

Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists

November 17th, 2006 Executive Committee and Standing Committee Chairs Meeting

NRCS/FSA Building, Skowhegan

Attendees: Chris Dorion (*president*), Laura Suomi-Lecker (*vice-president*), David Turcotte (*secretary*),

Andrew Carpenter (*treasurer*), Darryl Brown (*director*), David Rocque (*technical*

committee), Dave Moyse (*membership and education committees*), Don Phillips

(*Smithsonian fundraising*), Wayne Hoar (*NRCS state soil scientist*).

AGENDA

1. Carrying cases for MAPSS display boards to protect from weather and transportation - Don Phillips.

Darryl Brown moved to allow an expenditure of up to \$200 to purchase a case or two for storing and protecting the display board with its attachments and handouts. The cardboard boxes that it has been transported in got wet and are falling apart. Andrew Carpenter seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Chris Dorion shall take the lead on this.

2. Establishing an on-line e-mail list for upcoming workshops and other soils' related topics. (MAWS has this already) - Seth Mercier recommendation (Chris Dorion reports). Go to <http://www.groups-beta.google.com>

This has worked well for MAWS, and would help to facilitate easier group e-mails to our members. Chris Dorion would work with Seth Mercier on this. Written permission would be needed from all members to allow their e-mail address to be on the list. This would help to minimize rejections by getting the messages by spam filters. Andrew Carpenter motions that we pursue this, Darryl Brown seconds the motion, and the motion passes.

3. Discussion of projects falling under the Site Law threshold and using the old SCS County soil surveys to design site-specific stormwater plans - everyone

This topic was tabled to a future meeting time.

4. MAPSS hats, t-shirts, or workshirts? - Chris Dorion

Don Phillips knows a botanical artist (Nancy Childs) in Massachusetts, and states that he's willing to contact her for ideas for a t-shirt. She developed the logo (*starflower*)

for his company. The group is supportive of this. Dave Moyse feels strongly that the MAPSS logo should be on the front of the shirt, and everyone agrees. Andrew Carpenter emphasizes that the shirt should be good quality. MAWS has developed a t-shirt and they have sold well. Wayne Hoar has seen some team t-shirts from collegiate soil judging teams, including some with a soil profile on the back (on a white shirt). He says that they soil profile looked sharp enough and quite professional. He also suggested having a slogan of some sort on the front or back of the shirt. All agreed that these are good ideas, and Don Phillips will take the lead to come up with design to present to the membership in March.

5. A couple monoliths to add to the display diorama - Chris Dorion, Dave Turcotte

Discussion on this item tabled until next meeting.

6. Smithsonian update - Don Phillips

To date we have raised \$8,900 (including another pledge from Dave Moyse for \$500). There is still only a minority of MAPSS members who have donated, and we need to have more members contribute an additional \$1,100 by 12/31 to make our goal of raising \$10,000 and getting our name on the plaque in front of the Chesuncook monolith. Darryl feels confident that we will make this goal by getting the word out to the membership about the deadline. Dave Turcotte will send Don Phillips a membership e-mail list (a couple of years old though), and Don Phillips volunteered to send the membership another letter soliciting the additional money (as a tax deductible contribution) that we're seeking to raise. Darryl Brown moved to allow Don Phillips to do this, Andrew Carpenter seconds, and the motion passes. Chris Dorion stated that we should make the deadline for contributing to be December 15th. Andrew Carpenter will call Ivan Fernandez to encourage others from the University of Maine, and Dave Turcotte will encourage NRCS personnel to contribute (as few have to date). Both Darryl Brown and Dave Turcotte commend Don Phillips for his efforts in directing this fundraising.

7. Treasurer's report and Membership report - Andrew Carpenter

We continue to remain solvent and have a balance of about \$2,497.73. See the attached treasurer's report. The Sandy Hydric Soils Workshop netted us \$1,125.00. Andrew wonders if we should consider raising the membership dues, as they have not been raised in a long time. Dave Turcotte adamantly opposed this, because MAPSS is doing O.K. financially and would not want to lose members because the dues are too high. Rather, Chris Dorion and Dave Rocque feel that we should continue to charge for field workshops instead.

