

November 14, 2005 MAPSS Executive Board Meeting
Skowhegan, Maine

Attendees: Laura Lecker (president), Chris Dorion (vice-president),
Dave Turcotte (secretary), Dave Rocque (technical
committee), Don Phillips (education committee),
Darryl Brown (director)

The meeting commenced @ 1:30 P.M.

Annual Meeting

It was decided to try and have the annual meeting at the Elks Club in Augusta again, preferably on March 7th. In the event that the banquet room isn't available that day - or if MASE or MAWS are having their annual meeting that day - then the 9th would be the alternate date. Four formal afternoon presentations will be solicited: 1) by Wayne Hoar (NRCS state soil scientist) on Web Soil Survey; Wayne hopes that an internet connection will be available there, but if it isn't then hopefully he'll still be willing to do an MS Power Point presentation on such subject (incorporating a brief NRCS update) (Laura will follow up); 2) by UMO graduate students under Aram Calhoun on research being conducted on groundwater seeps (Dave R. will follow up); 3) by Jeff Dennis (or someone else from DEP) on new regulations pertaining to stormwater discharge and sediment control (Chris to follow up); and 4) by Judy Gates (DEP), Marcia Spencer-Famous (LURC) and Jay Clement (ACOE) - or other representatives of their respective agencies - in a forum / panel setting on new regulations pertaining to vernal pools (Dave R. to follow up).

Between the morning business meeting and the afternoon formal presentations, other presentations from the USM (c/o Samantha Langley-Turnbaugh) and UMO (c/o Ivan) will be solicited (by Laura), while Darryl will provide an update on the DEP/LURC task force, and Dave R. on September's downeast hydric soils tour. Dave T. suggested to Laura that she refer to last year's business agenda to build off of, and that she set time constraints (on the agenda itself) for each and every component to the agenda (so she can strive to keep the meeting on schedule).

Darryl suggests that MAPSS formally honor Norm Kalloch (who served two multi-year terms as president) with a plaque and/or print (pertaining to hunting or fishing) of some sort. Everyone here is supportive, and will allow Darryl to spend up to \$100 on such a plaque/print. The presentation will be either just before lunch or after the A.M. break.

Workshops Review and Planning

Dave R. reported on the Downeast Tour held in September. About 16 people attended, and they were given a packet of handouts, which included discussions from the previous week's tour by members of the Field Indicators for Identifying Hydric Soils in New England, Technical Committee and some soil temperature and water table data. Hence some of the discussion at the tour carried over from the previous week. Some of the sites looked hydric, but did not key out. The tour was successful, in that subsequent feedback has been quite favorable, and we made some money with it. Dave R. will write an article for the winter newsletter summarizing the tour.

Dave R. and Chris reported that this year's cooperative MASE/MAPSS workshop (held in the Augusta area) wasn't nearly as successful as it has been in years past, for there was some miscommunication between the two associations for the second straight year. Improved communication (particularly with respect to the locale, scheduling and timing) between the presidents of both associations is critical to future success here.

Laura reports that with respect to phase II of the LURC/DEP Workshop, both agencies would need to know far in advance when this was to occur. Dave R. thinks that we should table this workshop for another year, and the board concurs. His rationale is that project analysts depend on in house or outside technical soil experts and they have too many other review items to train on.

Dave R. reports that the many members of MAWS are very interested in seeing us hold another sandy hydric soils workshop next year in Scarborough, as we did in 2004. He suggests that we pursue this cooperatively with MAWS, and that we charge money for it. The board concurs.

Brochure

Dave T. presented a draft (produced by the printers) of the brochure. He received much constructive feedback on it (particularly from Andrew Carpenter, Don and Chris), most of which being proposed revisions to the text (pertaining to the cover, blueberry barrens, what we do, and our accomplishments), and the elimination of the interpretive table. Some of the

terminology was deemed to be too technical, and he shall strive to simplify it (using given suggestions and the intro of the publication by Ferwerda et al. 1997: "The Soils of Maine"). Keeping the water cycle on it was debated, and it was decided to keep it, but add this caption within it: "Soil is an integral part of the water cycle". Dave R. and Darryl suggested changing the equipment operability to building site development, and Dave T. will add that land use application. They also suggested having two soil profiles on the front of the brochure, but Dave T. wasn't sure if the cover would be too busy and would lose the introductory theme to Maine soils there. Chris suggested changing the Biddeford Soil on the block diagram to an alluvial soil series, and Dave T. agreed to do so (so long as the printers can change the underlying materials there to alluvium). Dave T. will describe proposed revisions to the board in an e-mail message before returning to the printers with the revisions (to save MAPSS additional costs above the allotted \$750).

