



**Meeting Minutes of the MAPSS 2016 Annual Meeting
Bates College
Lewiston, ME
March 24, 2016**

Meeting began at 8:45

INTRODUCTION/WELCOME:

President, Don Phillips introduced Dr. Holly Ewing, Associate Professor of the Environmental Studies Program at Bates College. Doctor Ewing welcomed the group to Bates College and talked about the types of soils-related and other environmental education she provides her students.

Chris Dorion and Johanna Szillery “hijacked” the meeting in order to surprise Dave Rocque with a recognition of all the many and wonderful contributions he has made to MAPSS over many years. Dave was presented with a Tom Hennessey bird hunting print to honor/recognize him. He had no idea this was coming and was totally surprised!

BUSINESS MEETING, TREASURERS REPORT:

Gary Fullerton, Treasurer, discussed the 2015 treasurer’s report. He stated that the 2015 meeting in Unity was less expensive than normal and we brought in about \$1700 and only spent about \$700 when we usually come close to breaking even.

Currently MAPSS has 47 full members, 17 Associate members, 3 students, and 3 honorary members. We are down about 5 full members from the previous year.

The Sebago Workshop brought in \$2500 and we spent \$500. We donated \$2000 to Envirothon.

We started 2015 with about \$10,600, brought in \$5715 and spent about \$4700 with a net of approximately \$1000. The account, as of December 31, 2015 was \$11,627.56

Chris D. moved to accept the treasurer’s report, Dave R. seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

BUSINESS MEETING, SECRETARY REPORT:

Amy Jones, asked if anyone had any questions/ comments regarding the 2015 Meeting Minutes. Dave Marceau initiated a discussion about the possibility of on-line registration. Gary stated with the lower member numbers the current system is pretty easy to handle. A bit more discussion ensued. It was concluded that no change would occur at this time.

Chris D. moved to accept the Meeting Minutes as presented, Dave R. seconded the motion. Motion was passed with a majority of yea's.

Don said a few words of thanks in recognition of Dave Turcotte's hard work on both the executive board and on committees since 2004. Dave will be stepping down this year.

BUSINESS MEETING, TECHNICAL COMMITTEE:

Chris Dorion presented information from the Technical Committee regarding both the Field Indicators for Identifying Hydric Soils in New England and the National Hydric Soils Indicators. The New England Hydric Soils Technical Committee (NEHSTC) had a meeting on March 22 at which there was talk about having a New England Version 4 of the Indicators that has the required National Indicators but expanded to include some of those particular to New England. Dave R. also mentioned there was discussion to keep V3 and add National Indicators when necessary as most people are using the N.E. Indicators in the field and then fitting those to the National. Dave R. asked for a show of hands for who thought the N.E. Indicators should be modified to correlate with the most recent version of the National Indicators. Most supported this. Chris says he has started a "cheat sheet" in a key format that is currently a work in progress.

BUSINESS MEETING, UMAINE:

Cheryl Spencer presented an update about the University of Maine soils programs from Ivan Fernandez. Ivan thinks there is a record level of interest in soil resources among students as a result of increased focus on food systems, climate and carbon; there has been a record 180 students in his basic Soil Science class this spring. However this is not resulting in a flood of majors in soil science, with perhaps only 4-6 currently declaring soils as a major. Ivan thinks it remains low because there are few job openings that have students seeking to become certified. Ivan is the only full time soil science faculty others being part time. The administration is unlikely to hire more Soil Science staff at this juncture. Ivan also mentioned the University system is engaged in becoming "One University" and that they have held off on raising tuition while other land grant colleges have increased tuition and this has resulted in a record number of applicants to UMaine Orono, now with a waiting list. Ivan expressed some reservations about the "One University" approach, especially in regards to the large degree of research at Orono, feeling that it is not designed with the research component in mind.

However he felt optimistic about research and outreach in graduate education in terms of the number of students dealing with the science of soils in their work in areas of soil health and environmental responses to climate change and air pollution.

BUSINESS MEETING, EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Dave Turcotte of the Education Committee brought up that we never made a motion last year to fund the 2016 Janet E. Cormier Scholarship Award. Chris D. made a motion to award \$1000 for 2016. Johanna seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Kaizad Patel, who thanked the MAPSS, received the 2016 award. Additionally a motion was made to provide \$1000 for the 2017 Scholarship award. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Dave T. briefly discussed the ongoing promotion of soils throughout 2015 with the International Year of Soil. He mentioned that Ivan, Natalie Lounsbury, and Andrew Carpenter did a Maine Radio call in show about soil and that there is a hyperlink in the 2015 Summer issue of the MAPSS newsletter if anyone would like to listen to it.

A discussion then ensued regarding the possibility of having a Soil Quality/Health subcommittee especially in light of soil mapping type of work dwindling. Could there be a niche for soil scientists to be more involved in soil quality and health. The discussion continued about whether there should be a separate committee or should the Education committee focus on this. A motion was made that the Education Committee focus on soil quality/health. The motion was seconded. There was one opposed, but the yeas carried.

Dave Rocque provided an update about Envirothon. Dave T. made a motion to donate \$2000 to the Envirothon. Chris seconded and the motion passed.

Dave Rocque went on to discuss the upcoming Sebago Lake Workshop and that the goal was to look at problem areas and bring various disciplines together with regulators. The workshop will be on September 7th and there will be an expanded wetland portion with a delineation component and more on vernal pools.

BUSINESS MEETING, ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Election of Officers was presented by Anna Donohue. Don Phillips will be stepping down as president. All others on the executive committee were willing to stay on, but nominations would be taken for any position. Currently, the other positions held are Anna Donohue, Vice President, Gary Fullerton Treasurer, Amy Jones secretary. Natalie Marceau nominated Dave Marceau for president. Dave R. made a motion that nominations cease and that we accept the slate of officers as is with Dave Marceau as president. The motion was seconded and passed.

MEETING SPEAKERS

Jessica Phillipe of NRCS, St. Johnsbury, VT presented on the future of soil mapping using LIDAR technology. This technology is especially useful for predicting/delineating landforms and soil parent materials.

Chris Bales and John Kelly of Casealla Organics provided a presentation about using various composts and organics to improve soil health.

Tony Jenkins, NRCS Maine State Resource Conservationist, continued the soil health discussion by talking about the outlook and opportunities for Soil Scientists in the soil health/quality arena.

Michael Jakubowski, a University of Maine masters students gave a presentation on his thesis work "Multidecadal Response in Soil C, N, and Hg to the 1947 Mt. Desert Island Fire Using Paired Watersheds in Acadia National Park.

Nick Butler, NRCS Soil Scientist, Dover-Foxcroft, ME rounded out the speakers with a brief overview of recent changes to NRCS soil classification and description standards.

Meeting adjourned 3:55.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Jones, Secretary