

MAPSS Annual Meeting 2011

March 16, 2011

Wells Conference Center, UMaine, Orono, Maine

1. Business Meeting

- a. President's Introduction – Ken Stratton welcomed everybody to the meeting, stating that is good to be back at Orono. He said that he would like to give the Executive Committee a hand for all of their hard work throughout the year.
- b. Treasurer's Report – Gary Fullerton gave copies of the report to all present. In summary, our 2010 income was \$7,170 and our expenses were \$6,732. Our ending balance in the checking account as of 12/31/10 was \$10,404.63. He thanked Dave Rocque for planning with the successful Saddleback workshop. Dave Silver made a motion to approve the report, Peter Crane seconded the motion; motion carried.
- c. Secretary's Report – Anna Kettell asked for comments or questions about last year's minutes. There was no discussion. Amy Jones made a motion to approve the report, Dave Silver seconded the motion; motion carried.
- d. Envirothon donation – Dave Rocque showed a t-shirt from last year's Envirothon listing MAPSS as a sponsor. Dave talked about the importance of this event for High School students and showed a video that gave information on the Envirothon competition, and featured past Envirothon participants discussing the value of the program.
Be sure to tell Dave if you are interested in helping a local team study soils, etc. to prepare for the event.
Dave Turcotte made a motion to donate \$1,000 again this year to Envirothon, Bruce seconded; motion carried.
- e. U Maine Soil Judging Donation – Ken Stratton stressed how much the Team depends on donations. The Northeast Regional competition was held at Penn State this year, and they had a good contest. U Maine came in around the middle of all the teams there. The six students made up two teams, and they learned a lot about Alfisols, Ultisols, etc. during the week. Four out of the six students joined the meeting a little later to thank us for the support. They said they enjoyed the hands-on learning, and are looking forward to next year. Bruce commented on the importance of this event. He made a motion to approve a \$1,000 donation again, Johanna Szillery seconded the motion; motion carried.
- f. Education Committee, Scholarship Fund. We have received two applications for 2011. Both look like strong candidates. The committee will review them and make a recommendation as to who should get the scholarship. Peter Crane made a motion to donate \$1,000 for the 2012 Cormier scholarship and let the Education Committee fund 1 or 2 scholarships as they see fit, Bruce seconded the motion; motion carried.

- g. UM and USM update – Ivan Fernandez gave a detailed report about the state of the Soils program at U Maine. Samantha reported to him that there is not much news at USM. The budget is still up in the air.
The soils department has lost positions in the last couple of years. Students are always concerned with availability of jobs; they would like to see at least internships. He has 130 students in his Intro to Soil Science class, and they are interested in the topic.
- h. NRCS update – Tony Jenkins reported that the Soils staff is busy working on the Rapid Carbon Assessment project. They are planning to do bog sampling this spring. They may have summer student positions available in the future, but he is not sure.

2. Election

The nominating committee was Johanna Szillery and Joe Noel. Johanna presented the slate of officers, as follows:

Johanna – President

Anna Kettell – Vice President

Gary Fullerton – Treasurer.

Anna made a motion to nominate Allison Montgomery for Secretary. Ivan Fernandez seconded.

Dave Silver made a motion to accept the slate of officers, Roger seconded.

3. New Business

a. 2011 workshops and training

Ken spoke about the success of the MAPSS Field Workshops in the past, and how much Dave Rocque has helped us in the past few years. Dave Silver, a U Maine PhD candidate, gave a detailed Power Point on the University Forest as a site for a field day.

Other workshop ideas include Wind Power on Kibby Mountain. Johanna and Mike Banitas spoke about the opportunities to see the disturbed soils, wetlands, mountains and hydrology on site there. In addition, there are opportunities to see the challenges that were present in developing soil maps, etc.

There was discussion on the subject of a workshop related to wind power, with Pros being: will draw a lot of people, show the importance of soils when planning, might bring in engineers, could incorporate Class L soil surveys; and, Cons: will take a lot of planning, and September 2011 might be too soon, Kibby is far away from most people. There was discussion on whether we want to focus the workshop on soil survey mapping or drawing a wide audience. In addition, there was talk of having a 2-day workshop, as the Land Surveyors do every year. People who volunteered to help with the workshop include:

Bruce, Jim Logan, Mike B, Lee, Mike Glessner, and Dale Knapp.

