

MAPSS Executive Committee Meeting  
April 26, 2011  
Via Teleconference

The meeting was brought to order at 4:30 pm.

Via Teleconference: Dave Rocque, Johanna Szillery, Chris Dorion, Allison Montgomery, Amy Jones, Mike Glessner

**2011 Workshop**

Johanna reported that she had met with Al Kimball last week. They reviewed maps of the UMaine forest and discussed areas that he thought would be well suited for the workshop. Three areas, in particular, were discussed. Al recommended the DeMeritt Forest (area off College Ave extension) since it has riparian soils, wetlands, vernal pools, a complete catena, and forestry harvest impacted areas. It would also be easily accessible with space for parking and hosting a large amount of people. Dave Rocque stated that he had visited area and thought it would be a good place to host the workshop. Johanna said that Al also mentioned the Guarantee Lot (behind Hannaford) which was harvested recently and has black spruce wetlands, etc. Dave thought that we could find an area that's more easily accessible. Johanna also spoke to Aram Calhoun, who mentioned vernal pools and wetlands in the DeMeritt Forest, and in the Orono Land Trust.

It was decided that Johanna and others, who are available, will meet with Al Kimball on Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am to scope out the area and make a general plan for the workshop. Johanna invited Greg Granger and Tony Jenkins to the May 13<sup>th</sup> planning day. Tony said that one or both of them will attend.

Amy Jones pointed out that a MASE/MAPSS workshop was hosted at this location 2 or 3 years ago so MAPSS needs to make it clear that this workshop will offer something different. Dave R. spoke with Tony Jenkins to get NRCS assistance with the soil mapping exercise. He said that the focus of workshop should be on making a map, not just describing a pit, and therefore MAPSS should have private soil scientists work with the NRCS to make the high intensity map. Dave also suggested focusing on floodplain wetlands instead of vernal pools, since that would be something that has been covered less in previous workshops.

Mike Glessner said that he has not yet spoken with Sarah Watts (MAWS Education Committee Chair) but will email her to inform her about the workshop and the Friday meeting, in case MAWS wants to be involved. Dave suggested that we ask MAWS what they would like to have the workshop offer, in order to narrow down scope of workshop.

Johanna asked Mike G. about getting wetland data from Stantec for UMaine Campus. Mike said that he will double check with the University. The data covers wetlands on most of the university property, excluding the experimental forests and area off College Ave Extension.

It was decided that the workshop will be held on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Dave will be sending an email to regulators to confirm date. Dave also suggested that there be no restrictive registration date for the workshop, in order to get more people to attend. A pre-registration form will be sent out with the newsletter. It was suggested that we have

people pre-register by August 16<sup>th</sup>. In order to accomplish that, the newsletter will have to be sent out by August 1<sup>st</sup>. Amy said that news articles will need to be submitted by late June. She will be asking members for articles at the end of May or in early June. Dave is going to send out a flier after the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting to advertise for the workshop.

Chris asked about legislative committee to keep track of changes with DEP, etc. We don't have one.

### **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

Johanna said that as the chair of the technical committee, Chris Dorion has the task of looking into issues with poorly drained Spodosols (as suggested by Dave Turcotte) and oxyaquic soils. Tony told Johanna that NRCS would be available to help. Dave said it's up to Chris to pick committee members to assist him. Chris suggested Dave Rocque, Steve Howell, and Tony Jenkins. Dave suggested George Bakajza. Chris said that the committee will form a plan after the workshop and have it ready for the annual meeting and winter newsletter.

### **JOINT PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION**

Johanna mentioned Lee Burman and Mike Banaitis as members of the forming committee which will look into a combined natural resources professional organization, incorporating soils, wetlands, and other resources. Dave Rocque suggested that there be a discussion at the end of the September workshop about this possible group. Johanna also mentioned that Al Frick had suggested joint workshops and meetings as a starting point in his position paper proposing a combined professional organization.

### **CORMIER SOIL SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP**

The Janet Engle Cormier scholarship was presented to Jay Raymond. Johanna went to present the scholarship and reported that Jay and the UMaine staff were very appreciative that MAPSS gives the scholarship annually.

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

LD 947: Johanna wrote a letter in interest of the membership opposing the bill. The bill did not make it past the committee.

LD 904: Johanna attended the public hearing for the bill. Several other people with similar view points as MAPSS also attended and opposition to the bill with reiterated. As of now, the committee has not reported out on the status of the bill.

### **FEEDBACK TO CHANGE WEB POLICY**

During the last executive committee meeting it was decided that members who hadn't paid dues would not be listed on the MAPSS website. Gary Fullerton sent out an email to make people aware of the decision, and remind them to renew their membership. The executive committee received a negative response to the policy. The issue was discussed again in this meeting and it was unanimously decided to continue with the policy to make it fair to those who have paid his or her dues.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Dave Rocque said that MAPSS needs to continue educating public about the importance of soil survey. He suggested that it be something we focus on over the winter. It was suggested that we look into meeting with regulators and towns. Maine Municipal Association (MMA)'s training sessions were brought up as a place that would be good for soil scientists to present. Johanna asked who MAPSS could contact at MMA. Amy is looking into it. Dave suggested Maureen O'meara from Cape Elizabeth. He also said that it is important that MAPSS make it clear that NRCS soil surveys are not suitable for use as a high intensity survey. It is important that we convey this to regulators (DEP, LURC, etc.).

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm

Minutes submitted by Allison Montgomery, May 7, 2011