

MINUTES OF THE
MAINE ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

January 20, 2010
Room 233 Deering Building, Hospital Street, Augusta, Maine

IN ATTENDANCE: Ken Stratton, Johanna Szillery, Dave Rocque, Joe Noel, Chris Dorion (on conference call), Gary Fullerton (on conference call while cell service was available)

Ken Stratton called the meeting to order at 10:09 and handed out an agenda outline for the EC meeting and a draft agenda for the upcoming MAPSS Annual Meeting scheduled for March 16, 2010 at the Senator Inn and Spa located on Western Avenue in Augusta, Maine.

SUMMER FIELD WORKSHOP

Ken asked the EC for opinions on the 2010 summer workshop. Dave Rocque proposed a workshop at Saddleback Mountain in Rangeley, Maine dealing with oxyaquic conditions (wet but no redox), boulder covered areas with water beneath but upland vegetation. These problem areas are a concern with windpower projects. Dave has volunteers at Saddleback who have conducted two years of monitoring.

Chris made a motion seconded by Joe for MAPSS to support this workshop including any necessary expenses (i.e., rental fees, coffee etc.). Dave commented that the turnout might not be as high as the past few years due to the location. He will do a write-up which will hopefully attract foresters, code officers, etc.

Dave said he would be taking a break from being the lead on summer workshops after this summer. Other MAPSS members will need to step-up for workshop ideas and coordination.

STAKEHOLDER INVITATION-CODE CHANGES

Ken handed out a memo from Jim Jacobsen "Stakeholder Invitation Reminder". This pertains to the *Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules* and the draft rules. Ken commented that problems have been cropping up in the code and there is a move to make some quick changes. Ken emphasized that portions of the new rules are placing an emphasis on soil science. Particularly features that soil scientists routinely use for wetness indicators such as: matrix color of Ap, oxidized rhizospheres, soil structure etc. Non-soil scientists will need to begin to use these features during site evaluations. Suitable soil for wastewater disposal are now including somewhat poorly drained areas.

The consensus of the executive committee was that MAPSS should have representation as a stakeholder. Dave thought that the MAPSS member should not be site evaluator in order to maintain a more non-biased opinion. Tentative meetings on the draft rules are for February 19 and March 19, 2010. The first stage of the rulemaking will begin in April. Ken appointed Johanna to be this member. Johanna commented that conference calling would need to be part

of the meeting process in order for her to actively participate. Ken is also on the MASE technical review committee and will provide Johanna with current updates/information. Ken will respond to Jim Jacobsen's e-mail.

COMBINED MASE/MAPSS WORKSHOP-FIELD DAY

Dave wanted to know if MAPSS wishes to have a combined field day with MASE on the site that is used for the Site Evaluator field exam. Ken felt that this makes sense to have a combined day if the code is influencing the need for a stronger soil science background for site evaluations. Tentatively set for Thursday September 30, 2010 in the Biddeford area. Dave emphasized that there will be a need to coordinate the timing at the test pits and the afternoon discussions to keep the seminar running smoothly. **Dave could you fill in the schedule/time line here.** Ken suggested a buffet/pizza for a more informal lunch.

MAPSS ANNUAL MEETING 3/16/10

Discussion began with ideas for speakers. From previous EC e-mails and discussions, the following individuals are being contacted to confirm participation: Tony Jenkins (NRCS Maine State Soil Scientist), Maureen O'Meara (President of the Maine Association of Planners & Cape Elizabeth Town Planner), and Andy Fisk & Jim Cassida (Maine DEP).

Tony Jenkins will be the keynote speaker as confirmed by Chris Dorion in 1/20/10 e-mail. Potential subjects to discuss: taxonomy changes, NRCS soil mapping updates, variants in high intensity soil surveys, rubble land and how to describe it, bouldery terrain with wetland hydrology, etc. Planning on 45-minute time frame.

Maureen O'Meara will be contacted by Johanna to confirm her participation. Topics to discuss: How much are soil surveys are currently being used for land use decisions and what can MAPSS do to improve this. Planning on a 20-minute timeframe for talk and 10-minutes for questions/answers portion.

Andy Fisk & Jim Cassida will be contacted by either Ken or Dave and will discuss the use of soil surveys in DEP permitted projects. Also changes to Site Law will be covered and will be open to discussion with the DEP and Darryl Brown (MAPSS/ MDEP taskforce committee chair).

Also discussed was the possibility of Chris Lockwood (Maine Municipal Association) as a potential speaker. Ken or Dave checking into this.

BUSINESS MEETING TOPICS AT ANNUAL MEETING

Johanna suggested discussing MAPSS and MAWS into one association. Dave suggested that this be presented in the newsletter in a survey to see if membership is interested instead of a topic of discussion at the meeting. Possibly include the results of the survey and current interest at the meeting.

Wetland certification- status of the certification process to be presented by Dale Knapp.

Election of Officers

Ken appointed Joe to serve as the nominating committee chair. Joe will check on the following: Executive committee officers and standing committee officers. Dave offered assistance in finding candidates if necessary.

Award to Mr. Charles Ken what is his last name?

Ken stated that in the past MAPSS has given awards/recognition to individuals who have enhanced our profession. Back when Ken was Maine State Soil Scientist this individual provided assistance in diversifying the services provided by soil scientists. The EC agreed that a plaque/award/certificate would be in order. Ken will be handling this.

Treasury

Ken said that the treasury is in good shape due to the recent successful workshops. There will be likely monetary requests from Envirothon and Soil Judging Team for financial support. This will be discussed as well as Johanna discussing the scholarships given to students each year.

Common Ground Fair

Johanna will coordinate that MAPSS will continue to provide a presence at the fair and provide some financial support.

UMO & USM Updates

Ivan Fernandez and Samantha Langley-Turnbaugh will talk about soil science status at their respective universities. Ken will contact them and discuss this further.

Closing on Annual Meeting

Chris needs the agenda for the annual meeting in a day or so to post on the website. Ken is handling this as well as the registration form.

The next EC meeting is tentatively set for Thursday February 25, 2010 from 9:00 to 12:00 in Room 233 of the Deering Building in Augusta.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30.

Respectively submitted,

Joe Noel, Vice-President