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## Soil Classifiers Certification Advisory Committee (SCCAC)

### Minutes of the 38th Meeting

Two Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, GA 30303  
13<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Tuesday, September 12, 2006

**Presiding:** Tim Kring, Chairman

Meeting called to order 9:30 A.M.

**Members in attendance:** Tim Kring, Chairman; Robert Wilkes; Dr. Sam Asady; Mel Jones; David Huff; Tim Allee; Lisa Flagg, DHR Attorney; Greg Harless, Secretary.

- The first order of business was the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting of the SCCAC held Tuesday, May 30, 2006.

To approve the minutes:

Motion: Tim Allee

Second: Sam Asady

—→ Motion carried unanimously

### OLD BUSINESS

- Tim Kring opened renewed discussion of proposed reciprocity with the South Carolina Soil Classifiers Licensing Board. It was established that the Department (DHR) is willing to go forward with investigation into a reciprocity agreement with South Carolina. Minor issues of comparison of minimum qualifications for Certification in Georgia and South Carolina and; the registration, as required by Georgia law, of Engineers and Geologists while South Carolina does not.
- Committee member David Huff is certified in South Carolina and was asked to begin the dialogue with South Carolina's Board.

↳ **David Huff** was recognized as the newest appointed member of the Committee. Mr. Huff, in addition to being a DHR Certified Soil Classifier, is a Georgia Registered Professional Geologist (P.G) therefore fulfilling the requirement that a professional Geologist sit on the SCCAC.

Old Business – Continued

- **SCIT candidates**

1. Scott Stanfill
2. Tom Vanderboom

By virtue of passing written examination and application documents in good standing:

Motion to Approve Scott Stanfill and Tom Vanderboom for SCIT status: Tim Allee

Second: Bob Wilkes

Discussion: Correspondence to advise that approval as SCIT is contingent upon submission of an acceptable training plan.

—→ *Motion carried unanimously*

- **SCIT's requesting Certification**

1. Andrew Holzemer
2. Collin Lane

Motion to certify *Andrew Holzemer*: Mel Jones

Second: Greg Harless

Discussion: In-training requirements met.

—→ *Motion carried unanimously*

Motion to certify *Collin Lane*: Sam Asady

Second: David Huff

Discussion: In-training requirements met.

—→ *Motion carried unanimously*



**Membership Rotation**

Tim Allee recommended installation of a local county Environmental Health Specialist (EHS) from the Ridge and Valley region of the State to fulfill the requirement that one local EHS sit on the SCCAC. Tim reminded the committee that he once filled that slot but now as a District Environmental Health Program Manager he should rotate off the Committee.

Tim Kring asked Greg Harless to speak with Jeff Gary, Acting Environmental Health and Injury Prevention Branch Director, and Scott Uhlich, Land Use Program Director, in order to ascertain the Department's intentions as to whom should fill the soon-to-be vacated member slots when Tim Allee steps down and Mel Jones retires.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **Petitions for Certification**

**Kaaba Johnson**

Chairman Kring led discussion of Mr. Johnson's application in light of complications presented to the review process. His mapping experience was gained from soils mapping for forestry considerations and; formal training has been under a P.E. thus his work is being stamped by Dwight Fulton, P.E., of World Solutions. Petition is **TABLED**.

Future consideration is contingent upon Mr. Johnson documenting any training as stipulated in the *Manual for On-Site Sewage Management Systems, Section C, Page C-15*. Otherwise, he must sit for the exam (which he has not done to date) and begin SCIT status.

Tim Allee suggested we invite Scott Uhlich to the next quarterly meeting to work out possible language changes in the *Manual* to help clarify issues of variable training and experience gray areas.

- **SCIT candidates**

**Charles Moore**

Passed exam however his file is incomplete therefore SCIT approval is **PENDING**.

To be advised to provide \$100 application fee, signed and notarized Code of Professional Conduct, and remaining professional references.

**Andrew Croy**

By virtue of passing the exam:

Motion to approve SCIT status: Mel Jones

Second: Tim Allee

Discussion: Approval is contingent upon submission of remaining outstanding Professional References and a Training Plan to be stipulated within 30-days.

→ **Motion carried unanimously**

- **New applicants requesting examination**

1. Justin McCormick
2. Joshua Hatchett

Applicants will be notified of next scheduled exam tentatively set for December 2006.

**New Business** (continued)

Greg Harless informed the Committee that the Department has received information that a registered engineer and a certified soil classifier are including disclaimer statements in their soil investigation reports that seem to attempt to effectively absolve them of responsibility for the contents. Committee consensus agreed with the Department's position that the spirit of those disclaimers is inappropriate.

In addition, the Committee was advised of continuing reports from Environmental Health field staff that a registered soil classifier is chronically recalcitrant in his refusal to cooperate in conflicting soil report resolution. The allegation is that the soil classifier refuses to meet on site with other soil investigators to reach a consensus report under any circumstances. Committee responses:

1. The Department will issue an advisory memo to all certified soil classifiers, SCIT's, engineers, and geologists reminding them of their professional responsibility under the law.
2. A letter will be issued to advise of violation of the Professional Code of Conduct with refusal to cooperate in conflict resolution. The letter should be signed by the Committee Chair and the State Environmental Health Director.

### **FUTURE BUSINESS**

- South Carolina to be contacted to negotiate certification reciprocity
- Membership roster rotation issues to be addressed as pertaining to member retirement and reassignment
- Acceptance of variable levels and types of experience (i.e. USDA/NRCS, NCSS, ARCPACS, & etc.)
- Next meeting agenda must include election of new officers.

Next exam date to be determined at a later date

### **Proposed next meeting**

- The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

*Meeting adjourned 12:45 P.M.*