In a press release dated November 29, 2011, Governor McDonnell announced his reform initiatives contained in the Government Reorganization Plan, which was submitted to the 2012 Session of the General Assembly. During the session, the proposal to merge the Board for Geology with the Board for Professional Soil Scientists and Wetland Professionals was considered. The recommended merger passed and Governor McDonnell signed the bills (HB 1291 and SB 678 – Chapter 803 of the Acts of Assembly), the legislation was enacted July 1, 2012; with regulations promulgated August 15, 2012.

Board members of the two previous separate boards are looking forward to working together on the Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals, and Geologists (PSSWPG). Board members who were serving on the individual boards will continue to serve on the combined board until their terms expire. The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 12th, at 10:00 a.m. Meetings are open to the public and there is an opportunity to address the Board at the beginning of each meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – KATE NOSBISCH

The newly formed Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals and Geologists, welcomes Kathleen (Kate) R. Nosbisch as the Executive Director. Ms. Nosbisch has served as the ED for the Board for Professional Soil Scientists and Wetland Professionals for the past four years. Ms. Nosbisch, along with her team, is responsible for five other boards at DPOR—the Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, Certified Interior Designers and Landscape Architects, Board for Auctioneers, Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation, Board for Branch Pilots and the Professional Boxing, Wrestling and Martial Arts Advisory Board.

Ms. Nosbisch currently serves on the National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors (NCEES) Mobility Task Force Committee, and most recently served on the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) MBE Committee (2010-2012). She also served as the NCEES Northeast Zone Representative and on the NCEES Public Outreach Committee (2011-2012); and also served on the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) MBE Committee (2009-2011). She is a past president of the Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR) and has been an instructor in CLEAR’s Executive Leadership for Regulators program since 2003.

Prior to DPOR, Ms. Nosbisch served eight years as the Deputy Executive Director for Practitioner Information for the Virginia Board of Medicine at the Department of Health Professions (DHP).

Before relocating to Virginia in 1999, Kate managed credentialing departments for various health plans and an integrated delivery system in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She received her B.A. in Business/Communication and her M.S. in Professional Leadership (training and development concentration) from Carlow University in Pittsburgh.

Kate (and her team) look forward to serving you!
**WHAT’S IN A NAME?**

With a newly merged board, comes a newly merged newsletter. Or in the case of the Soil Scientists and Wetland Professionals, a FIRST newsletter! So we need your help! While the name “Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals and Geologists” is catchy in and of itself—we are looking for a creative, ingenious, clever name for the newsletter.

We would like a name that encompasses all three professions in some capacity—something earthy! The board newsletter will be used to inform regulators about profession issues, board members, examination information, meeting dates and more.

Please submit your ideas to, Amy Goobic, Administrative Assistant & Editor, via email by November 30, 2012. Board members will vote on the submissions at their meeting December 5, 2012.

amy.goobic@dpor.virginia.gov

Let us know if you have any questions regarding the newsletter or the naming thereof. We look forward to reading your submissions!

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**CONGRATULATIONS!! 2012 CERTIFIED GEOLOGISTS, WETLAND PROFESSIONALS AND SOIL SCIENTISTS**

- **Geologists**
  - Howard D. Harman Jr.
  - Christopher L. Callegari
  - John C. Bullock
  - Ashley K. Hogan
  - Pamela K. Patrick
  - Amanda D. Slaughter
  - Vincent A. Shickora
  - Benjamin S. Draper
  - Paul C. Van Alstyne
  - Milton L. Johnston, Jr.
  - Benjamin D. Grosser

- **Professional Soil Scientists**
  - Eric N. Thompson

- **Wetland Professionals**
  - Christopher R. Senfield

For information on obtaining certification as a Professional Soil Scientist, Wetland Professional or Geologist, please visit our website http://www.dpor.virginia.gov/Boards/SSWPG/

Or email geology@dpor.virginia.gov

bpssandwp@dpor.virginia.gov

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**Board for Professional Soil Scientists, Wetland Professionals, and Geologists**

- J. Meade R. Anderson—Certified Geologist
- Dr. Robert Bolling Atkinson—Wetland Professional
- Nancy Barker—Wetland Professional
- Douglas S. Davis—Wetland Professional
- Warren “Ted” Dean—Certified Geologist
- Angie M. Hall—Citizen Member
- Junzhe James Liu—Citizen Member
- Charles E. Nelson—Professional Soil Scientist
- Robin E. Reed—Certified Geologist
- Harry T. “Tom” Saxton—Professional Soil Scientist
- David Spears—State Geologist (ex officio board member)
- Katherine S. White—Citizen Member
- Angela C. Whitehead—Professional Soil Scientist

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**ASBOG Exam Dates**

- Fall 2012—October 5
- Spring 2013—March 1
- Fall 2013—October 4

For information on exams please call 804-367-8569

Or email exams@dpor.virginia.gov