

Soil Scientist Board Meeting Minutes (July 12, 2011)

The Indiana Registry of Soil Scientist Board (IRSS) met at the office of the State Chemist on Tuesday, July 12, 2011. Members present were Don Ruesch, Gary Steinhardt, Spence Williams, John Bonsett and new board member David Lefforge.

Minutes from the December 17, 2010 meeting were reviewed with a correction made changing Paul Owens to Philip Owens.

It was noted that the Board met in May, 2011 in conjunction with the spring field CEU event. No minutes were compiled from that meeting.

Gary Steinhardt reported that Shane McBurnett had received the letter from the Board questioning the accuracy of some of his past reports.

Don Ruesch suggested that a letter be sent to local health departments in the counties Shane routinely provides service advising that Shane McBurnett's reports appear to be inaccurate in that frequently all boring descriptions appear to be the same.

Spence Williams suggested that Shane be removed from the list of Registered Soil Scientist.

Gary advised the Board that Shane has the technical knowledge to write accurate soil descriptions.

Don suggested that if Shane is to be removed from the registry, additional samples should be provided to the Board for additional review to further show a pattern of identical sample descriptions.

Gary felt the Board needs to be absolutely certain Shane is violating established standards and procedures in the written soil descriptions. It was noted that Shane is still working in the areas of Wabash, Marshall, Miami and St. Joseph counties. Local health departments in these counties are cautiously accepting his reports.

Gary suggested the Board needs to collect additional reports from various counties to review the written descriptions. Further, if needed, the individual customers should be contacted to verify the actual work described was performed.

Gary made a motion to request local health departments submit soil reports done by Shane McBurnett since May, 12, 2011 be sent to the Board for follow-up review as to the descriptions written and standards followed. Spence seconded the motion which passed unanimously 5 – 0. Gary agreed to draft the letter to the local health departments.

Don Ruesch requested to step down from his position as Board president.

Gary Steinhardt nominated Spence Williams to serve as president starting the next meeting. Motion carried. John Bonsett agreed to continue to serve in the capacity as secretary.

The next meeting will be in conjunction with a field day tentatively planned for later this summer or early fall.

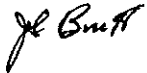
Various documents on continuing educations from several individuals were reviewed. Lewis Flaherty needs additional CEUs.

Rena Sheldon was deleted from the list in that her CEU have expired and she has failed to pay her dues.

James L. Brown is up to date on his CEUs but has yet to pay his dues. Gary will contact James Brown in this regard.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:15 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Bonsett".

John Bonsett, Secretary

JB/ps