

## MAPSS Annual Meeting 2009 Minutes

### President's Address – Chris Dorion

Chris gave a short talk, noting that it is his last year as President. Also, he wrote a letter of support for a 1-credit Soil Judging course to Greg Porter at UMaine. There is a quorum at the meeting.

### Treasurer's Report – Andrew Carpenter

There is \$11,591.99 in the bank as of 3-1-09. We anticipate an income of \$2,160. The Natural Resource ID workshop brought in more than \$4400. There are currently 37 full members and 19 associates. Dave Marceau made a motion to accept, Dave Moyse seconded, passed.

### Secretary's Report - Minutes from 2008 Annual Meeting – Chris Dorion

No discussion, these have been available on the website. Dave Rocque made a motion to accept, Anna Kettell seconded, passed.

### Envirothon – Dave Rocque

Dave works with the Conservation Districts to support this each year. It exposes High School students to Natural Resources issues. Bob Vile made a motion to donate \$1000 again this year, Dave Moyse seconded, passed

### UMaine Soil Judging Team – Ken Stratton

Three members of the team were present: Allison Montgomery, Mary Beth Parent, and Eileen Spinney. Allison is currently a Soil Scientist with NRCS in Presque Isle, and the other two are seniors. Mary Beth wrote an excellent reaction paper.

Ken Stratton is their coach, and adjunct professor. At the Northeast Regional competition at Delaware Valley College, they used their impressive vests and buckets donated by MAPSS. The team placed 4<sup>th</sup> overall. Allison placed 8<sup>th</sup> in the individual competition.

The members talked about their experiences and showed a slide show. Greg Porter, assistant Dean, asked MAPSS for support, since the competition will be in Ohio next year. Bruce Verrill made a motion to donate \$1000, Dave Rocque seconded, passed unanimously.

### Education Committee/Scholarship – Johanna Szillery

Johanna has contacted UMaine, UMF, Unity, and USM to advertise the scholarship. This year, application will remain open until April 1. Andrew Carpenter states that presentations are more effective than booths at fairs, etc. Don Phillips says we should bring a presentation to college students. Jim Logan volunteers to help with the presentation for regional planning commissions. We may make a presentation at Maine Municipal association, etc.

Bruce Verrill reiterated the importance of this idea. We should develop a PowerPoint with the applications and values of soil science. This could then be used by members in their local areas. Rod Kelshaw suggested presenting to towns.

Cheryl Spencer suggested a presentation at a U Maine career day. Dave Moyse volunteered to work on presentations; he discussed having a 2-day workshop, with one day for town planners, CEO's, etc.

#### Membership – Dave Turcotte

Check the new spreadsheet based on the membership survey, for accuracy. We currently have 37 full members, 19 associate. He sent out 40 letters for new members. Now, you will have to be a current member to stay on the directory.

#### Groundwater Model Proposal – Dave Turcotte

This would be used at our booth to explain groundwater movement concepts and catch peoples' eyes. One model from Iowa state shows 30 concepts, costs \$540. It has fine sand, coarse sand, and a confining layer.

Discussion – Dave Rocque concerted that this does not show topsoil, and does not represent Maine soils. Don Phillips agrees that this is not a good example.

Cheryl Spencer thinks that this is good for children or a very basic overview.

Dale Brewer adds that we could put a disclaimer on the model.

Gary Fullerton noted that a presentation on a laptop would also draw attention.

Dave Turcotte asked for a motion to use \$700 to purchase this model. No motions were made; the question may be brought up again in the future.

UM & USM update – Ivan Fernandez and Samantha Langley-Turnbaugh  
Samantha reports that there will be \$3 Million in cuts at USM. They plan to restructure the University system so that different campuses will house different programs, ex: Engineering at Orono, Education at Farmington. There will also be faculty layoffs, about 100 this year.

Cheryl Spencer spoke in place of Ivan; he is at the NE Soil Quality Monitoring conference in Albany. She said the Soil Judging team is the highlight of the PSE department. There are now only about three people in the Soils Department, since Aram Calhoun is now part of the Wildlife faculty.

