

APRIL 20, 2006 MAPSS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Attendees: Chris Dorion - President Dave Turcotte - Secretary Andrew Carpenter - Treasurer
Dave Rocque - Technical Committee Don Phillips - Smithsonian Subcommittee Chair

The meeting commenced @ 9:30 A.M. at the USDA RC&D building in Newport, Maine.

Smithsonian Exhibit: Combining what has been raised directly by MAPSS (\$4,500) and \$2,270 in contributions sent directly to ASF (originating from Maine), Don reported that we are currently \$3,330 short of our goal. According to Andrew, only about 1/2 of our members have contributed to date. Recent donations include: Moyses Environmental Associates, Inc. with a donation of \$500 along with an additional pledge of \$500, and C.C. Dorion Geological Services with a donation of \$1,000. Paul Camps of ASF has confirmed to Don that all donations that originate from Maine, whether it goes through MAPSS or not, will be applied to the minimum \$10,000 goal the ASF is seeking from Maine. Don will draft letters (signed by Chris) soliciting donations that he will send to the Univ. of Maine (Plant, Soil & Environmental Sciences Dept.), the NRCS (addressed to the State Conservationist), S.W. Cole Engineering, Inc., and other engineering and environmental consulting firms that have not donated to date. Andrew suggested that those letters should be followed up with a phone call. Donations should also be solicited at the Sandy Hydric Soils Workshop on August 16th. Dave T. states that the deadline for contributions is sometime in 2007, and Don will double check on this. Andrew suggested that we put the contributions that have been made directly to us in a CD (that would mature when the deadline arrives), and will look into this.

Membership Directory & Recruitment: Andrew reported that at this time we have 39 full members and 24 associate members. He suggests that in the future we give members a discount to workshops, and all agree (too late for this year's hydric sandy soils workshop though). Chris has added 2 columns: areas of expertise and certifications (this info needs to be solicited). As treasurer, Andrew agreed to maintain the membership (.xls) data base, but the membership chair (Dave Moyses) is responsible for recruitment. Don said he would send Andrew the old 1996 membership directory as an example (for area of expertise and certifications). Andrew wondered when we should take people out of the data base, and Dave T. stated that at an earlier executive board meeting it was agreed to remind people in the summer newsletter that their dues are due, and then if they have not paid by that fall then they are to be taken off the list. As for the group e-mail list, Laura set this up last year, but Andrew is will to update it from now on. Otherwise Chris said he'd remind Dave Moyses to solicit prospective new members by some means (e.g. with a letter). Some avenues to consider are certified soil scientists in Maine, members of MAWS and MASE, and students studying (and professors teaching) natural resources or earth sciences @ UMO, USM and Unity College. Students and professors at neighboring UNH might be worth considering as well.

Newsletter: Chris was adamant about having the newsletter web ready (i.e. totally in electronic format), and Dave T. agreed to do so beginning this summer (using Microsoft Publisher). In the registration (sent out with the winter newsletter) for next year's annual meeting we will ask members if they are content only receiving the semi-annual newsletter ("The Lay of the Land") via e-mail (or by visiting www.mapss.org). Dave T. will solicit newsletter articles at the end of June and have the newsletter in the mail by the middle of July (a full month before the sandy hydric soils workshop). So far he'll have the president's message, info & registration about the sandy hydric soils workshop, the Smithsonian update, info about the annual cooperative MASE-MAPSS workshop, info about another educational DEP/LURC workshop, awareness / sign up concerning our educational booth at the Common Ground Fair, and internships for students out of USM.

Common Ground Fair booth: Dave T. submitted the application (slightly late unfortunately) earlier this month, and is awaiting the decision as to whether we'll have the opportunity to be there Sept. 22-24. While speaking with MOFGA's president recently, Dave was asked if we'd be interested in giving a presentation about our Association's mission. He is willing to do so on the Association's behalf, particularly as an M.S. Power Point (on "The Soils of Maine" for starters). Everyone was supportive. Dave R. suggested that we open up a soils pit or two for a "hands on" demo, and will see if we can come up with a couple of pits with contrasting parent materials, plant cover and/or drainage classes in close proximity. Dave T. has about 1,350 brochures left, and needs to get Samantha Langley-Turnbaugh @ USM 50 of them (to fulfill her request). As for the bookmarks, he has 1,800 of them, while Don stated that he has ~ 1,000. Dave will continue to keep the display board and supporting materials until Dave Moyses (education chair) has room to store it at his new office later this year.

Prospective Poster: Chris and Dave Moyses are going to be putting some thought into this poster that was promoted by Dave at the annual meeting last month. The poster would be geared towards promoting soil science as a profession in high schools, colleges and universities. Chris also suggested that full members of MAPSS should take the time to volunteer as guest lecturers at these educational institutions.

USM (University of Southern Maine): They now offer 18 credits in soil science - enough to meet educational requirements for certification in Maine and for the 470 series in federal civil service. This is attracting many non-traditional students (who already have a college degree). They (c/o Samantha Langley-Turnbaugh) are also now promoting internships, where students would work for consultants over a summer and/or semester for 120 hours. An article (by Samantha) in "The Lay of the Land" would help to solicit consultants in this regard.

Sandy Hydric Soils Workshop: This is planned for August 16th in Scarborough. It will mirror the workshop held there in July, 2004. Chris will try to get a botanist there like last time. Many members of MAWS are expected to attend. Dave Rocque has notes from Sid Pigrims' participation 2 years ago, along with his write-up of the soil pits and sites. He will revise the write-up to refer to Version III of "Field Indicators for Identifying Hydric Soils in New England" (since Version II was used last time). The announcement and registration form for this year's workshop is on our website (www.mapss.org), and may be revised (such as to announce that a botanist will be there).

DEP / LURC Workshop: This is intended to educate regulators working for these state agencies about soils and how to best interpret and apply high intensity soil surveys (i.e. why soil maps are important and needed). DEP would particularly benefit from this, for they rarely seek Dave Rocque's assistance (while for LURC he reviews much), and are usually too busy to follow up questionable soil determinations in the field. Also, though DEP has a Technical Service Unit that includes engineers, geologists and soil scientists, they rarely do site visits (generally just paper reviews). This would be another indoor workshop held in the winter months (similar to the one held a few years ago), and will be firmed up at an executive board meeting held later this year. The big concern here is that DEP may someday eliminate requirements for high intensity soil surveys. Another area of concern is municipalities. Most do not understand and therefore do not require high intensity soil surveys for development projects. MAPSS should target them through educational efforts, maybe MAP (Maine Assoc. of Planners) would be a good start.

MASE / MAPSS Workshop: This will happen again (for the 5th year) in mid - late September. Dave Rocque will organize the info for the newsletter and web site.

The meeting adjourned @ 11:50 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Turcotte,
Secretary