

## **Minutes of MAPSS May 30, 2013 Executive Committee Meeting**

Members Present: Don Phillips (President), Dave Rocque, Anna Donohue, Gary Fullerton, George Bakajza, Dave Turcotte.

CALL TO ORDER – The telephone conference call-in meeting was held at the State Department of Agriculture building in Augusta at 4:00 pm. While waiting for late caller(s) to check in, Dave Rocque (DR) said that the Envirothon team from the Piscataquis County town of Guilford won the Maine contest (held at Bowdoin College) and will be going to Montana for the next phase.

- 1) WORKSHOP DISCUSSION – DR said that much has to be done to coordinate the work amongst MAWS and MASE, and that Amy Jones, Johanna Szillery, and Gary Fullerton has done much of it in recent years. Gary( GF) will send emails to these organizations for registration information, and will collect money. He plans to attend the workshop. Anna Donohue (AD) thinks she'll be able to attend, and will see about earning CEU's but will need a copy of an agenda first, and the application for approval of CEU's. We will not concern ourselves with getting credit for earning CEU's from New Hampshire. If an attendee wants a CEU for New Hampshire, then that person will go through the process himself. GF will call Johanna and Amy to see if they'll volunteer. DR said that MAPSS will be take primary responsibility of the day and won't share any money with the other Associations. Don (DP) will call the respective Presidents (Rich Jordan of MAWS, and Dale Knapp of MASE) the next day to confirm their interest, and to ask if MAWS could come up with a botanist. We need three, with Matt Arseneault of Standex probably one of them. Jay Clement (ACOE), Glen Angel (DHS), Karen Bolstridge (LURC) and Mike Mullen (DEP) have all told DR that they plan to attend. MASE usually is in charge of purchasing drinks and food. A question about whether we need a back-up shelter in case of rain was brought up, and DR said he would find out if we can use the pavilion on site. Electric power may be available in the garage there, and DR will find out.

Soil experts at the pits will include Dale Knapp, Glen Angel, and Chris Dorion who may be called upon to fill in as a botanist if needed.

DP will prepare then GF will email the Lay of the Land newsletter out to members before mid July, and that it will include an announcement of the September 4 Workshop at Mt. Blue State Park.

- 2) UPDATE ON LETTER SENT TO UMO REQUESTING A 1-CREDIT SOIL JUDGING COURSE - DP said he sent it out a week ago, with an April 25 date on it. George (GB) will follow up to see if Dean Ashworth received it.
- 3) IDEAS & SPEAKERS FOR THE MARCH 2014 ANNUAL MEETING – GB suggested (1) asking someone from the Howland Research Forest, (2) considering asking someone to discuss agricultural concerns, and/or (3) asking someone to discuss carbon sequestration, possibly Dr. Eric Gallant from UMO. Other suggestions included: (4) DP suggested inviting Walter Whitcomb, Commissioner of the tentative new Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, to talk. DR said that the Maine Legislature still has until December of 2014 to approve this new Department so it may be premature to invite him. (5) DR mentioned how well received the speakers at the SSSNNE Annual Meeting were during their talks on organic soils, particularly Dr. Stuart Grandy and Dr. Serita Frey, both from UNH; and (6) DP suggested honoring past Executive Committee members for volunteering their services somehow, that recognition of service from peers is always well accepted. DR suggested offering a \$50 gift certificate to some who've given a lot of time in the past to MAPSS. DP reminded members that the Fair season is fast approaching and we should volunteer to sit at the MAPSS display booth.

Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 5:18 pm.