

MAPSS Annual Meeting minutes

3-6-07

The business meeting was opened by President Chris Dorion at 9:30. There was a quorum present. Dave Moyse passed out tickets for the door prize.

Proposed Amendment to the Constitution of the Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists:

Existing: Article IV, Section C.4

“4. Have the authority to approve expenditures **in excess of** \$250.00.”

Change to:

“4. Have the authority to approve expenditures ***not to exceed*** \$250.00”

- Motion to approve – Wayne Hoar
 - Second – Dave Marceau
 - Unanimously approved.
 - Approval of last year’s meeting minutes. Thank you to Dave Turcotte for completing them.
 - Motion to accept – Dave Marceau
 - Second – Don Phillips
 - Unanimously accepted.
 - Secretary’s report – the minutes from the four Executive Committee meetings were posted to the website. There was discussion about having an electronic newsletter. Chris Dorion stated that the membership is small enough that we will still mail a hard copy to all members. Dave Turcotte has volunteered to be newsletter editor for another year.
 - Dave Rocque requested a donation to the state Envirothon program this year. He stated that we could donate our usual \$500 or more. Those who donate \$1000 or more are listed on the t-shirt given to all participants.
 - Treasurer’s Report – Andrew Carpenter. He gave a Power Point presentation on the budget. Our income from last year was \$4,120. We spent \$2,410, with a net income of \$1,710. We may still be able to collect more dues from members who have not paid. Our anticipated income for next December is \$3,012, though it may be lower due to decreased registration at this meeting. There was discussion about other possible expenses.
 - Motion to accept – Dave Moyse
 - Second – Dave Marceau
 - Motion passed
- Discussion followed about the Envirothon request, and the impact it will have on students, possibly leading to more people choosing soil science as a career. Dave Marceau suggested donating \$750.
- Motion to donate \$500, as we have in the past – Bob Vile
 - Second – CAMERON??
 - Motion passed by majority vote
 - Chris Dorion presented a slide show of the MASE/MAWS workshop, Site Evaluator exam, and Collegiate Soil Judging held at UMO.

- Dave Moyse reviewed the scholarship for this year. We had one applicant, and it was awarded to Michael Peter SanClement. He is studying for his PhD under Ivan Fernandez in the EES program. His research is on forest soils in the Bear Brook watershed and all over the world. The scholarship will be presented on April 25th at University of Maine soil conference.
- Dave Moyse reported about our current membership. He believes that recruiting new members at the college level is important. Our meetings and leadership are currently very good. One hurdle to increasing our membership is that there are only about 80 licensed Soil Scientists in Maine.
We have purchased eight vests for the U Maine Soil Judging team at \$58/each. Darryl Brown of Main-Land Development Consultants, Inc. donated \$250 towards the vests. Don Phillips discussed putting up our display board at universities for promotion. We are also considering donating tool belts/buckets for Soil Judging. It will cost approximately \$20 to add the MAPSS logo to the vests. Alan Burnell will donate the money to cover the embroidery.
The Executive Committee can distribute these funds for tools, buckets, etc. There was lots of discussion. Johanna Szillery thinks we should have a liaison to attend department meetings at local colleges. We want the departments to know we support the soils programs.
Contact Dave Moyse if you can help volunteer to go to a school.
Sheryl Spencer noted that we might need to be responsible for upkeep of tools, etc. She also noted that the team coach does not have to be a professor. Chris Dorion wrote a letter to Associate Dean Kezis and Greg Porter, head of the PSE department, about our donation. The response was somewhat positive. Dave Moyse and Johanna Szillery are working on a recruiting poster about MAPSS and the various careers that it covers, etc. When done, we can send it to schools.
Email Dave Moyse with ideas for the poster.
Other ideas discussed: Career days, speaking at schools, a summer workshop such as a Soil Science Day at U Maine, etc. This should be in October.
Summer Workshop with other groups: examine shoreline zoning, stream determinations, wetland classification, maximum spring tide, and other coastal issues. 8-2-07 is the tentative date for this workshop.
 - Motion to provide \$750 for Soil Judging vests and solicit more from members – Darryl Brown
 - Second – Jim Logan
 - Unanimously approved.
 - This will cover eight vests plus embroidery of MAPSS and U Maine. Chris Dorion will also donate \$100.
- Don Phillips gave the Smithsonian fund report. We raised approximately \$10,194.74 in two years. Johanna Szillery and Chuck Lyman assisted him. Chris Dorion and Johanna Szillery spoke about Don Phillips' persistence in fundraising over the years and the importance of this national recognition. We presented him with a gift of a framed picture of Katahdin (a Sewall company air photo).
- Cheryl Spencer gave the U Maine report for Ivan Fernandez. She gave a presentation that she had shown to the new Provost. It covered the programs,

