

INDIANA Registry of Soil Scientist Board – December 11, 2012

The Indiana Registry of Soil Scientist Board met at 11:00 am on Tuesday December 11, 2012 in the Office of State Chemist (OISC) at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. Those in attendance were Board members: Spence Williams, Don Ruchs, David Lefforge, and John Bonsett. Also in attendance were George Saxton, Compliance Officer from (OISC) and Matthew Pearson from (OISC). Board member, Gary Steinhardt was absent.

George Saxton advised the Board that the OISC is the administrative arm of the Soil Registration Board. He discussed the administrative process with regard to complaint investigation. He reported that OISC will conduct the necessary and appropriate investigation involving all parties involved in a complaint. His investigators may request additional investigation on the specific site or sites where complaints have been made. Evidence gathered will be provided to the Board for review, consideration and appropriate action. Specifically, a pending investigation focus on a complaint registered by the Laporte County Health Department dated October 12, 2012. A copy of the complaint letter is attached as a part of these minutes.

Legal action, should it be required, will be handled by the Attorney General's Office. Kevin McDowell was identified as the Attorney General's contact. An email message from McDowell explaining the administrative process was reviewed. See attached email from McDowell.

David Lefforge asked George Saxton if the Board would be a participant in the investigation. George advised that Board members would not be involved in the investigation. Board participation might give the appearance of a bias or potential conflict.

An additional question by the Board was, "Does the Board have funds within a budget to hire additional consulting soil scientists to provide additional information or evidence?" It was reported that funds were available for this purpose.

George Saxton questioned Board members on issues related to soil identifications and soil characteristics. It was suggested that Board members review procedural laws and rules related to the licensure of professional soil scientists. George advised the Board that, if necessary, a case number will be assigned and an investigation will be conducted. Information gathered will be brought back to the Board for action. George requested a list of soil scientists to pick those who might serve as additional onsite investigators. A list of names was compiled which will be sent to George Saxton. Board members will not be a part of the complaint investigation. The Board will review the information gathered in the investigation of the OISC.

Matt Pearson asked for information as to how the Board works when conducting other routine business.

Board members discussed a payment schedule to soil scientists who might be called to participate in an investigation. The Board agreed to pay mileage and it was further discussed that each participating soil scientist submits an itemized bill for services subject to Board approval. A full soil description for each site investigated should be provided. This would be part of the investigation and what is needed for the investigation left up to OISC.

The Board reviewed continuing educational units (CEUs) for various soil scientists. It was mentioned that Purdue is in the process of developing a new website for the Soil Registration Board. It was suggested that a Mission Statement be included.

The application for registration for Jess Fischer was approved pending verification of his passing of the required tests.

The next meeting will be scheduled in follow-up to the pending investigations.

Respectfully submitted,

John Bonsett