

## Soil Scientist Board Meeting Minutes (December 17, 2010)

The Indiana Registry of Soil Scientist Board (IRSS) met at The Tippecanoe County Extension Office on Friday, December 17, 2010. Members present were Don Ruesch, Gary Steinhardt, Spence Williams and John Bonsett. Also attending was Phil Owens from Purdue University.

The application for registration from Jason E. Shriner II was reviewed. The application was found to be acceptable.

The application for registration from Michael E. Salem was reviewed and appears ready for registration. It appears Michael needs to finish paying necessary fees and take the necessary exam in April 2011.

Tim Porter's application was reviewed and appears ready for registration. The names of Michael E. Salem and Tim Porter need to be forwarded to the Indiana State Department of Health.

Gary Steinhardt suggested establishing a program or policy requiring additional field training situations as a part of registration. This would be a field skills recognition exercise. It was thought that this could be done in conjunction with other field training exercises and exams. This field exercise could be graded somewhat like a soil judging situation to include texture and structure.

Don Ruesch suggested that these field training skills tests be offered more than once per year. Gary Steinhardt advised that electronic versions of the soil judging forms could be modified to be used in these field testing exercises. Philip Owens advised the Board that he could assign a graduate student to work on developing an appropriate form. This work could begin in January. Once developed, the Board could review the document at a later date.

Concerns over the complaints registered against soil scientist Shane McBurnett generated much discussion.

Don Ruesch expressed concern that Shane is purposely "stretching the point". Gary Steinhardt expressed concern with Shane's obvious lack of accurate attention to necessary detail. Gary pointed out that Shane has very good CEU background and has very good knowledge related to soil texture and morphology. It was felt errors in Shane's reports were not the result of his lack of soil knowledge.

Gary Steinhardt suggested that a letter of censor be sent to Shane McBurnett pointing out his errors, unintentional or purposely.

The letter of censor should also be forwarded to the Indiana State Department of Health and local health departments.

Spence Williams expressed his concerns and discussed the potential for suspension of registration. John Bonsett suggested the possibility of establishing a "probationary" status on

Mr. McBurnett's registration and recommending his future site evaluations be subject to State Department of Health follow up and additional review.

After further discussion, John Bonsett made a motion that a letter of censor be sent to Shane McBurnett outlining the three reports of errors and additional complaints registered with the IRSS Board. The letter shall further advise that more severe actions will follow if needed. A copy of the letter shall be sent to the Indiana State Department of Health and to local health departments. Don Ruesch seconded the motion and it carried 4 – 0.

Submitted CEU of other soil scientist were reviewed and approved.

The next meeting has been set for May 12, 2011. This meeting will coincide with the spring field CEU event scheduled in the southwestern part of Indiana on May 12 and 13, 2011.

Respectively submitted,



John Bonsett, Secretary

JB/ps