



MAINE ASSOCIATION OF WETLAND SCIENTISTS

Dear MAPSS Members,

Thank you for providing the time and forum for inviting the *Maine Association of Wetland Scientists* wetland Certification Sub-Committee to come and speak with you. On behalf of all of us here at MAWS, I would like to extend a warm Thank You to MAPSS Executive Committee members for your endorsement to support our ongoing efforts to certify Maine wetland scientists.

As many of you know, we have been discussing the issue of certifying wetland scientists ever since the formation of MAWS back in the late 1980's. We were aware then, as we are now, that it is a formidable process. Still, at the 2007 MAWS Annual Meeting, our members voted to direct the Certification Sub-Committee to continue getting information on steps we must take to pursue a state-recognized certification of wetland scientists. To that end, we have met with Ms. Anne Head, Acting Commissioner, Maine Department of Professional & Financial Regulation, to discuss our goal and to become more familiar with the process of how to achieve certification. Amongst many other steps we'll have to go through, Ms. Head stated that we would considerably improve our chances of success if we can acquire endorsements from stakeholders, including one from MAPSS.

Yours is the first endorsement we have asked for to date. Your endorsement is an important one for us because of the overlap of our professions. Because of that, it is likely (assuming that certification comes to pass) that prospective Certified Wetland Scientists would be administered by the Board of Geologists and Soil Scientists. In addition, it is likely that many Certified Soil Scientists would also become Certified Wetland Scientists, which would result in a stronger relationship between our professions and better management of our precious natural resources.

Sincerely,

Donald Phillips, C.S.S.  
Chair, Certification Sub-Committee