



Discipline Case Digest

File 14-03

Subject Member: Registered professional Biologist

Complaint Submitted: October 14, 2014

Date of Decision: September 22, 2016

Complaint Summary:

A complaint was submitted by the member of the public in October of 2014 alleging that the subject member had not upheld the Principles of Stewardship and breached provisions in the Code of Ethics, in particular:

Principle 3 - Ensure they meet a professional standard of care by practicing applied biology with attention, caution, prudence, and due diligence.

Principle 7 - Maintain a standard of personal and professional conduct that does not reflect adversely on the College or its member.

The complaint centred on the application of the Riparian Areas Regulation in the development of a residential lot containing a watercourse. The Complainant alleged that the subject member did not demonstrate due diligence in how stream work was undertaken, did not ensure permits were in place and failed to provide clear, unbiased communications to members of the public and local government.

The College conducted a preliminary investigation, and determined that a more in depth investigation by an investigator with experience in conducting Riparian Area Assessments was required.

Decision:

After a full and careful consideration of the material provided by the Complainant, and the extensive investigation by an independent investigator the Discipline Committee determined that there appeared to be evidence for contraventions of the Code of Ethics. Prior to the Discipline Committee's making this determination the subject member left the country and now resides overseas. The Discipline Committee determined that proceeding to a Hearing at this time would not be in the public interest as the Subject Member is no longer practicing Applied Biology within BC, and not available to participate in a Hearing. Therefore any further action on the complaint would be deferred until the subject member returns to Canada and/or makes application to renew their membership.

