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12/10/19 IRSS meeting notes

Ball State Alumni Center

IRSS Board members present: Tom Eickholtz, Jessi Haeft, Linda Mauller & participating on the phone Bob Jones & Becky Langford.

Others at the meeting: Matt Pearson & on the phone John McQuestion.

Meeting called to order by Jones at 1:31pm

Agenda was reviewed and motion to approve by Haeft, seconded by Mauller. Roll call vote of motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

Review of minutes from September 18, 2019 meeting. Pearson & Haeft will review their notes and fill in the names associated with the missing motions. Motion to approve minutes following corrections made by Haeft, seconded by Langford. Roll call vote of motion was unanimous. Motion passed.

Complaint

The next item on the agenda is the complaint from Mr. & Mrs. House vs IRSS John McQuestion. Jones asked the simple question: After review of the complaint letter and information did the soil scientist violate 307 IAC 1-2-3 Code of professional conduct or anything else in the law or rules? Roll call vote was a unanimous no. Pearson will respond to the House's of the board decision and their right of appeal.

Discussion followed revolving around how it is possible for an individual to file a frivolous complaint that can cause unnecessary and unneeded work for the Board. Is there a way for the Chair to screen a complaint to make the first cut? Can a fee be charged to file a complaint and the fee be refunded if the complaint is warranted? Pearson will contact the Attorney General's office for clarification.

Review of soil scientist application:

* Tiffani Gibson: Jones had questions about her mapping under the education requirement of the rules.

Gibson has not completed the Indiana soils and field skills exam this spring but has passed the written IRSS soil science fundamentals exam.

Motion made by Eickholtz to approve Gibson as a Registered Professional Soil Scientists pending successful completion of her field exam. Seconded by Haeft. Roll call vote was unanimous. *

Grace Conyers: Her information was discussed and the application was not complete by not having her transcripts. Discussion on the education information she provided showed that she only listed 12 credits for soils and she lacked courses in soil morphology or genesis. She also appeared lacking in chemistry and biology.

Pearson will share feedback with her.

307 IAC update

Eickholtz discussed the addition of a specific list of felonies that would disqualify someone from becoming a RSS or require a current RSS from having their registration revoked.

Work experience: As discussed earlier the work experience list of examples found in 307 IAC 1-3-5(a)(1) should be expanded to allow consideration of:

(J) Septic installation.

(K) Working in a County Health Office in relationship to soil science.

Also discussed allowing additional experience for those individuals that participated in a collegiate soils judging.

Participation on a collegiate soils judging team is valuable experience. Each semester of participation on a collegiate soils judging team shall count as one-third (1/3) year experience with a maximum available credit of one and one-half (1 ½) years credit.

Jones mentioned that the language in the rule, "One (1) semester credit counts as forty (40) hours of work credit." is confusing.

Motion to make the draft rule changes as stated by Haeft. Seconded by Eickholtz. Roll call vote was unanimous.

Other items:

* Mauller pointed out that there is a lot of confusion that occurs with the applications especially when money is involved. Some applicants pay for the exam, some do not. A simplified application process would be preferred. Pearson explained that OISC has already started this implementation. Additional discussion that the application fee should be non-refundable and should be made before the application can be reviewed.

Motion to require a non-refundable application fee paid when the full application is submitted made by Mauller. Seconded by Haeft. Roll call vote was unanimous.

* Mauller would also like to see the language in the rules concerning licensing and application fee consistent. Since the rules will be open now is the time to do that.

* Eickholtz discussed that upon further review of Chris Green's application that was approved to make him a Registered Associate Soil Scientist in September he looks to have more work experience that was not considered. Following additional discussion Eickholtz made a motion to change his status from Associate to Professional pending successful completion of the field exam this spring. Seconded by Langford. Roll call vote was unanimous.

* IOPA conference: Becky, Jessi and Linda will attend on behalf of the board.

* Langford asked for clarification on what Greg Orr, RSS applicant that was reviewed in September. Orr is currently taking 2-3 hour soils course at Ivy Tech. After review of this application and transcript he will need at least 7 hours of soils classes to meet the minimum education requirement according to the rules.

With nothing further to discuss motion to adjourn made by Eickholtz. Seconded by Haeft. Meeting adjourned at 3:14pm.