

MAPSS Executive Committee Meeting
June 1, 2007

Present: Johanna, Chris, Don, Dave Rocque, Anna, Dave Turcotte, Ivan, and Dave
Moyse
(There was a not a quorum present, so therefore no official votes taken.)

➤ MAWS discussion of certification – Don

Other members of MAWS would be present, but many are busy or traveling. This has been a discussion since 1988. The majority of members want certification of wetland scientists. MAWS president, Lauren Stockwell, headed a paper to explore credentialing.

Don and Jim Boyle met with Ann Head, the Maine Commissioner of licensing. She provided them with information on other groups of similar size. One important aspect would be to prove how licensing improves public health and welfare in the state.

In NH, their group had a lobbyist to pass the licensing requirement, but MAWS is leaning towards doing this work in-house to minimize costs that would not be necessary here. Ms Head told Don that one group with about 85 members who is currently going through the licensing process will be paying a fee of about ~~The cost may be as high as~~ \$450/year for members. Will need to decide the criteria, such as exam questions. Possible to be approved for licensing, then work out details later.

Goal to have Sunrise Review application finalized by 1-1-2008⁹. Would also need to consider if this would be just for Maine, or National. Leaning towards just for the State. ~~May~~ Recommended to have half the test on fundamentals, and half on state-specific. Possible to take fundamentals in college or shortly after. Then, people could be “certified-in-training” until they gain more experience.

Don has been talking to other groups and plans to talk to yet other groups including the, ~~such as~~ DEP and surveyors. GPS issue ~~is~~ may be an important issue to surveyors, based on preliminary conversations Don has had with some surveyors ~~them~~; they don't want us stepping on their toes. There has been a task force in the past.

This should be endorsed by DEP, and all other regulators, before we apply. There are meetings planned. There also may be a problem with those who are not licensed soil scientists performing hydric soil identification (i.e., pedology) ~~soil science~~ as part of wetland identification.

MAWS may have to schedule another meeting to discuss the issue in time to apply promptly. This would probably require a change in the State board as well,

and there may be resistance to this. A transition period is preferable to Grandfathering. Reciprocity from other states may be another option. VT is also working on this same process.

Don took an informal vote of the members present, and most were positive to the idea. Maintaining higher standards in the profession was a point important to the members. In addition, maintaining integrity of work was discussed.

➤ Workshop, 8-2-07, Natural Resource Identification and Regulation Workshop, Reid State Park – Dave Rocque

Dave has done a lot of work in planning this and getting lots of good people involved. There is a large variety of natural resources at this site. Will work on getting a surveyor to mark the high-water mark ahead of time – Dave Marceau?

There will be maps at sites for participants to use. The park is helping us with parking, etc. There will be seven sites total, we may have a Power Point at end of the sites during different seasons.

We need to market this to many people, since it has the potential to be valuable and well attended. We may sell a CD after the event with all digital data involved for \$10-25. This would include photos from three seasons.

➤ Recognition of Don for successful Smithsonian campaign – Johanna

We presented Don with his framed photo, first shown at the Annual meeting. He was very humble and grateful. We are proud of Don for bringing this distinction to our state.

➤ Soil Judging Team Round-Up

We receive thank-you letters from Ivan Fernandez, Laurie Osher, and Greg Porter –head of PSE Department, and Ed Ashworth – Dean of the College of NSFA. Dave Moyse attended the awards ceremony where vests and buckets for tools were presented to the team; members Matt Dorman and Anthony Drouin were present. We have pictures for the website. Mike Banatis is working with Moyse and may be the team coach for next year.

➤ Common Ground Fair – Dave Turcotte

Will be September 21-23 this year. We will have the same set-up as last year, but may only have one table instead of two. There will be demonstration pits and a Power Point presentation.

We need volunteers! Work a half-day and receive free admission. Contact Dave Turcotte if able to help.

➤ Summer Newsletter – Amy Jones

Amy is out of town, but will complete and mail by first week of July. We need articles! Please send to Amy ASAP!

➤ MASE/MAPSS soil workshop in September – Dave Rocque

Dave is working on getting in touch with Ken Stratton. The item was discussed at the MASE meeting. We still need to pick a date. Dave will work with the MASE members.

➤ Membership Canvass – Dave Turcotte

Dave got info from Andrew and will contact people who haven't paid dues to review why and follow up. We would like to know why people are not continuing their membership. He will also contact certified soil scientists in the state and invite the. Pay your dues!

➤ MAPSS display board

May use for town meetings, etc. Land use planning uses are prominent issues. Please send Chris ideas for the display. May include a simple map with descriptions. Could also integrate info from the Ice Age Trail.

➤ Additional

Dave Moyse and others will working on doing a job fair or similar event at U Maine in a year or two. We need to get people interested in Soil Science as a career. This would be a hands-on workshop.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Kettell, Secretary
June 22, 2007

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