Andrew stated that although he's O.K. maintaining the membership .xls file, he simply does not have time to fulfill Membership Chair obligations. Dave Moyse admits that he (as the Membership Chair) hasn't had time available this year, but that he and Johanna Szillery will start to perform Membership Committee duties in 2007. At this

time it is too late to solicit dues from people for 2006 (particularly since we're focusing on raising funds for the Smithsonian Exhibit), and Dave Turcotte apologized for not notifying those who hadn't paid their dues this year in the summer newsletter. Dave Rocque suggested that membership reminders and solicitation best occur soon after the annual meeting, and everyone agreed that this is a very good idea. Andrew Carpenter stated that one logical group to target are certified soil scientists who are not already MAPSS members, and Dave Rocque stated that a list of all Maine certified soil scientists can be attained from the State for such purpose.

8. Planning for Annual Meeting - everyone

A proposed agenda was developed, with afternoon topics and speakers suggested. Chris Dorion will contact the suggested speakers and organize details.

9. Common Ground report - Dave Turcotte

Dave Turcotte acknowledged all of the volunteers who helped here, namely Andrew Carpenter, Dave Rocque, Laura Suomi-Lecker, and Don Phillips (along with George Bakajza, Johanna Szillery and Ron Olson). Andrew Carpenter, Dave Rocque, Laura Suomi-Lecker, and Don Phillips concurred with Dave Turcotte that our attendance there is very logical and appropriate, and besides that it does not cost us anything. Our participation there consisted of having a couple of tables for our display board and handouts / props (including 4 tubs of different soil textural classes and a tray of contrasting rocks), a soil pit tour (offering a poorly and a well drained sandy soil) and an hour-long (including time for questions) MS Power Point Presentation on "The Soils of Maine". Dave Turcotte was pleased to have complete volunteer coverage for all of these 3 venues. Quite a few people stopped by the tables, with lots of interest and enthusiasm (it helped to be next the University of Maine Soil Testing Services). Dave Rocque thinks that the text on the display board is a bit too technical and should be simplified. Dave Turcotte distributed 3 outlines of the presentation and 3 CD's with the .ppt presentation on it (and can make it available to anyone in MAPSS with an interest to use it). The consensus here is that we should continue to participate in the Common Ground Fair and carry on with the same 3 venues. On a related educational note, Dave Moyse states that he has not forgotten about developing a poster for MAPSS, and that he is looking for ideas, action photos, etc. from the membership.

10. MASE-MAPSS report, donation to MASE to offset expenses - Dave Rocque; everyone.

Chris Dorion suggested that we give MASE some money to recognize their efforts in our annual and successful cooperative workshops with them. Discussion ensued, and Dave Rocque suggested a letter of appreciation from MAPSS be sent, and Chris Dorion will send one to Brady Frick, the current president of MASE.

11. Hydric Sandy soils workshop report - Dave Rocque

This was highly successful, both financially and technically. It was well advertised and attended with plenty of active discussion, and the subsequent feedback was generally positive. Part of the reason why it was so well attended was that it provided continuing education credits to certified NH soil scientists and wetland scientists. The two botanists there volunteered their time. The only comment that Wayne Hoar heard that was not positive was that the pits could have been bigger. Dave Rocque acknowledged NRCS assistance again - namely the help provided by Dave Wilkinson and Ron Olson. Extensive summary handouts were available following the day's soil pit evaluations. A summary meeting was held at the site at the conclusion of the workshop.

12. MAPSS sponsoring University Maine - Orono Soil Judging Team - Wayne Hoar, Chris Dorion

Wayne Hoar proposed to the Executive Committee that we provide some sort of support to the University of Maine Soil Judging Team. In the northeast regional competition this fall in Orono, other teams were much better prepared (in terms of equipment and supplies) and looked more like a team (in terms of having team shirts or jackets). Darryl Brown questioned why the University hasn't been more supportive. Wayne noted that they should, but also stated that Professor Laurie Osher (the professor who led the team) has received spotty financial support here and there. The University did field 2 teams of 4 students each though, so that was very positive (plus the weather was splendid for the competition). Next year the competition will be in Maryland. Andrew Carpenter suggested that we supply the students with field (cruiser) vests with the MAPSS logo on them. This will be scoped out by Andrew Carpenter (concerning the cost) and presented to the membership in March.

Chris Dorion will write a letter of support, on behalf of MAPSS, for increased funding and support of the Soil Judging Team as it represents the University of Maine.

13. Other workshop topics for next year and pre-made certificates for CEUs - everyone

A proposed workshop on filled land was proposed by Dave Rocque. Wayne Hoar has water level data for a filled land site. The joint MASE-MAPSS workshop should be repeated in the fall.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Chris Dorion at 3:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by Dave Turcotte, Secretary, and Chris Dorion, President