open positions, research sites, and current research. Next year, Ivan Fernandez will present results from Bear Brook research over the last 15 years.

She noted that soils was last on the list for the department's offerings. There are good programs, but they need money and support, possibly from us. She covered questions from the members.

- Dale Brewer gave a report on the USM internships from students of Samantha Langley-Turnbaugh. There are internships available with students to hire for the summer. He had an intern last summer and it was a positive experience.
- Wayne Hoar reported on NRCS. He discussed Web Soil Survey, the progress of soil surveys, new series, and new surveys available on CD. There will be a progress review this summer in Western Aroostook County if anybody is interested in going along. There are also Student Intern positions available this summer, please tell any students you know.
- Dave Rocque reported on the Hydric Soils workshop. It was a large turnout, and we met our fund-raising goal for the workshop.
- Elections were held. Dave Marceau was the nominating committee. Most of the positions will remain the same. We need a Vice President.

There was discussion about the size of the Executive Committee, and whether the membership committee should participate in their meetings. Darryl Brown noted that we should discuss storm water, vernal pools, wading birds, and possibly have a representative from the consultant task force and DEP. We should also add the task force link to our website. Dave Turcotte volunteered for Membership Chair. Nominations were closed by Chris Dorion.

- Dale Brewer was nominated for VP by Jim Logan, but he wouldn't accept. Corinne Leary volunteered.

Pres. Chris Dorion

Vice Pres. - Corinne Leary

Treas. - Andrew Carpenter

Secretary - Anna Kettel

Previous Pres. - Jim Logan

Director - Darryl Brown

- Motion to move the slate as presented – Dave Moyse
- Second – Don Phillips
- The slate was elected, motion carried by majority

Other Positions:

- Amy Jones volunteered to be the Newsletter Editor.
- Dave Moyse volunteered to be the Education Chair
- Dave Turcotte wrote and volunteered as the Membership Chair

End of Business Meeting.

Speakers:

- Judy Hakola, professor of Technical Writing at U Maine, gave a talk on improving the readability of workplace reports. She discussed organization, formatting, word choice, and style. Writing should be reader-centered, and documents should be designed for efficiency. You should strive for consistency within your documents. She is available to speak to groups.
- Darryl Brown spoke about a civil engineering project in Windham. Chuck Bueker, PLS, works for Main-Land Development Consultants, Inc. and Tom DuBois, PE, is the manager. This was a challenging project due to the variety of parent materials. He stressed considering storm water runoff, ledge, etc. There was a discussion about equipment, etc.
- Bob Bills, PLS, LSE, spoke about GPS, AutoCAD, and GIS. There is a difference between drafting and GIS, based on geo-referencing. You should consider the accuracy needed based on the end user. Metadata might be important to other people down the road. He also stressed the need to keep your education up-to-date with the new equipment.

Following the afternoon speakers, President Chris Dorion asked if there was any further business to be decided. There being none, a motion to adjourn was moved and seconded and the Annual Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Anna Kettel, Secretary, MAPSS.