



File #19-05

Subject Member: Registered Professional Biologist

Complaint Submitted: September 5, 2019

Date of Decision: April 15, 2020

Complaint Summary:

A complaint was submitted against a member of the College alleging unethical conduct. The complaint contained numerous allegations, including the following alleged violations of Principles in the Code of Ethics:

Principle 1: Provide objective, science-based, unfettered, forthright and intellectually honest opinion, advice and reports in applied biology.

- Alleged the subject member did not use appropriate scientific reports in their role as a decision-maker.

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

- Alleged the subject member did not use appropriate scientific reports in their role as a decision-maker.

Principle 4: Provide a professional standard of service to clients and employers by conducting business practices fairly, avoiding conflict of interest and respecting client/employer confidentiality.

- Alleged the subject member was also a member of a conservation organization and this membership created a conflict of interest in their role as a decision-maker.

Decision:

After full and careful consideration, the Discipline Committee dismissed this complaint pursuant to Rule 15.19, which provides that a complaint that is “unfounded” and “not one in which further proceedings would be in the public interest” should be dismissed or deferred. This file is now closed. The key points from the decision can be summarized as follows:

- Regarding Principles 1 and 3, the Discipline Committee found that the subject member’s role as a decision-maker was to review reports that other consultants have provided and make recommendations using the best available information. The subject member fulfilled this role appropriately.



COLLEGE OF
APPLIED BIOLOGY

Professional Accountability

- Regarding Principle 4, the Discipline Committee held that the subject member's membership in the conservation organization did not create a conflict of interest, principally because the membership was maintained as part of their employment obligations.