The University is in transition. The Sustainable Ag department has the same faculty. Ken Stratton is on the staff to teach Soil Judging as a 1-credit course next year. There is USDA CREES accreditation coming up in April, which occurs every 5 years. There is a new booklet available on Maine's climate future.

#### NRCS updates – Leslie Glover, acting State Soil Scientist

Leslie commends the Maine staff since he has been here on detail from AR. A recommendation for the new SSS has been made already. Leslie plans to leave April 10.

There are two mapping seasons left for the Initial survey. 2.5 Million acres are digitized. There are MOU's with UMO and MAEFS. NH has helped map the White Mountains National Forest. SSA 619 should be out soon. Over 2 million unique people have visited Web Soil Survey so far.

MAPSS is the largest state soils organization he has seen. He also thinks it is great to see the Chesuncook monolith in the Dig It Smithsonian exhibit.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS - Nominating Committee (Johanna Szillery)

The new officers are: Treasurer, Gary Fullerton; Secretary, Anna Kettell; Director, Dale Brewer; President, Ken Stratton; and Vice President Joe Noel.

Class L Soil Survey – Panel Discussion – Marsha Spencer-Famous (LURC), Jim Cassida (MDEP), Jim Logan (MAPSS), Dave Rocque

Dave – the ACOE uses National Indicators for hydric soils. He suggests doing transects and comparing the national indicators to the Regional ones. Dave Moyse mentioned that they are considering changing the minimum from 12 to 9 inches. MASE is working outside of shore land. As a state, we will have to pick which National Indicators we want, and then we can add others that are missing. Marsha – we need flexibility, one can use the specific surveys for site investigations as well.

Jim Cassida – The site law has a linear guidance already. This change only relates to soils. It does not apply to aboveground lines.

Jim Logan – he has mapped these surveys. Previously, they would map as Class B. It is difficult to map in a linear way, because you have open-ended map units, etc.

There are limitations to the information in Class L surveys. He is confident in the CPS accuracy. Dave Marceau is concerned about the GPS accuracy.

Technical Committee Report and Recommendations – Site Law Revisions and MAPSS Guidelines Revisions – Dave Rocque

Similar and Dissimilar soils – the definition depends on the intent of the survey. It relates to the interpretations for each project. Norm – he is concerned about water flowing offsite and causing erosion.

Dave – he is trying to reconnect. One must be careful not to cause other problems. The goal is for projects to be built without altering hydrology. Jim Logan made a motion to approve the Class L standard as PP, it can be modified later. Seconded – Steve Howell, passed.

Dave Rocque discussed the new guidelines for describing Oxyaquic soils. These will be added to the new revisions.

Steve Roberge to discuss the unique hydrology of high mountain areas and erosion control techniques necessary to construct projects there (from an engineer's prospective). He had a power point presentation of his experience as a third party inspector.

This was an interesting presentation with great photos. This was an extreme construction area, with many rare plants. There will be 44 towers total when completed. The work is scheduled to be completed in fall 2010. The power produced will provide enough electricity to lights a 100 W light bulb for every Mainer.

They used “rock sandwich” designs often for roads. For drainage, they installed level-lip spreaders. For temporary crossings over streams and wetlands, they used a timber mat bridge, and when it is removed, they restore the area with erosion control. They used stumps, ground up and mixed with soils, to make erosion control mix. This made berms, as opposed to silt fences. Many of the areas are not re-seeded, but mulched.

Paul Minkin, US ACOE, discussed the field-testing of the Interim Northeast Regional Supplement to the 1987 ACOE Wetland Manual with the help of local

experts familiar with the New England Field Indicators (some MAPSS members helped with the field-testing in Maine and can answer questions on a comparison of the two soils keys). He traveled throughout New England field-testing the Supplement and presented a PowerPoint presentation on the results. His talk covered soils, vegetation, and hydrology with a focus on plants and hydrology. This was followed by some lively discussion.