

**Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2021**

The meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

Attendees included: Chris Dorion, Roger St. Amand, Tony Jenkins, Mike Jackubowski, Sean Donohue, Greg Perkins, David Rocque, and Gary Fullerton

The meeting began at 3:00 pm and ended at 4:12 pm.

Annual Meeting – Summer 2021

Chris – The fall outdoor workshop at Reid State Park was successful. If an outdoor workshop worked in the fall, then it’s probably safe to assume we can safely hold an outdoor annual meeting in the summer when vaccinations will presumably be well under way. It would be a good opportunity for the membership to vote on business items such as scholarship disbursement, because a membership vote is needed for that.

Roger- We could do the business portion of the meeting online via virtual meeting ahead of time. But could hold the rest of the meeting outdoors and in-person.

Chris – Suggested June 1 could be a deadline for picking a date to hold the meeting.

The Executive Committee agreed to June 1 as the deadline for picking a MAPSS Meeting date.

Donations and Scholarships

Chris - Did Envirothon happen last year?

Dave - No.

Chris – Any scholarship requests? Mike continues in the education chair position.

Chris – Should we send out a notice of scholarship availability?

Sean – Do we have funds available?

Chris – Yes.

Sean – I support sending notice of scholarship availability out. There are likely people who could use it due to the economic downturn associated with the pandemic.

Roger - Agreed MAPSS should send notice of scholarship availability out.

Chris – Need to get membership vote, would need to send an email announcement to the membership. Mike will send out announcements of the scholarship availability.

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Mike and Gary – Last year, we did support a scholarship for \$1000. It was voted on at the 2019 meeting.

Chris - Asked about Envirothon.

Dave – They are talking about a virtual Envirothon for this year.

Chris - We usually give \$1,000.

Gary – Even though virtual, they are still looking for money.

Dave R – They are still looking for funding for virtual Envirothon. We should ask the executive director of the Maine Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts to see what their needs are. Dave R. will do this and update MAPSS on needs.

Chris D -We usually award scholarships by the end of the academic year, so if we are going to award scholarships this year, we need to get moving.

Gary – What do students use the money for.

Chris – Research, field expenses, fairly flexible.

Mike - In the past no report has been received on how the funds were used, but has suggested in the past it would be good to get a report or documentation from the student on how the funds were used.

Gary – Would support reporting by the student to MAPSS on how the funds are used.

Sean – Agreed.

Mike – The student could present at the MAPSS meeting or the Education Chair could do it for them.

Roger/Chris – A poster would be suitable instead of a presentation.

Greg- Are the funds allowed for project use or can it be used for other non-research expenses as well? In the past he thought the funds could be used for any education expenses by a student in need. Concerned that a reporting requirement could make it onerous for a student who needs the financial support to provide the additional documentation.

Tony - Agreed.

Chris – Perhaps Mike can look up intent of scholarship on the MAPSS site.

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Roger – It's on the website, it says it's very flexible, no specificity on how the funds are to be used.

Chris- Should we propose \$2,000 for funding the scholarship this year?

Roger- How many applications did we have last year?

Mike – Two last year.

Gary- Proposed leaving the scholarship award at \$1,000 since we support Envirothon as well.

Chris/Gary- Proposed \$2,000 education contribution to be split between Envirothon and Scholarship.

Gary – We have money left over from last year.

Newsletter Editor

Chris- We need a newsletter editor. Don has stepped down. Maintaining the newsletter publication is important to the membership and the organization.

Roger- Agreed good idea, but hard to find a volunteer.

Dave - Suggests a mass email soliciting request.

Chris – Gary will send out Newsletter Editor request.

Greg – Can we hire a Newsletter editor, rather than ask for a volunteer.

Chris – The challenge is pushing deadlines and soliciting input, not pulling it together. Suggested \$200 per newsletter.

Dave/Tony - Agreed that would be appropriate.

A few suggested the offer could be made to Don.

Gary – Under current bylaws we could offer up to \$250 without a vote. If we need to vote, we need to have: **"A quorum shall consist of one-third of the full members of the Association, or 25 members, which ever is the smallest number."** Dave – For some organizations a quorum is considered the majority of members in attendance.

Chris – We would have to revise the bylaws to redefine a quorum. To revise the bylaws we would need to vote, which can be done when membership meets.

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Summer Meeting and Workshop

Gary – Will send out membership form with dues request, and will include a note that money paid for the 2020 annual meeting that was cancelled, will be put towards next annual meeting. The next meeting will be outside this summer. Not likely to do a workshop.

Tony – NRCS could help support a workshop meeting.

Chris – Back to basics workshop would be good idea.

Tony – A soil morphology focused field workshop would be valuable to many.

Sean – Basics workshop would be good for many non-soil scientist natural resource practitioners. Could we piggyback with the MASE field pit evaluation day in September?

Gary – We used to piggyback with the MASE meeting, we could return to that.

Chris – We should think about a site with variety of parent material.

Tony- A basic concepts workshop could provide a lot of value to non-soil scientists.

Greg – MASE members need CEUs, missed a lot of CEU opportunities in 2020.

Roger/Chris – Understanding parent materials workshop would be good.

Tony – Suggested early September for a workshop on back to basics/ soil parent materials.

2009 MAPSS Guidelines Update

Chris – MAPSS Guidelines need a modernization/update. Need adhoc committee to update.

Dave R – Should be a technical committee.

Tony- How much work needs to be done on the MAPSS Guidelines before the meeting?

Chris – Should be straightforward, streamlining, not rewriting. Need to consolidate various guidance documents.

Roger- Gets lots of requests to review the NRCS soil survey ‘for accuracy’, guidelines around that would be helpful.

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Dave- Does not want ground truthing of NRCS soil survey in the guidelines, which should be technical standards for making on-site soil surveys, would prefer an addendum to the Guidelines to describe any recommendations for ground truthing NRCS soil surveys.

Tony – Need a tech committee meeting for updating guidelines. Suggests a meeting date of March 11 or 12.

2021 Annual Business Meeting

Tony – Can we hold a Zoom meeting and call it an annual business meeting and get votes on the business items done?

Chris – There are limited items we need a membership vote for. We could get through it quickly.

Dave- Liked the idea of holding a zoom meeting.

Chris – Suggested around 3pm on T,W,R.

Tony – Suggested Thursday, March 25.

Roger – Will our zoom capacity be exceeded? He will check on the limits.

Tony – NRCS uses MS Teams.

Gary – How many people can MAWS' Zoom account handle.

Roger – MAWS has a 500 person capacity on zoom.

Chris – Gary and Roger will work together to set up a zoom account that can handle everyone.

Roger – Zoom Pro = up to 100 participants.

Chris – Gary can you sign MAPSS up for a Zoom Pro account?

Roger - There is a monthly subscription at \$15 a month. Gary/MAPSS can sign up monthly to reduce costs.

Tony – Meeting on Zoom will get everyone together which would be good, so Zoom would be a good investment.

Chris- How would we manage the meeting?

Roger- Zoom has meeting organizer controls.

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Others- There are various controls to mute people, comment without speaking, etc., it should work.

Meeting minutes compiled by MAPSS Secretary Sean Donohue on 09FEB2021