

June 6, 2005 MAPSS Executive Board Meeting  
Skowhegan, Maine

Attendees: Laura Lecker (president), Chris Dorion (vice-president),  
Dave Turcotte (secretary), Dave Rocque (technical  
committee), Don Phillips (education committee chair),  
Wayne Hoar (NRCS state soil scientist)

The meeting commenced @ 1:25 P.M.

MAPSS & USDA-NRCS Cooperative Agreement

Wayne presented a draft of the agreement (voted on at the last annual meeting). It was suggested to add a 7th action item for NRCS, in: "NRCS will provide other assistance or cooperation as appropriate and as time and resources permit." Some suggestions on modifying the following action items were as follows: # 1: NRCS has flexibility with respect to making adjustments to the criteria (mostly soil or slope related) used for various land use interpretations used in Maine; # 2: ..... and become officers or committee chairs; # 5: ..... (with MAPSS selecting a representative); and # 6: ..... and digitizing. Wayne asked for additional comments on the draft via e-mail by June 13th.

MAPSS Website Update

The key issue was "who controls the domain name"?, for we don't know who originally registered [www.mapss.com](http://www.mapss.com) ! Dick Babine (former treasurer) did not know, as well as others in the room. Laura will check with Norm Kalloch (former president) and Lee Burman (former treasurer). Chris looked back in some old board meeting minutes and alas discovered it was Peter Rushton (a person from DEP who moonlighted with web sites)! This is significant because it will free us up to do what see fit with the web site. The person we contracted (at a very reasonable price) to bring the web site to life - Seth Mercier - is working with Laura to get the domain name properly registered and get it re-activated.

DEP / LURC Workshop

The objective is to have it in the Orono area, using a narrative and soil map from a real DEP project. This would teach them to better use and interpret soil maps. Don and Chris scoped out some sites in that area this spring. They observed a Brayton, Allagash, Scantic/Lamoine, and Udorthents pedon (on University of Maine property). The thinking - to some extent - is to throw some curves to DEP and LURC personnel by presenting some soil profiles to them (from 3 or more different parent materials) as map unit inclusions. This way it'll get them to think that either maybe the mapping is off or they'll better understand the concept of an inclusion. In this respect, they should be more apt to recognize shaky mapping and bring questionable areas to Dave R.'s attention - without the benefit of a backhoe. Considering all the other irons that MAPSS has in the fire this summer, it was decided to table this workshop to 2006.

DEP Draft Letter

This was a May 27th response letter from DEP to Albert Frick concerning certain aspects of and rules adopted under the Natural Resources Protection Act. Albert referred to Chapter 310 in particular, and how "wetlands of special significance" are defined too broadly and loosely (in that most wetlands would be deemed such, resulting in too many unnecessary restrictions). Dave R. will summarize our current position on this in the next "Lay of the Land" newsletter. He suggested that we also include this response letter as an addendum to the newsletter, and the consensus was that was a good idea.

MASE / MAPSS Workshop

The 4th annual cooperative workshop (that have been a resounding success) will be held on August 31st or September 1st. Dave R. will be coordinating this (at a site to still be determined) with Ken Stratton, Jay Hardcastle's successor. Dave R. or Laura will summarize the details and specifics for this in the next "Lay of the Land" newsletter.

Downeast Hydric Soils Tour Update

All of the pits have been located, and the word was sent out about this via e-mail this spring. Some water table and soil temperature data from this year will be available, according to Dave R. Six people have already registered for the late September tour, and several others have expressed interest. Once again, info on and registration (via Dave R.) for this exciting and diverse tour (and lobster feast) will be forthcoming in the upcoming newsletter.

#### Brochure / Newsletter

Dave T. presented options from 2 printing companies in Bangor: Furbush-Robert and Bacon. Considerations were color vs. black & white, the weight of the paper, the size of the paper, and the total number of copies to be made. It was decided to go with Bacon Printing, who will produce 1,500 color brochures on 9" x 12", # 100 weight paper for \$750 (including tax). MAPSS will furnish them with camera ready .jpg files and a layout plan of how they want the brochure to be organized. Dave T. is going to contact MOFGA to see if they have space available still for a booth at the Common Grounds Fair in late September, and will proceed to work with Bacon printing on the brochure in August. As for the newsletter, articles will be solicited (via e-mail) in early - mid July, and the newsletter will be compiled and mailed out to membership by the end of July.

#### Smithsonian Exhibit Update

Don reports that so far \$3,700 has been raised from MAPSS, MASE and MAWSS. He feels that MAPSS (whose members have donated \$2,085) should come up with more (from different people / companies). He is going to make another pitch for solicitations in the newsletter, and in the newsletter have a special "thank you" to donors (perhaps listing who has contributed what thus far). Dave T. suggests that Don note that the contributions are tax deductible, which could provide additional incentive for people to contribute financially. With that in mind, it is important to let people know who to make the check out to in that regard (i.e. to insure that the donation is construed by the IRS to be tax deductible).

The meeting concluded @ 4:00 P.M. The next MAPSS board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 17th in Skowhegan or Augusta.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Turcotte, Secretary