

MAPSS Annual meeting, 3-16-12

University of Southern Maine, Portland

President Johanna Szillery opened the meeting by thanking Amy Jones and the other members who help her throughout the year.

Treasurer's Report – Gary Fullerton

Gary added that we are in good shape because there was no Soil Judging last year that required a donation. The workshop helped a lot with the funding. He thanked Dave Rocque, NRCS staff, and Ivan Fernandez for their help. There were 51 registered for this meeting. Chris Dorion made a motion to accept the report. Dave Turcotte, seconded, passed.

Secretary's report –

Johanna discussed the minutes from the 2011 meeting. Chris made a motion to accept them as written. Amy Jones, seconded, passed.

MDEP advisory committee – Bonnie

These are meetings to gather support and serve as a sounding board. Darryl Brown was the former liaison. Mike will start attending to represent MAPSS. These meetings are usually 6-8 people, approximately every other month. These are informal meetings, no minutes, etc.

Envirothon report – Dave Rocque

This is an important resource for students. Some schools have the prep as part of the regular school day. Some comments included the importance for forestry students. There was a motion by Dave Marceau, second by Don Phillips, but it was decided to table the decision until all 3 spending ideas were discussed.

Soil Judging – Ken Stratton

Ken introduced Morgan Fuller, who is a grad student with Ivan. She will help coach soil judging this year. This year, the regional competition will be at Wilmington College in Ohio. The team could be 3 to 8 students. MASE and MAPSS are very important to supporting soil judging.

Education Committee – Mike Glessner

He reviewed the scholarships. There were 3 applications this year. He requests \$1000 for the 2013 scholarship. Jay Raymond was the 2011 winner, and now he is working on his PhD in Virginia. Discussion over the 3.0 GPA requirements.

Johanna discussed the above 3 outreach/education donation requests. This coming year, we will probably only have the NECSS workshop and maybe another small workshop. Maybe, also another one

with MASE, etc. We will get some funds from NECSS to support the workshop. We don't need money to sit in the bank.

Dave Turcotte added that we need new brochures, because we only have approx. 150 left. The last ones are from 2005. Discussion about who is the audience, where are they going, etc. The motion to support Envirothon with \$1000 passed.

Steve Howell made a motion to donate \$2000 to the Soil Judging team, and Darryl seconded. Lee Burnham made a motion, and Daryl seconded, to spend \$1000 for the scholarship for next year. Dave Rocque made a motion to table the discussion about brochures until next year. This was passed, and discussion followed that maybe we could put a pdf of the brochure on the website, and then people could print as needed.

UMaine report – Ivan

Budgets are still down, and colleges are transitioning to schools. Ivan might end up in the forestry and climate change department.

University of Southern Maine – Samantha Langley-Turnbaugh

She is in the Environmental Science department, and College of Science, Technology, and Health. There are only 4 colleges now. She teaches about 1 class per year.

NRCS update – Tony Jenkins

Nationwide, offices are closing, and focus is moving towards technical planning. Municipal mapping may be coming in the future. Southern Maine surveys need work, especially Cumberland County.

Nominations –

The slate passed as follows:

Johanna, President

Anna Donahue, Vice President

Dave Turcotte, Secretary

Treasurer – Gary Fullerton

Don Phillips, Newsletter editor

MAWS Collaboration –

A survey of the members was 50/50. There was discussion about lobbying power, and having joint meetings, but still separate groups. Also, discussion over certifications, regulators, science-based.

Jim made a motion to keep as 2 separate organizations. Darryl seconded, passed. Many people still want to work with MAWS for workshops, etc.

Tech Committee

There are 4 action items up for voting. Steve made a motion, Don seconded, to accept all 4 items. Daryl made a motion to remove the oxyaquic portion, and Ken seconded. This passed. Johanna will edit and publish the update in the newsletter.

2012 NECSS conference

Tony discussed that there will be a meeting and workshop June 8-12. There is also a tour, probably in Northern Maine. MAPSS will assist with registration, etc. Contact Tony for more info.

MAPSS workshop

Dave Rocque discussed the next workshop. We have had enough workshops at Reid State Park. Oxyaquic soils are too narrow a focus and far away for a successful workshop. We need better coordination for the MASE workshop, etc.

Afternoon speakers –

Bill Yeo discussed his sampling trip on Everest. He used an ICP to find that Arsenic and Cadmium have increase in snow, due to anthropogenic sources. The soil there is like regolith, with no horizons.

Dawn Ferris from SSSA talked about trends in soil science. She works with many different states on licensing. She writes the “Wired for Soils” blog. There are a lot of issues facing soil science in many different states. She believes that licensing is more important than certification. Curriculum in schools is also important. Visit the iheartsoils.org website for PSAs, etc.

Academia – Ivan discussed the difference now that the Soil Survey is over.

Panel discussion: there may be new audiences for soil science in the future. People must understand the consequences vs. saving money. It may be better to be generalists to gain diversity.