

Ad Hoc MAPSS Affiliation Committee Meeting with SSSNNE Executive  
Committee

**REVISED** Meeting Minutes of February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Becky's Diner, Portland, Maine

12:noon - 2:15 pm

**Role:** Chris Dorion (MAPSS), Dave Marceau (MAPSS), Dave Rocque (MAPSS), Amy Jones (MAPSS), Jim Gove (SSSNNE), Tom Peragallo (SSSNNE), Marc Jacobs (SSSNNE), and Tom Carr (SSSNNE).

**Introduction:** Dave Marceau gave a brief background of this effort, beginning with the Orono, Maine field workshop in 2018. Statistics show that the median age for a soil scientist in Maine is 60. Two to three younger folks are scheduled to take the exam this year. Dave mentioned potential areas to collaborate, such as website, newsletter, conferences.

- MAPSS has 53 full members
- 2 are retired, John Ferwerda and Norm Kalloch
- 48 are licensed (NRCS and University/college instructors can be full members without licensing)
- ~25 Associate Members
- ~35 full members are active (others are retired)

**Discussion:** Tom Carr described the SSSNNE membership, noting it was similar to MAPSS. They too help fund soil related activities such as Envirothon and high school soil judging, giving \$1,600 last year.

SSSNNE differs from MAPSS in that the New Hampshire Association of Natural Resource Scientists (NHANRS) is the organization that lobbies the legislature on behalf of the membership on political issues.

**Academic opportunities:** All meeting attendees noted that both UMaine and UNH have discontinued their soil programs, leaving only URI and UMASS with programs. Jim and Tom P. described UNH's affiliated courses. The course fees are the same regardless of State residency (VT, NH, or ME).

Dave R. noted that the Maine Board is changing the statutes towards accepting a 2 year degree, but the student would still need 15 hours of course credits and 5 years of experience.

Both SSSNNE and MAPSS agreed that the problem is how to get students / entry level scientists interested in soils and how to get the required 15 hours of college credits.

For example, Sid Pilgrims Professional Development Training through UNH *did not provide the required college credits (check this)* **Check with Jim, but I believe some**

credit was given because Sid was on the University Staff, working through COLSA (College of Life Sciences and Agriculture), so credits were given for some of his courses. Jim and I are currently working under UNH – PD&T (Professional Development and Training), which at the present, does not assign official college credits to courses. There is now potential for this since PD&T is linked with Coop. Ext.(as of late in 2018).

**Jim Gove and others:** Jim described NH's Alteration of Terrain (AOT), which is somewhat analogous to Maine's Storm Water Law. He noted that high intensity soil surveys (HISS) are becoming more required.

In NH at present, a beginning soil scientist must apprentice for 3 years, then pass a written exam, then a field exam. The problem is that the Joint Board may eliminate licensing if numbers decrease too much, and also NH has a "sunset" provision. I believe this would be done at the legislature, should the question come up and a bill or related bill be before them – check with Jim. I don't believe the Board of Natural Scientists (Under the Joint Board of Licensure) has the authority to eliminate any particular license program. The BNS might make a recommendation to the legislature, but I doubt that would happen without some discussion.

**Potential collaboration areas:** At present, SSSNNE has mapping standards for NH and VT. There would be no need to change, simply add "Mapping Standards for Maine" to the publication: "Site Specific Soil Mapping Standards For New Hampshire and Vermont", rev 2018. SSSNNE has the oversight of this publication. A vote by SSSNNE would be required for a revision but that should not be a problem.

Reciprocity was tried in the past but was rejected, even though originally SSSNNE included Maine, with a provision that annual meetings be rotated through VT, NH, and ME. Reciprocity for licensure was investigated by the NH-BNS with the ME license board. This is not a function of SSSNNE. ME rejected the invitation to discuss this circa 2016-17 with the reasoning that NH standards were less than ME standards.

The problem with Maine is that there are no CEU requirements, and these are what draw larger turnouts at NH conferences.

**Why are HISS seeing decreasing utility in Maine:** In Maine, towns can waive the HISS requirement because they don't see the need, especially if a site plan has septic and wetlands delineated. Another issue is that NRCS does consulting for free. The bottom line is what harm would be done without a HISS?

One advantage in NH is that lot sizing depends on soil in some but not a predominance of towns.

**Lobbying:** SSSNNE attendees noted that for lobbying to be effective, you must start with the State legislature, not regulatory agencies. The process is for a legislator to introduce a bill, move it through both houses, have the governor sign it, then the

applicable regulatory agency will have to come up with the necessary rules and statutes. It seems we in Maine have been working this process in reverse.

It was suggested that in lieu of giving MAPSS scholarships, apply the \$2,000 - \$3,000 to lobbying the legislature. This could apply to hiring a lobbyist. Comment: **I believe that would be a good start. But you need to get a lobbyist that has a track record of success and contract with them. I think the cost will exceed \$3000**

Overall, the need is to demonstrate a threat to the public health, safety, or welfare. Some examples were brought up:

- Erosion and Sedimentation Control (ESC)
- Better wetland buffers
- Ground water protection
- Better storm water designs
- Better surface water runoff control
- Lake eutrophication (but NRCS works with farms)
- Red tide outbreaks
- Urban impaired watersheds (e.g., Long Creek in S. Portland)
- SPD soils that behave essentially as PD soils (these should be mapped out)
- MWD soils with a w.t. at 16 in. vs. 39 in. (these should be mapped out)

The topic of infiltration of runoff was discussed. In NH, the general rule is, "If you can infiltrate it through the soil, you must infiltrate". But 20 years ago NH was similar to Maine for storm water runoff guidance and objectives ("Collect it and send it on, eventually to a receiving water body.")

**Proposals:** A joint workshop or meeting in 2019 was proposed. The topic would be infiltration; civil engineers would be involved. The UNH Storm Water Center is a good resource to provide technical data in support of lobbying for legislative lobbying.

**Conclusion:** Dave M. noted that MAPSS is pursuing potential collaboration with the Maine Association of Wetland Scientists (MAWS).

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Minutes prepared by Chris Dorion, 05FEB2019

rev. Mark Jacobs 06FEB2017

rev. Tom Peragallo 06FEB2017