Indiana Registry of Soil Scientists
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IRSS Board Meeting Minutes

Location of Meeting: Sunset Hill Farm County Park
775 Meridian Rd
Valparaiso, IN 46385

Date: September 14, 2018

Board members present:
Tom Eickholtz via phone, David Lefforge and Dr. Gary Steinhardt

Others present:
Randy Staley, Larry Huber, Tom Adams, Tim Porter, John McQuestion, David Ortel, Ray Sinclair and Darrel Schulze

Meeting called to order at 3:10pm local time.

Minutes from the previous meeting were emailed to the board. Motion to approve Eickholtz / Steinhardt. Motion carries.

The financial report was presented. A balance of $65,045.22 was reported. Attached

Discussion of the experience requirement to go from a Registered Associate Soil Scientist (RASS) to a Registered Professional Soil Scientist (RPSS).

- Lefforge read a draft policy statement

The Indiana Registry of Soil Scientists (IRSS) currently outlines an Associate Soil Scientist as having the Educational background to qualify as a Soil Scientist, but lacks the field experience gained by multiple soil and landscape evaluations in different soil types using the proper nomenclature. This also extends to understanding the interaction of soil characteristics to progressively interpret effects on different septic design criteria. This experience is best gained over a 3-5 year period.

I would commend any candidate for seeking training through classroom and field experience with a Registered Professional Soil Scientist at the earliest date possible. A candidate can apply early for Associate Soil Scientist status within 1 semester of completion of the educational requirements and passing grades on the proctored exams to be an Associate Soil Scientist. The candidate would also need to submit an application and current transcript. The IRSS will defer Associate fees until professional status is granted. Candidates will be responsible for the proctored testing expense. The functional date for the start of the Associate training would be the date of the completion of the educational requirements minus 6 months for early applicants. (in case they finish later than they projected)

Due to the ebb and flow of septic investigation demand, and potential scheduling problems, a year of experience credit shall be defined as 25 descriptions with 5 descriptions in each of the 4 seasons.

When an Associate Soils Scientist Candidate registers, the Board is to be notified of the primary mentor. The Board will review the Candidate's application and transcript followed by a subsequent vote on the candidate.

A Registered Professional Soil Scientist can serve as a mentor to an Associate. It is recommended that a financial arrangement be worked out between the Associate and the Primary Mentor to share compensation between the Mentor and Associate for their contribution to the soil investigation process. The primary mentor will provide training, oversee, and sign off on work done by the Associate. After the first 6 months of mentored training, the Associate with permission of the Mentor and a positive report from the proctor of the field exercise would be able to work solo with the mentor signing-off upon review of the descriptions for quality and completeness of the soil evaluations. If the mentor observes irregularities in the report, a return visit to the site by the mentor and Associate would be in order. I would encourage the Associate to at least write 1 description from a posthole or backhoe pit at each site.

The board would request an annual report of progress from the mentor, 2 Associate prepared descriptions from that year and at least one field exercise reports for that year. The mentor reports should address the Associate's number of profiles observed, recognition of microtopography in relation to soil characteristics observed in pit and probe (general tool) profiles as well as professionalism in demeanor and skill in preparation of soil descriptions. Soils Scientist partnerships or corporations with more than 1 soil scientist can act as a primary mentor. More than 1 primary mentor is an option. It is desirable to train with more than one mentor. All Registered Professional Soil Scientist should be willing to assist in the secondary mentoring of an Associate. A secondary mentor is under no obligation to pay the Associate and would oversee all of those training sessions and sign-off on the report along with the Associate.

Upon completion of the Associate training period, the Associate would submit an updated application, updated transcript, and 2 Associate prepared descriptions for the Board to review. The Board will put the candidate forward for a vote to Professional Soil Scientist status.

Profile descriptions need to be signed and a notation of registration number and status for both the Associate and Professional Soil Scientist. Example: John/Jane Doe, Associate Soil Scientist #1001.

We strongly encourage candidates to participate in all IRSS field exercise opportunities during the associate training period. The value of doing multiple field exercises is to see different parts of the state and get quality training over the various soils characteristics around the state. The field exercise is both a training opportunity as well as one method of evaluating training progress. The Indiana Association of Professional Soil Classifiers (IAPSC) is the educational and social sister organization to the IRSS. I would encourage Associates to attend IAPSC events for educational and networking opportunities in soil science.

- Dr. Steinhardt commented that the sequencing of what was read would need some adjusting and he would work on it.
- Larry Huber commented that it would be difficult to perform evaluations during the winter months when the ground is frozen.
- Law says:

IC 25-31.5-4-4
Work requirement
Sec. 4. (a) The work requirement for registration as a professional soil scientist consists of three (3) years of professional experience in soil science.
(b) Experience obtained while working on an advanced degree does not qualify toward the satisfaction of the work requirement of subsection (a). However, the board may allow up to:
(1) one (1) year of work credit for a master's degree; and
(2) two (2) years of work credit for a doctorate.
(c) The board shall:
(1) evaluate all work experience claimed by an applicant to satisfy the work requirement under this section; and
(2) determine the amount of work credit to grant each applicant.

