



Indiana Registry of Soil Scientists
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IRSS Meeting 9-18-19 Notes

IRSS Board Members in attendance:

Linda Mauller, Tom Eickholtz, Robert Jones, Dr. Jessi Haeft, and Rebecca Langford-Willis

Others in attendance:

Dave Lefforge, Dr. Gary Steinhardt, Tom Adams, and Matt Pearson

Having all board members present constituted a quorum and an official meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Eickholtz.

- The agenda was reviewed with a motion to approve made by Haeft seconded by Mauller. Motion carried.
- Minutes from the 12/2/18 board meeting had been previously distributed. Motion to accept made by Langford, seconded by Mauller. Motion carried.
- New board members and others in attendance were welcomed by Pearson and introductions were made around the room.
 - Dr. Haeft informed the group that Ball State offers 2 online soils courses. Sustainable Soils and Introduction to Soils for Graduate Students.
- Tom Eickholtz nominated Bob Jones to be board chair & Jessi Haeft to be board secretary for the next year in accordance with 307 IAC 1-2-2(c), seconded by Mauller. Motion carried.
- New Board member State Ethics training.
 - Pearson provided ethics training material via email to the new board members. All completed the training and signed the training form.
- Pearson begins to explain the duties of the board as spelled out by the law, IC 25-31.5, and the rules, 307 IAC 1.
 - Meet at least one time each calendar year.
 - Establish fees:
 - Pearson provided a financial update: For 2019 Fiscal Year balance = \$63,436.79
 - Because the majority of the registered soil scientists began in the same year, the “income” from registration fees are cyclic. See attached reports.
 - Provide exams:
 - Dr. Steinhardt provided an overview of how the soils science fundamentals exam is provided as well as the Indiana soils and field skills exam.
 - For the first time since the board was created that an individual from Purdue Agronomy is not on the board we should better define the process to ensure that the requirements of the rules are being followed.
 - Eickholtz motioned that we designate Dr. Steinhardt to “administer” the exams on behalf of the board as required by 307 IAC 1-3-3, seconded by Langford. Motion carried.
 - Investigate complaints.

- Determine how much work credit to allow for experience.
- Arrange at least one CEU session each year
- Review scores from CEU's and identify individual registered soil scientists that may need additional development.
- IRSS Applicants: Application materials were emailed to the board.
 - Evan Troutman:
 - Troutman has completed all of the required exams but lacks the experience to be a registered professional soil scientist (RPSS)
 - Motion to approve Evan Troutman as a registered associate soil scientist (RASS) made by Eickholtz, seconded by Haeft. Motion carried
 - Greg Orr:
 - Orr has not taken any of the required exams
 - Discussion that his education course work seems to have a substantial amount of geology but is missing the minimum requirement of 307 IAC 1-3-3 for soils courses.
 - OISC will refund Mr. Orr's application fee and have him contact Dr. Steinhardt for suggestions on courses that would be applicable for him.
 - Kristopher Green:
 - Green has not taken any of the required exams
 - He does meet the education requirements.
 - Motion to approve his application as an RASS pending successful completion of his exam made by Eickholtz, seconded by Langford. Motion carried.
 - Discussion followed as to what work experience qualifies:
 - 307 IAC 1-3-5(a)(1) Work requirement states "...Credit is granted for work done while a person is a college graduate or undergraduate student, intern, student trainee, or similar position."
 - Work done before college does not qualify according to the rule.
- Roster of Registered Soil Scientists & How to go from Associate to Professional
 - Following the discussion of work requirement, the roster listing an Associate as available was brought up.
 - Since a RASS should be working a RPSS they should not be listed as Available on the IRSS Roster.
 - Motion to remove "Available" from RASS Roster listing made by Eickholtz, seconded by Haeft. Motion carried.
 - Note: Since the meeting, the Roster has been reorganized by OISC.
 - Available RPSS are listed first
 - Not Available RPSS are listed second
 - RASS are listed last and a better explanation that they are lacking the experience requirement and should be working with a RPSS.
 - Following that discussion Pearson will update a draft guidance policy that Dr. Steinhardt had developed outlining the process to go from a RASS to a RPSS.
- IRSS Outreach Opportunities.
 - Indiana Environmental Health Association (IEHA) Fall Conference September 23 – Linda will attend.
 - Indiana Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) Annual meeting January 13, 2021 – to be determined
 - Indiana On Site Wastewater Professionals Association (IOWPA) January 21, 2021 – Linda & Jessi will attend

- Discussion as to what are the goals, objectives and messages from IRSS when attending / representing at these meetings.
 - Recognition – IRSS is a group of Professionals (and associates striving to become professionals), we want people to see who we are and what we do.
 - Education in two directions: Learn something as well as leave some knowledge with others that we have encountered.
- Other business:
 - Dave Lefforge shared a letter he received from Randy Staley concerning a soils report submitted to the Putnam County Health Department in what was part of some IOWPA training.
 - Copy of letter is attached
 - Linda asked for some clarification cornering an email & attached document that Dr. Steinhardt had asked be distributed to the Registered Soil Scientists on September 16th.
 - The attached document was named “AY 362 Evaluation Field Book Quick Notes 2019” and was titled as *AY-362-W INDIANA SOIL Evaluation Field Book – Summary of Rules (9/13/19)*
 - There were several item pertaining to on-site sewage systems that do not match the current Indiana State Department of Health rules 410 IAC.
 - AY-362-W, INDIANA SOIL Evaluation Field Book, is a Purdue Extension publication and is geared for 4-H & FFA advisors.
 -
 - Lefforge mentioned that there may be additional training that the new board members should go through, for example sexual harassment training.
- With nothing further to discuss and it being very late in the evening by now motion to adjourn made by Haeft, seconded by Eickholtz. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm