



Natural Scientists Public Minutes

Natural Scientists Board
7 Eagle Square, Concord, NH 03301
May 15, 2024 at 9:00 AM EDT

Members:

Damon Burt, Wetland Scientist and Chair	(DB)
Christopher Albert, Wetland Scientist, Vice Chair	(CA)
Abigail Fopiano, Public member	(AF)
Gregory Howard, Soil Scientist	(GH)
James Long, Soil Scientist	(JL)

Staff:

Elizabeth Eaton, Board Counsel
Charlene Anstead, Board Administrator

I. Call to Order

Board Chair Damon Burt opened the meeting at 9:05 am.

II. Approval of Public Minutes - February 14, 2024

Motion:

Upon a motion by CA and seconded by AF, the Board voted unanimously to approve the February 14, 2024 public minutes as amended.

III. Rules with Program Coordinator, Tina Kelley

A. Soil 300 ~ Conditional Approval Response

Motion:

Upon a motion by CA and seconded by DB the Board voted unanimously to accept the Conditional Approval Response. Next scheduled meeting the Board will vote to adopt.

Motion:

Upon a motion by CA and seconded by DB, the Board voted unanimously to have the Conditional Approval Response to also serve as the Preliminary Objection Response.

IV. New business

- A. Discussion regarding difficulty in acquiring courses.
1. Soil Morphology
 2. Soil Genesis and classification

3. Soil mapping

The student is required to do an independent study/model/coursework. The Board discussed that colleges offer online labs so that there is a way for applicants to access and complete NH requirements. Mentors will accept written agreements from employers so that students may shadow in the field, work cooperatively on mapping in order to assist in helping them achieve the 15 hours of soil experience as required. An understanding of planning accordingly by the student is imperative to successfully completing experience required that is fostered by mentor/student alliance.

B. Initial and renewal application for license fees

Motion:

Upon a motion by GH and seconded by AF, the Board voted unanimously to endorse the recommendation by OPLC to increase both the initial and renewal application fees to \$155.00. The Board acknowledged the last increase was in the year 2011.

V. Non-Public Session

At 9:57 am, upon a motion by AF and seconded by CA, the Board voted to conduct the first non-public session for the purpose of discussing investigations of alleged licensee misconduct and other confidential Board business and noting that such a non-public session is authorized by RSA 91-A:3, II (c), RSA 91-A:3 II (e), RSA 91-A:5, IV, Lodge v. Knowlton, 119 N.H. 574 (1978), and the Board's executive and deliberative privileges.

VI. Seal the Non-Public minutes

Minutes of the Non-Public session are sealed to maintain the privacy of the items discussed in non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c), on the grounds that public disclosure may adversely affect the reputation of a person other than a Board member or render the proposed action ineffective.

VII. Adjourn

The Natural Scientists May 2024 Board meeting adjourned at 10:59 am.