

MAPSS Executive Committee Meeting
March 31, 2011
Via Teleconference

The meeting was brought to order at 4:05 pm.

Via teleconference: Johanna Szillery, Amy Jones, Anna Kettell, Dave Rocque, Mike Banaitis, Allison Montgomery, Mike Glessner, Gary Fullerton

Johanna brought the meeting to order and gave a brief overview of the topics to be discussed during the meeting.

Discussion topics:

Workshop for 2011-2012

Commitment to NRCS for 2012 meeting

Technical committee / education committee

Exploratory Mapss/Maws merger committee

Anna inquired about the status of a previously proposed project to educate towns about the importance of soil surveys. The group then discussed whether it would be worthwhile for MAPSS to create a bound standard for each town, as suggested by Chris Dorion. Dave Rocque stated that it was very important for MAPSS to give towns incentive to require soil surveys by showing them the problems and harm that could be avoided. Mike Glessner expressed concern that educational outreach may not be useful if soil surveys are currently being waived because of financial issues. He suggested that certain towns be targeted with a presentation rather than a pamphlet. Gary said that he has a presentation that could be used by other soil scientists to present in his or her town. Dave Rocque reiterated the importance of including photos such as road wash out in town presentations. Johanna suggested that MAPSS could consider giving a presentation at the October Maine Municipal Association conference for town planners. It was decided that this issue would be pursued further after the planning of 2011 workshop.

Commitment to NRCS for 2012 conference

Johanna said that she and Tony Jenkins have met with Bruce Stinson at the University of Maine to discuss the conference. Tony told Johanna that he will contact her when he needs further help from MAPSS. Gary and Johanna then discussed finding the organizations tax ID number and whether or not MAPSS should consider non-profit filing with the IRS.

Treasurer's Report

Gary reported on association's income and said that he has not received the bill for the annual meeting at the University of Maine. He thought that MAPSS was able to make some profit from the annual meeting fee. The group then discussed the annual meeting venue. Not many students from UMaine attended the meeting, which was part of the goal with the venue choice. It was also brought up that some people from southern Maine didn't come because of the meeting location. It was suggested that the group consider the University of Southern Maine for the meeting and that the location be

switched every other year to be fair to members traveling from northern and southern Maine.

2011 MAPSS Workshop

Dave said that he has spoken with people at Saddleback Ridge and a workshop there will not be possible due to legal issues. He suggested that the group reconsider hosting a workshop at UMaine. He said that the location could have broad appeal and would be easier to organize, as well as possibly bringing in code enforcement officers and others who need CEUs. It was suggested that new soil pits be dug and a soil map be created. Dave suggested that an initial field visit should be made in mid April in order to lay out the workshop. After that, the workshop could be advertised with more details coming out later. He suggested Thursday, September 1st, as the date for the workshop and volunteered to assist with site visits and other planning. Gary suggested that someone should collect all the information that the university already has for the area, such as wetlands, vernal pools, etc. Johanna volunteered to contact Ivan Fernandez, Al Kimball, and Aram Calhoun to collect the data. Mike Glessner volunteered to help with the site visit in April and said that it was important to promote the workshop to current UMaine students, since classes will be in session when the workshop takes place. Mike Glessner will also invite Sara Watts of the MAWS program committee to the April site visit to encourage MAWS to participate in the field day. Johanna will touch base with Tony Jenkins and Greg Granger regarding their help, and back hoe use.

Janet Engle Cormier Scholarship

Mike Glessner has reviewed the information from the applicants. It was decided that the GPA requirement of a 3.0 should be upheld when reviewing applications.

Exploratory MAPSS/MAWS Merge Committee

Al Frick has written a recommendation that MAWS/MAPSS consider merging. Possible issues with the merger were discussed. Among the concerns was the possibility that the groups might become “watered down” since one is licensed and the other is not. It was suggested that a separate organization be created that allows the associations to merge for causes that pertain to both, while still being two separate groups. This would allow both groups to maintain their integrity while creating a stronger political voice for the groups. Dave Rocque suggested that the organization be called the Maine Association of Natural Resource Consultants. It was suggested that MASE also be included. It was decided that an exploratory committee be created to meet with members of MAWS and MASE to inquire about their participation. Mike Banaitis volunteered to work with the exploratory committee.

Other Business

Membership:

Gary has made a new membership form that does not include as much information as the previous form. The group agreed that the new form was easier and that it should continue to be used in the future. Gary has asked Chris Dorion to update the membership

list online. It was decided that people who have not paid his or her dues in the last three years be deleted from the online membership list.

LD 947:

Johanna has sent a letter to the state representing MAPSS in its opposition of the bill. Chris will be posting the letter on the MAPSS website. Johanna and Dale Knapp are attending the hearing for LD 904 that is to be held on Monday, April 4th. Johanna will be writing key points in opposition to the bill and will be sending it out when it is finished. She welcomes comments. The group is looking into assembling a technical committee to deal with these issues. Any suggestions can be sent to Johanna.

Gary brought possible changes with Dave Rocque's position at Department of Agriculture, which could affect his ability to work with consultants and developers. It would be helpful if letters of support for his current duties were sent from MAPSS, MASE, and MAWS. Gary will be working on that.

Next meeting: tentatively scheduled for April 20th or 21st in Bangor or via teleconference at 5:30pm

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25pm

Minutes submitted by Allison Montgomery