

aMAPSS Executive Committee Meeting

Room 233 Deering Building, Maine Dept. of Agriculture, Augusta

January 9, 2013

Johanna Szillery, President; Anna Donahue, Vice-President;

Gary Fullerton, Treasurer; Dave Turcotte, Secretary

Chris Dorion, Technical Committee Chair; David Rocque, Technical Committee;

Don Phillips, Newsletter Editor (distance listening);

Rod Kelshaw, Brochure (distance listening)

Meeting commenced at 4:35 P.M.

As a means of compensation for their time and travel, a motion is made and passed that the Association would pay for pizza for those present at the meeting.

The location of the annual meeting was debated, including having it in Orono again (as it was two years ago). Unfortunately there are hardly any soils students that are studying soils at the University of Maine these days. It was decided to have the meeting in Waterville or Augusta (for the first time in three years) on Tuesday, March 12th. If it is Augusta then the **Senator Inn** (where we've had it before multiple times) is recommended (**Gary to investigate**). **Don will investigate Colby College, while Johanna will do likewise Thomas College in Waterville.** The newsletter deadline is the end of this month, so the agenda for the annual meeting will need to be set by early February. Gary says that we should expect about 40 to 50 people. Dave R. and Chris state than we should strive for speakers that have appeal to site evaluators and wetland scientists.

Brainstorming resulted in these potential speakers about their respective subjects: Sean Smith as the new geomorphology professor at the University of Maine; Jay Raymond's thesis on "Soil Drainage Class Influences on Soil Carbon in a New England Forested Watershed"; other previous winners of the Janet Engle Cormier scholarship; someone from the National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils; Sean Donohue on Anthropogenic estuarine soils; a 15 minute presentation on ecological sites by Sally Butler of the NRCS; and a general update about post

initial NCSS mapping and upcoming harmonization by Tony Jenkins of the NRCS. Anthropogenic soils seem to be an issue of interest, related to high intensity soil mapping in general. Ecological Sites' presentations will help to attract wetland scientists. After further discussion it was decided that a) **Dave T. would solicit someone from the "Hydric Soils" technical committee** to be the keynote speaker; b) **Anna will ask Sally Butler to deliver a short update presentation on separating and understanding Ecological Site Descriptions (ESDs)** and their applications; c) **Johanna will ask Sean Donohue to talk about his work with anthropogenic soils;** and d) **Chris will invite Sean Smith to talk.**

It is announced by Chris and supported by Anna and Dave T. that there is a presentation / training about the NRCS ESD development process at the USDA State Office at 967 Illinois Ave in Bangor on February 6th. Maine USDA-NRCS is currently in the process of developing ESDs and attributing them to soil series/components for Web Soil Survey.

Dave Rocque is preparing to help MAPSS host the annual joint late summer workshop, in Mt. Blue State Park on September 4th. It will include a number of soils pits as well as exploring natural resource issues such as freshwater wetlands, streams, vernal pools and shoreland zoning.

There was discussion lead by Chris about having a workshop on "connotative" high intensity soil mapping. Code enforcement officers, planners, and engineers often find that it is much more user-friendly product, and it significantly encourages better land use decision making. The existing MAPSS Guidelines would be unaffected, with a second set of mapping standards being developed.

Rod spoke about making the new brochure to be geared more for general audiences, compared the original one produced 7-8 years ago. There are only ~50 of the original brochures left. Johanna would like for us give Rod comments on his recently released 2nd draft and let Rod assimilate that feedback before coming up with a 3rd draft to be ready before the annual meeting. If the 3rd draft is supported by the Executive Committee, then the EC will propose to the membership that we produce this brochure and request a vote on this expenditure, ideally with a "heads up" article to that effect to be included in this winter's "Lay of The Land".

Rod emphasized that his intent is not to replace the other brochure, as he stated at the last annual meeting. Rather, he wants to develop one for more general audiences. He will try contacting Bacon Printing again to see if they still have the proofs of the original brochure. Dave R. (supported by Chris) emphasizes that we should try and get people's attention by displaying and captioning some bold problematic misuse of soil, such as the buried tractor photo and caption on the display. Ideally he'd like to see something like a house with a severely cracked foundation with water flowing into the basement. People are encouraged to submit suggestions to Rod or Dave R. Dave T. points out that he tried to do what Dave R. suggests in the original brochure with the mildly rutted vs. badly puddled skid trail photos and caption, on the interpretations panel of the brochure.

Dave T. encourages Rod to refer to what is on the revised display if possible for upgrading / consistency sake and ideas. The display is currently with Johanna. Dave T. wants to get the display before the annual meeting to make a correction to the "What soil scientists do" portion and Education panels in preparation for having it set up at the annual meeting.

Johanna and Anna agreed to serve again on the nominating committee. Dave T. agreed to volunteer to help. As of now there are no prospective nominees for president. Johanna has served the past two years as president .

Don is soliciting articles for this winter's "Lay of The Land" are due by the end of January. It is best to mail him large electronic files on a CD or DVD because his computer's internet connection is slow.

The treasurer's report is presented by Gary. Chris makes a motion to approve the report, and Dave T. seconds the motion. The motion is approved. The executive committee present felt uniformly that they need to see accounting of the funds donated to the Maine Soil Judging Team for 2012. The EC does not anticipate a donation to the Soil Judging Team in 2013, since we did support them in 2012, but there were not enough students to form a team then. Gary will insure that the money we donated last year to the University of Maine Soil Judging team is in some sort of trust fund earmarked for this purpose in the future. Some funds will be needed to support the development of a new brochure, and possibly more copies of the original one. The Association's financial stature will be helped when we take the proceeds that we are due from future summer workshops, such as those

produced in years past (largely a function of the initiative, drive, and imagination of Dave Rocque).

Chris wanted to make sure everyone will be made aware of the 3-day New England Intercollegiate Geology Conference (NEIGC) over Columbus Day weekend out of Millinocket. There will be all sorts of relevant presentations and field trips, including one on soils and geomorphology by he and Tony Jenkins. Chris will make sure that he gets an article to Don about this for the summer's "Lay of The Land".

Chris made a motion for the meeting to be adjourned at 6:15 P.M. Johanna seconded the motion. Motion passed

Respectfully Submitted,

David Turcotte