We took a straw poll, and the majority of people favored a 2-day Wind Power workshop over a U Maine workshop for 2011.

b. 2012 workshops and training

Tony spoke about holding the NECSS Conference in Maine in 2012. This includes states west to Ohio and south to West Virginia. On the various days, they will review research from Universities. He would like to combine the University Forest and the Golden Road in to a 1-day field trip. There will probably be about 50-100 people attending.

MAPSS or another organization will need to handle the money. We would need to manage the website for the event and participate in planning. It will be held the week of July 9, 2012. The majority of members indicated they were in favor of assisting with this conference.

c. Other New Business

Dave Rocque presented two bills that are of interest to MAPSS. LD 904 involves disbanding boards that have not met regularly. This could cause us to lose the Professional Soil Scientist license. LD 947 would allow licensed professionals from other states to practice in Maine without obtaining a Maine license.

Al Frick made a motion to have the official position of MAPSS that we are opposed to LDs 904 and 947. Dave Moyse seconded. This passed unanimously.

4. Darryl Brown, DEP Commissioner, "Trends in the Regulatory Environment in Maine"

Darryl spoke about how he served and gave back with organizations such as MAPSS, while running his business. He is trying to make people smile when working with DEP! He is sad to leave his business and the people there, but he is excited to serve through the DEP. One of his goals is to get to know his staff in four offices.

He has noticed how much slower the State business moves than the private sector. He is trying to achieve balance in the DEP. He wants to take a close look at the rules and regulations of the DEP and base them in scientific principles.

Darryl also wants to work on the timing of projects submitted to the DEP. There is no need to make applicants wait to see if their applications are complete, this can happen very quickly. He feels they can turn projects around very quickly, if they are complete when submitted.

He stressed that MAPSS members can help the DEP by being there in person to support or oppose laws. 53% of the DEP budget comes from dedicated funds, such as application fees. When asked about the LD 904, he said that he would look into this. It was not presented from the Governor's office; it might be coming from a citizen.

5. Dave Turcotte, NRCS, "Seasonal water table and Temperature relationships in Calcareous Till and Residual soils of Central ME"

Dave introduced the Sebasticook catena. Kenduskeag does not have an OSD yet. It is aquic, with decayed fragments. Wassokeag is an Oxyaquic Eutrudapt, borderline well drained, and formed in residuum. In his study, he found no perched water tables. This catena of soils is found mostly in Penobscot county.

6. Tony Jenkins, Maine State Soil Scientist, NRCS, "Soil Mapping Progress in Maine: COMPLETED"

Tony reported that both SSAs 620 and 621 would be in Web Soil Survey in 2011. He and his crew have a lot of chemistry back from the lab in Lincoln to back up their mapping, about 70

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samples. Ragmuff is a new series; it is moderately well drained and moderately deep. It is sort of like a cross between Telos and Elliottsville / Colonel and Tunbridge. It classifies as an Aquic Haplorthod.

There will be more work planning conferences coming up for the Dover and Presque Isle offices. He needs our input! Please send him any comments that you have on future project needs. You can email him at Tony.Jenkins@m2.usda.gov

In the future, the Southern Penobscot County survey will be finished. There was some discussion. Dave Marceau had a question about mid-drained soils.

He gave a short presentation on Mercury in forest soils, comparing Maine and West Virginia sites. There are different distributions in the two states. He found that Hg follows the spodic processes.

7. James Santiago, UMaine Master's student, "Gypsum: An alternative fertilizer for wild blueberry production?"

James was the 2010 MAPSS Scholarship recipient. He presented his findings from trying to improve blueberry production. Maine has fallen behind Canada in recent years.

Gypsum is cheaper than the conventional fertilizer, DAP, and is approved for Organic production. He found that it increases Ca and N availability in soils. However, it was only successful as a fertilizer when soils were deficient in Gypsum. One other side benefit was that the application increased fruit Calcium, which leads to a more firm fruit and longer shelf life.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Kettell

May 10, 2011