- Rule says:

307 IAC 1-3-1 Kinds of registration
Authority: IC 25-31.5-3-4
Affected: IC 25-31.5-4
Sec. 1. (a) There are two (2) kinds or levels of registration:
(1) a RPSS; and
(2) a RASS.
(b) The requirements for both a RPSS and a RASS are similar except for the work experience requirement. When a RASS meets the work experience requirement, they can become a RPSS.
(c) This article applies to a RPSS and a RASS unless otherwise stated.
(d) There is no limit in the time a person can be a RASS.

307 IAC 1-3-3 Education
(b) There is no limit in the time a person can be a RASS.
(c) To qualify for RPSS under this article, an applicant must satisfy the work requirement described in section 5 of this rule.

307 IAC 1-3-5 Work requirement
Authority: IC 25-31.5-3-4
Affected: IC 25-31.5-4-3
Sec. 5. (a) Three (3) years of work experience are required for registration as a RPSS. Credit will be allowed for regular work and for certain kinds of college course work as explained in this section. The board will decide how much work credit to allow for various kinds of work using the following guidelines:
(1) Unlimited credit for work experience will be granted for activities related primarily to evaluating soils and landscapes in their natural setting, as listed in this

subdivision. Credit is granted for work done while a person is a college graduate or undergraduate student, intern, student trainee, or similar position. Some of this work can be part of field laboratory sessions of college courses. One (1) semester credit counts as forty (40) hours of work credit. Examples of these activities are as follows:

(A) Collecting soil samples from entire pedons (profiles) in the field.

(B) Describing soil morphology and explaining how soil morphology affects soil processes.

(C) Characterizing landscapes and explaining how they relate to soil processes.

(D) Mapping soils.

(E) Preparing soil reports that deal with soil morphology and landscapes.

(F) Collecting and preparing soil monoliths.

(G) Teaching college students to do those tasks and related tasks.

(2) A maximum of one (1) year of work experience will be allowed for soil science work other than that mentioned under subdivision (1). This work is primarily related to crop production, soil erosion control, wetland determination, and related activities. Specific tasks include the following:

(A) Interpreting soil surveys without doing field investigations.

(B) Sampling soils for fertility.

(C) Making fertilizer recommendations.

(D) Scouting for soil-borne disease.

(E) Planning soil erosion control practices.

(F) Conducting wetland investigations.

(G) Laboratory research.

(H) Teaching college students to do those tasks.

(I) Related tasks.

(b) Work as established in subsection (a)(1) done while a college student can contribute to the total work experience
requirement according to the following limits:

(1) A bachelor of sciences (BS) candidate, up to one (1) year.

(2) A master of science (MS) candidate, up to one (1) year.

(3) A doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.) candidate, up to one (1) year beyond MS (up to two (2) years as a graduate student).

Experience to become a soil scientist discussion

- This was follow-up to work that Eickholtz and Pearson had done to outline what sort of experience would be more valuable and serve as work experience; university soil judging team, summer intern with a local county health department, intern with a septic installer were a few examples.
- Discussion occurred on how to provide more training or education at the Purdue on field mapping.
- Come to find out that this topic and the previous one are one in the same. Work experience to become a RPSS.

Outreach opportunities

- Indiana Environmental Health Association (IEHA) fall conference is September 24 & 25.
  - Dr. Steinhardt will bring the display.
  - Randy Staley will cover
- IEHA Spring 2019 conference – plan on going

- 2019 Annual Conference of Indiana SWCDs will be held on January 14-15, 2019 at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown.
    - Lefforge will coordinate
- Indiana Onsite Wastewater Professionals Association (IOWPA) conference
    - January 22-23, at Primo South Conference Center. 2615 National Ave., Indianapolis 46227
- 2019 Indiana State Fair
    - David Ortel suggested that IRSS have some information available at some particular are at the State Fair.

HEA No. 1245 (P.L. 182-2018): Crimes that disqualify RSS

- Pearson discussed the 2018 law change that affects all licensing and registration boards under Indiana Code Title 25. Professions and Occupations.
    - IRSS must explicitly list the crimes that will disqualify an individual from receiving a registration.
    - The disqualifying criminal conviction is limited to a crime that is specifically and directly related to the duties and responsibilities of the occupation or profession for which the individual is applying for or holds a license or certification
    - Emergency rule will be filed on November 1, 2018 and will last for 90 days. A second emergency rule may be added to that.
    - IRSS must amend their regulation to specify convictions of which felonies would disqualify an individual.
    - Since the rules will be opened now would be a good time to make any other revisions necessary.
    - Pearson has since consulted with the Attorney General's office and the IRSS law where it states that the Board may take action against a Registered Soil Scientist that has been convicted of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude.
        - That is the intent of the law change, to be specific.

