

MAPSS Technical Committee

Meeting of February 8th, 2012, at the NRCS offices in Bangor

Members: Chris Dorion (Chair), Tony Jenkins, Dave Rocque, Steve Howell, Greg Granger, George Bakajza

AGENDA:

1) REVIEW OF MAPSS DRAINAGE KEY

The issue of consistency between the MAPSS Drainage Key and the following were discussed:

- Field Indicators for Identifying Hydric Soils in New England, v. 3 (definitions, p. 70, “Bh and Bhs Horizons – B horizons”);
- Site-Specific Soil Mapping Standards For New Hampshire and Vermont Version 4.0, February 2011. SSSNNE Special Publication No. 3. This publication directly references the NE Field Indicators, v. 3 for PD and VPD drainage classes.
- And via Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States, Version 7.0, 2010 (This publication is directly referenced by the Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region, Version 2.0, January, 2012)
- And via Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region, Version 2.0, January 2012. (Corps guidance refers to the NE Field Indicators for some situations)

At present, the MAPSS Drainage Key for PD soils refers to: “...a Bh or Bhs horizon that is value 3 or less and ***chroma 2*** or less,” Please see <http://www.mapss.org/pdf/DRAINAGEkey.pdf>

ACTION ITEMS FOR THE MAPSS MEMBERSHIP TO VOTE ON AT THE ANNUAL MEETING:

The MAPSS Technical Committee recommends the following changes to the MAPSS Drainage Key:

- Under PD criteria, “...a Bh or Bhs horizon that is value 3 or less and ***chroma 3*** or less,” [changing from chroma ***2*** to chroma ***3***]

- Adopting a new format for PD and VPD that follows the style of key found in *Keys to Soil Taxonomy, Eleventh Edition, 2010*.
 - Removing the “p” from “Ap” horizon (an “A” horizon by definition includes Ap horizons and all other subordinate distinctions)
 - Converting inch measurements to metric as the primary standard, but still retaining the inches in parentheses.
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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MAPSS MEMBERSHIP TO DISCUSS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING:

The MAPSS Technical Committee recommends that the *MAPSS Guidelines 2009* be thoroughly reviewed. There are several discrepancies between the 2009 Guidelines and web-based documents, such as the Catena Key, Drainage Class key, and others.

The MAPSS Technical Committee recommends that the reference to “NRCS” be removed the *MAPSS Guidelines 2009*.

Discussion regarding keeping the PD and VPD drainage class keys in the MAPSS Drainage Key resolved that the VPD class is crucial for some municipal ordinances. VPD areas can be included in Shoreland Zoning, or may have their own specific setback distances for construction activities.

The MAPSS Technical Committee reviewed the SPD standard and found no problems.

The MAPSS Technical Committee noted that the NRCS website will continue to direct soil scientists to the MAPSS Drainage Key.

2) OXYAQUIC STANDARD AS PUBLISHED IN THE *MAPSS GUIDELINES 2009*:

A long discussion ensued regarding this issue. It was resolved that:

- The MAPSS Technical Committee will organize soil scientists to revisit Reid State Park to determine if discrepancies exist between redoximorphic features and observed saturation. Also, Dave Rocque will identify a western Maine mountain site within the oxyaquic guidelines (Rangeley – Sugarloaf area), and NRCS soil scientists will complete full pedon descriptions. At these sites, if soil morphology

and apparent water table depths are incongruous, then we will install piezometers with temperature and water depth data loggers, IRIS tubes, and will monitor the sites, downloading the data loggers periodically.

- The MAPSS Technical Committee will organize soil scientists to conduct a background literature review of published oxyaquic sites (sites where the soil morphology does not display reducing conditions yet a water table exists)

A full report on these meeting minutes will be presented to the MAPSS membership at the Annual Meeting on March 16th, 2012.

Respectfully Submitted by

Chris Dorion, MAPSS Technical Committee Chair