Membership Update

Dave Moyse was not able to attend today's meeting to provide the update. In the future, a note (via highlighted flag of some sort) should be added to the summer newsletter to remind people who haven't renewed yet for that calendar year. This was overlooked this past summer. Andrew (treasurer) needs to review our membership directory (in a MS Excel file) and weed people out who are more than a year overdue. Since those people weren't notified that they were overdue this past summer, we might make one exception and send them the winter newsletter (with the highlighted flag reminding them that their dues were overdue). Next year a membership drive should be considered (after our annual meeting to evaluate who is and is not a member). This drive - via a letter signed by the president or membership chair - could target the following non (full or associate) members: past members; Maine certified soil scientists; U of M, USM and Unity College faculty and students; NRCS soil scientists; and DEP and LURC regulators.

Smithsonian Exhibit Fundraising

Don reported that no contributions have been made to the Smithsonian Soil Exhibit fundraising endeavor since the summer newsletter, even though both he and Laura (in the prez message) made a pitch in that regard. The funds raised to date stand at \$3,820 (only 38.2 percent relative to the \$10,000 goal). Less than 25 percent of full MAPSS members have contributed to date. The deadline for contributing is 2007, so the good news is we still have time. Dave T. and Chris suggest that we add this as a line item on the 2006 annual meeting's registration, with an article in the winter newsletter that reveals to some extent just what the exhibit will do for our profession and the resource. Also, if there are sufficient proceeds from the sandy soils workshop next summer, then perhaps the association could contribute more to this endeavor.

Don states that he will need to step down as education chair in 2006, which he has served dutifully for several years. He recommends Johanna Szillery as his successor, a young and enthusiastic soil scientist working for Ivan @ the U of M. The board concurs. Should Johanna decline, then Jim Logan (our most recent past prez) should be the second choice, as he expressed such interest to Dave T. and Dave R. at this year's annual meeting.

MAPSS Website Update

In the footsteps of our contractor Seth Mercier and with assistance from Laura, Chris has diligently been bringing www.mapps.org along, but is still seeking the following: legislative updates from the chair, Smithsonian fund info and link, references for published papers and articles, scholarship info, upcoming events of interest, suggestions for additional web site links, and anything else creative (pedons, landscapes, etc.). Text really needs to be in electronic format, for otherwise it takes up too much space when scanned. He will incorporate the history / mission statement (off the brochure), insure that all web site links on the brochure are on the web site, bring the number of our members to a current level in the introduction, and will continue to look for contributions and feedback in this evolutionary and dynamic process of keeping the website fresh and alive!

Financial Update

This following was e-mailed to the executive board from treasurer Andrew Carpenter a few days before this meeting:
As an update on our bank account, we currently have \$1956, and we have paid all of our major anticipated expenses for the year, with the exception of the brochure work and monthly web hosting fees. Unless we have additional significant expenditures we should end the year with approximately \$1000 in the bank; in March, we had anticipated that we would have \$700 at year's end. The web site work, the Smithsonian contribution and the brochure are all expenses that we took on this year, that we typically don't have. I would say that it is good news that we could get those projects done and still be solvent. Part of the reason that we are ahead of expectations is due to a better turn out at the downeast hydric soils tour than we expected.

Field Reviews with NRCS

As a representative of MAPSS, Chris participated in the So. Penobscot County Soil Survey field review held in August. He stated that it was a positive experience, and that he learned a lot. Chris will write an article for the winter newsletter about the field review and how he thinks the MAPSS-NRCS cooperative agreement is working to date.

Display Board

Dave T. will revise the board to have it jibe with the brochure, and open it up a bit so that it does not look so congested. He will do so before the annual meeting so it can be set up there and be up to date. At the annual meeting we will make a strong pitch to have it set up and manned at the Common Ground Fair in Unity next September, which would be free to us in the Agricultural Section (with free passes to the fair for those volunteering to man the booth a 1/2 day). The board decided to forego the Agricultural Trade Show in 2006, but will look into the Fryeburg Fair if it is felt that there'll be enough interest in the association to man the booth there (and depending on the cost).

Newsletter

The next "Lay of the Land" will be mailed out in early February. The editor (yours truly) will solicit articles and other items of interest from members via e-mail in mid January.

The meeting concluded @ 4:15 P.M. The next MAPSS board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18th in Skowhegan or Augusta.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Turcotte,
Secretary