Board replacement candidates:

- 4 of the 5 board members have served their 2 terms that will expire November 30, 2018.
    - Tom Eickholtz is the only member that is in his 1st term.
- Proposed candidates are:
    - Member from federal, state or local government:
        - Robert Jones – Indiana Department of Natural Resources
        - Doug Wolf – Indiana Department of Environmental Management
    - Member involved in education in a teaching, a research or an extension context:
        - Dr. Jessi Ghezzi Haeft – Ball State University
        - Dr. Darrell Schulze – Purdue University
    - Member from industry or the private practice of soil scientist who is a registered professional soil scientist in Indiana:
        - Jerry Heltsley – IRSS # 89
        - Rebecca Langford – IRRS # 60
        - Tom Adams – IRSS # 72
    - Member who represents the public at large and is not associated with soil science other than as a consumer:
        - Heath Butz – Jay County Health Department
        - Alan Dunn – Retired from the Indiana State Department of Health

- Discussion of who on the board must be a registered soil scientist, only 2 of the 5 members, vs who must have knowledge of soil science. Also discussed what type of person would best represent the public as a consumer.
- Motion to approve slate of candidates and forward on to the Governor's office for review made by Steinhardt / Eickholtz. Motion carries.

Discussion of the goals and objectives of the board.

- What started out as a comment that the previous boards tried to have the RSS members from different geographical regions lead into that the board does less soil science and mostly administrative functions.
- Pearson added that board is charged with ensuring that the soil scientist's code of professional conduct is being followed and that the public is being served and protected.
- Having a consistent soils evaluation form for all counties would be helpful
    - David Ortel said that one is being developed.

Application by Archie Sauerheber to become a registered soil scientist.

- Motion to approve application made by Eickholtz / Steinhardt contingent upon his written fundamentals exam. Motion carries.
- Fundamentals exam is scheduled for November 16th.

Lefforge announced that he signed the technical service agreement between IRSS & Purdue University.

Steinhardt is planning to have a field exercise in May in the southern part of Indiana.

With nothing further to discuss the meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Account Balance Listing

Fiscal Year: 2019 Fiscal Year Period: 1

FM ACCOUNTS

Parent FP Type Rollup	Parent FP Type	Parent FP Display	Fund Display	Parent FP RCC Display	Project Owner/Position Responsible	Available Balance
Other Restricted	Restricted - Regulatory	2300000021 - OISC Soil Scientist	33010009 - Oisc Soil Scientist	1108040000 - OISC Soil Scientist		$65,045.22

No Data Available

No Data Available

Report Name: Account Balance Listing Run Date: Sep 13, 2018 Run Time: 11:50:43 AM
Funded Program: 2300000021 - OISC Soil Scientist

Account Balance Listing with Details

Fiscal Year: 2019 Fiscal Year Period: 1

FM ACCOUNTS

Carryforward Budget - (Revenue + Expense + Commitment) = Available Balance

Parent FP Type Rollup	Parent FP Type	Parent FP Display	Fund Display	Parent FP RCC Display	Project Owner/Position Responsible	Carryforward	Revenue	Expenses	Transfers	MTD Commitments	Available Balance	Available Reports	# of Funds Centers Posted <> FP RCC	# of Funds Posted <> FP Fund
Other Restricted	Restricted - Regulatory	2300000021 - OISC Soil Scientist	33010009 - Oisc Soil Scientist	1108040000 - OISC Soil Scientist		$65,199.40	$0.00	$154.18	$0.00	$0.00	$65,045.22	Statement of Financial Activities (Coming Soon)	0	0

No Data Available

No Data Available

Report Name: Account Balance Listing Run Date: Sep 13, 2018 Run Time: 11:50:50 AM
Funded Program: 2300000021 - OISC Soil Scientist

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Trial Fund Balance

Fiscal Year: 2018
Fiscal Period Range: Between 0 and 16

Report Name: Yearly Trend
Run Date: Sep 13, 2018
Run Time: 11:33:18 AM

Select Summarization Level: Payroll Summary

GL Category 1	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Assets	$63,707.74	$69,166.02	$69,617.17	$59,090.33	$63,003.20	$65,199.40
Equity	($65,089.68)	($63,707.74)	($69,166.02)	($69,617.17)	($59,090.33)	($63,003.20)
Revenue	($2,571.75)	($11,604.92)	($7,680.50)	($1,683.42)	($10,476.24)	($4,584.78)
Expenses	$3,953.69	$6,146.64	$7,229.35	$12,210.26	$6,563.37	$2,388.58

Filter Selections

Fund

Funds Center

Order