



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES ---- April 13, 2015

Meeting was held at the state Department of Agriculture Building in Augusta.

Members present: Don Phillips, *President*; Gary Fullerton, *Treasurer*; Amy Jones, *Secretary*; Dave Marceau, *Technical Committee*; Dave Rocque, *MASE Member*

Don mentioned that Dave Turcotte suggested we put the annual meeting minutes on the website even though they are only draft minutes until the next annual meeting. Amy liked the idea so people could review the minutes before everything was forgotten in another year. All agreed it was a good idea as long as it was posted as "Draft". Don will contact Matt Dorman so he can put it on the website.

Dave Rocque said the Connotative Legend has been endorsed by DEP via Marianne Hubert, DEP's lead engineer.

With respect to Hydric Soil Groups (HSG's), some concern has been expressed about some Soil Series having more than one group. Dave R. handed out a preliminary flow chart created by Nick Butler of NRCS for determining HSG's, as well as a color coded chart that shows which groups Maine Soil Series fall into (some fall into two groups depending on depth to Cd and to water table; also depending on whether they are artificially drained or not). This chart also had a note on it indicating which series the NRCS would like to gather more water table data on in future projects. More discussion ensued on problems of having series be in two groups, Ksat values, how data is determined and used, etc. Don suggested the Technical committee take up/continue the discussion. Dave R. and/or Don suggested that a talk on this by Nick Butler at next year's annual meeting might be appropriate.

Don asked the executive board for a loose "official" approval to give Chris Dorion the go ahead for producing a flow chart type diagram to show the relationships between the National Hydric Soil Indicators and the New England Hydric Soil Indicators. The thought being this might make things more user-friendly. All agreed.

Don would like to send a letter to the Maine Municipal Association from MAPSS about the Connotative Legend to ask them to distribute it to municipalities. The letter is to let towns know about the existence of this legend in hopes that town's will consider its use and help us determine how user friendly it is. The board agreed that a letter was a good idea.

There was a short discussion about the International Year of Soils. There is a small workgroup started in an effort to continue to promote the benefits of soil and get people interested/excited about soil after the passing of the Resolution by the state Legislature recognizing its importance. There will be a workgroup meeting in Belfast on April 27th.

Don mentioned that he attended a recent Soil Health Workshop in Sangerville. He thought it was a great workshop. Some discussion about soil health ensued and how Soil Scientists could be more involved in promoting and working with soil health issues. Dave R. suggested MAPSS might promote soil health in some way at the Common Ground Fair. Don mentioned that one thing he learned at the workshop was that Web Soil

Survey has some pages on Soil Quality with a lot of great information. He also mentioned that Soil Health would be a strong possible topic for next year's annual meeting.

Possible locations for next year's annual meeting were discussed. Bates College is at the top of the list from the last E.C. meeting, but Don would like to have a "Plan B". He has sent an e-mail to Holly Ewing at Bates and is waiting to hear back. Dave R. suggested UNE in Biddeford. Don asked if they had any kind of Natural Resources Program; nobody knew for sure. There was general concern that the location was too far south. Gary and Dave R. suggested Bowdoin College instead, since it was less far south. The MAWS meeting was held there this year. Dave M. thought it was pricey considering the minimal lunch. St. Josephs was also brought up as "Plan D". The general location is okay, but it is 15-20 minutes off of the highway. Gary said he would look into this if plans A-C didn't work out.

We had a short discussion about the upcoming summer workshop. Dave R. said all the sites have been established. He mentioned there would be a component about where the shoreland zone starts when there is a fluctuating lake level due to a dam on the lake. Dave also has a list of question written up and a location map created.

We started a discussion at the last E.C. meeting about the question of income dispersal from the summer workshop and we continued the discussion this meeting. It was decided to leave it somewhat flexible in that if MAWS planned to commit people to a station or provide other significant assistance that MAPSS would offer in advance to pay a couple hundred dollars or so (maybe more if total income was really high). Don said he would contact the MAWS president to discuss it.

The meeting minutes from the March 26th executive committee meeting were approved. Amy will send a copy to Matt Dorman to post on the MAPSS website.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Jones, *Secretary*