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Soil Classifiers Certification Advisory Committee (SCCAC)

Minutes of the 47th Meeting

Two Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, GA 30303

Thursday, November 6, 2008

Call to order 9:50 A.M.

Presiding: David Huff, Chairman

Members present: David Huff, Chair; Sam Asady, Vice-Chair; Greg Harless, Secretary; Tim Kring; Dwain Butler (via telephone); Larry Morris; Mike Pitts; Lisa Flagg

- The first order of business: the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting of the SCCAC held Tuesday, August 5, 2008.

Motion to approve minutes: Mike Pitts

Second: Tim Kring

→ Motion carried unanimously

OLD BUSINESS

- Nicholas Reed, SCIT – Request for Certification

Secretary, Greg Harless, informed the Committee that upon receipt of the revised field exam report with corrected map symbols legend omissions, as requested at the previous exam review, the Department forwarded the official stamp and certificate to Mr. Reed.

Motion to approve certification: Greg Harless

Second: Larry Morris

Discussion: Committee recommended that the Department issue a follow up letter to Mr. Reed to remind him of the importance of the proper and correct symbols for features such as streams and gullies, for instance, and to ensure proper notation in the map legend.

→ Motion carried unanimously

Old Business – continued

- **Ben Wilson Harris, II – Request for Certification**

Request remains **TABLED**. Greg Harless advised the Committee that the revised mapping examples submitted by Mr. Harris, as previously requested to show willingness and ability to produce maps and reports per minimum Georgia requirements of Level III mapping, again were sub-standard. A new letter of rejection was issued by the Department.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Maxey Mc Gill – SCIT/Candidate for Certification**

Mr. McGill has completed four-years as SCIT. The candidate had communicated, prior to the August 5, 2008 meeting, to the Department that he would be formally requesting certification consideration at the current meeting. No further contact or request documents have been forwarded to the committee. File **TABLED** for incomplete information.

- **Mitch Wilson – 3rd year SCIT practical field exam**

Mr. Wilson's practical field exam was presented to the Committee and therefore found **SATISFACTORY**.

Note: Due to questions about his final year in-training under a qualified DHR certified soil classifier while working for an engineering firm, the Committee instructed the secretary Harless to contact him to remind him that his final year of training must continue under the tutelage of a qualified mentor.

- **Secretary Harless** – opened short discussion on:

1. Proposed consideration for revising the by-laws to allow less than quarterly meeting scheduling in light of the current economic slow-down with the resultant reduced Committee activity as well as travel expense concerns.
2. Informed the Committee of recent changes to EPD rules now allowing certified soil classifiers to evaluate EPD permitted project sites to include hydrologic evaluations.
3. Presented a complaint notice letter and related documents, dated September 16, 2008, pertaining to a recent soils evaluation by an engineer listed to investigate soils. The complaint documented evidence of use of a mechanical auger to advance soil borings. The complaint notice, prepared and issued on behalf of the Department by G. Harless, advised the engineer of his violation of the rule.

- **Lisa Flagg** – response

1. With regard to Harless' proposed meeting frequency change: The SCCAC should continue to meet quarterly by teleconference as an alternative.
2. In the matter of the complaint notification to the engineer: Recommended that the Department should follow up with correspondence requesting the engineer to respond to the allegation by a specific deadline date.

* New Business – New Agenda Item

- **Sam Asady** opened discussion and presented examples of proposed text language changes to clarify the On-Site Sewage Manual in the case of which individuals may evaluate soils for individual lots including the investigational intensity level and which professional individuals are “approved by the Board of Health”.

To recommend the Department affect the necessary language clarifications to the Manual:

Motion: Sam Asady

Second: Tim Kring

Discussion: Proposed changes to present to the Department will be written by Sam Asady.

—→ *Motion passed – 5-yea; 2-abstained (Sam Asady; Greg Harless abstaining)*

- **Lisa Flagg** – advised the Committee of the propose plan to move the Division of Public Health from DHR to the Department of Community Health by mid-year 2009.

FUTURE BUSINESS

- Tentative date for the next meeting – Thursday, February 12, 2009

Meeting Adjourned