

2025 CPSS Board Meeting – Quarter 4 Minutes

Tuesday, December 9th, 2025

Virtual Meeting

Attendance

- Present: Joe Schuster (FL), Josh Edgell, Michelle Busch, Virginia Brown, Matt Hostrander (PA), Colby Moorberg, Kelley House, James Hartsig
 - Quorum: needed 8 out of 14, had 8 attendees
 - Staff: Dawn Gibas, Stanley Wu
- Absent: Matt Deaton (OH), Dan King, Jamie Patton, Chris D'Aiuto, Jacob Berkowitz

Meeting called to order 2:02 pm Central time.

Approval of Agenda

- Motion by Colby, seconded by Joe, unanimous consent to approve agenda.

Approval of Minutes

- Motioned by Colby, seconded by Joe, unanimous consent to approve minutes from June 2025 (Q3 Meeting).

Update on Policy Manual Changes

Dawn Gibas

Amnesty

Staff have submitted a ticket to IT to build the form needed for the Amnesty application. So far there has been no work on this, staff will continue to monitor and push for this to be completed in January.

Email from Matt Hostrander re: applications

Board discussed an issue with applications, specifically reference letters. It is not clear who references need to be from, there is a requirement of at least one reference from a CPSS/CPSC, soil faculty or “other” licensed professional. Staff were directed to insert consistent and clarifying language across all application documents for the Board to approve at its 2026 Q1 Board Meeting in March.

General Discussion on CPSS and needed program changes

All

CSSE conversations, Discussion Group, Study materials

Staff provided a brief update on conversations regarding the current exam updates, discussion of the CPSS credential in society discussion groups and suggestions of program changes for CPSS.

Discussion on Soil Certification Survey

Survey Questions

All

The Board reviewed a marked up copy of the survey used for CCAs last year and added comments, edits, and additional questions. Staff were directed to draft a formatted document for review and send to the Board via email for comment prior to submitting it for release.

Soil Judging News

Dawn Gibas

- The grants from ASF for Soil Judging Travel and Equipment for 2025 are in the process of being wrapped up with only a few awardees needing to submit documentation for reimbursement.
- The RFP for the 2026 Spring grant cycle is out. The spring grants are to support travel to the National contest. Applications are due to Dawn Gibas on January 15, recipients will be notified by Feb. 1.
- The Board agreed to support the National contest again this year by helping fund t-shirts with the CPSS logo on the back.

Updates from State Certification Boards – FL and PA (OH was absent)

Florida:

Florida had their annual meeting in Gainesville, which was well attended and the “get together” in the evening provided an opportunity for good conversation and discussion. Looking forward to Amnesty because there are professionals interested in returning to certification.

Pennsylvania:

Pennsylvania had their annual meeting and congratulated several new APSS. They are looking forward to their hydric soils course in 2026.

Open Discussion/Other Matters

Last call for nominations for the Board position of liaison between CPSS and the SSSA Boards. Jacob Berkowitz remains the only candidate put forward.

James Hartsig pulled the Board’s attention to a Reddit subgroup (**r/Soil**) people posting questions about soil science and soil certification. He asked the Board to please take some time to look at the site and answer questions.

2026 Meeting Schedule

- The Board approved the following meetings for 2026. All meetings begin at 3 pm eastern time and run for 1.5 hours.
 - March 10
 - June 9
 - September 8
 - December 8

Closing Remarks

Thank you to James Hartsig for his time as Chair of the CPSS Board. We are grateful for the time and dedication. We look forward to the continued participation as Past Chair.

Welcome to the 2026 Chair, Virginia Brown!

The group will need to elect a Vice Chair at the Q1 meeting in March. Please let Dawn know if you are interested and have any questions. Please also feel free to talk to James or Colby about their experiences as Chair of this board.

Adjourn

Adjournment at 3:37 pm central time.

**2026 Q1 Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10 at
3 pm Eastern/2pm Central/1 pm Mountain/Noon Pacific.**