieved.

- The first order of business: the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting of March 4, 2010.

Motion to approve: Lisa Flagg

Second: Mike Pitts

→ Motion carried unanimously

OLD BUSINESS

- Joseph Guy Morris, SCIT – Request for Certification PENDING

Field exam presented. Revised copies of previous SCIT mapping examples offered as previously required.

Motion to TABLE: Tom Martin

Second: Lisa Flagg

Discussion: Field exam rejected for deficiencies. Map deficiencies to be explained in written notice in which opportunity to explain findings will be offered or the option to submit a revised field exam.

→ Motion carried unanimously

Old Business – continued

- Greg Harless opened discussion about a previous proposal for the Committee Chair and Secretary to request inclusion on the agenda of an upcoming meeting of the Georgia Secretary of State's P. G. certification board for the purpose of ascertaining advice for Departmental procedure if desirable to remove a geologist from the list of approved soil investigators. Lisa Flagg advised that she will investigate how to proceed with a formal written recommendation to Scott Uhlich, State Environmental Health Director, that the SCCAC recommends inquiring of the P. B. board its advisory on legally removing a P.G. from the Department's listing.
 - Greg Harless re-visited a previous formal Committee vote during the May 3, 2007 regular meeting at which time it was recommended that the Department change the public web site listing to provide only one listing per company for all certified soil classifiers, P.G.s and P.E.s. Committee consensus stands behind the original recommendation that the Department should move forward with that recommendation.
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NEW BUSINESS

- James Brandon Stuart, SCIT – Certification Request

Motion to TABLE: Greg Harless

Second: Lisa Flagg

Discussion: Brandon was laid off by his employer/mentor approximately two (2) months short of completing the required four (4) yeas as SCIT. In the months since, he has been employed by an engineering firm which has no one qualified to continue oversight of his work as an SCIT. His accumulated full time and equivalent part time work as a soil classifier in training while supervised by a certified soil classifier totals three (3) years and ten (10) months. In order to be eligible for full certification, you must acquire a minimum of two (2) additional months in training under the oversight a certified soil classifier. Written notice will be issued advising Brandon to acquire a minimum of two (2) additional months in-training under a certified soil classifier.

→ *Motion carried unanimously*

- Proposed By-Laws revision

Greg Harless informed the Committee that the Department proposes to stop the practice of purchasing and issuing the official stamp to newly certified soil classifiers.

Motion to consider proposal: Greg Harless

Second: Tom Martin

→ *Motion carried unanimously*

New Business – continued

- **Conflict of Interest**

Greg Harless stated Departmental concerns about possible conflict of interest concerning circumstances where certified soil classifiers are concurrently employed by a county Board of Health as Environmental Health Specialists and venture to conduct soil investigations in neighboring counties either within the boundaries of their home District or without. The Department requests the Committee's opinion and recommendations.

Motion to advise that county environmental health employees should not function as certified soil classifiers outside their duties as county employees: Lisa Flagg

Second: Tom Martin

Discussion: Based upon the Soil Classifiers Code of Conduct reference to conflict of interest, the Committee agrees with the Department's concerns. It is recommended that any certified soil classifier concurrently working for a board of health should not conduct soil investigations within that county and should consult board of health or county ethics policies before doing same in any neighboring county.

- **SCCAC members maintaining certification**

A question arose concerning the status of any member of the Committee serving as a certified soil classifier whom may allow the lapse of professional liability insurance.

TABLED

FUTURE BUSINESS

- Next tentative meeting date: Thursday, August 12, 2010

Motion to adjourn: Greg Harless

Second: Lisa Flagg

→ Motion carried unanimously

Meeting Adjourned