



**Meeting Minutes of the MAPSS 2017 Annual Meeting  
University of Maine  
Orono, ME  
March 29, 2017**

Meeting began at 8:40 a.m.

**INTRODUCTION/WELCOME:**

President, Dave Marceau gave a short welcome/introduction, mentioning that this was the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual MAPSS Meeting. He thanked everyone for their patience with the change of date of the meeting due to a snowstorm on the original March 15<sup>th</sup> date.

**GUEST SPEAKER**

Bill Laflamme from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) is the Coordinator of the Maine Non-Point Source Pollution Program. He gave a talk on techniques to prevent soil erosion on camp roads and other non-vegetated surfaces.

**BUSINESS MEETING, TREASURERS REPORT:**

Gary Fullerton, Treasurer, discussed the 2016 treasurer's report. He stated that we ended the year with about the same amount as we started with. Membership has been fairly consistent.

Dave Marceau asked about how much it cost to run the organization. Gary replied generally it's about \$5000 to \$6000. Both Gary and Dave commented that they thought we had enough in reserve that we could survive doing some things that won't make money, such as a workshop in 2017 that will focus primarily on soil science. It was noted that past workshops have brought in money, this year's will likely cost more than it brings in.

Johanna Szillery asked about meeting room fees, wondering if colleges waived the fee and that it might be beneficial to look in to it, especially for smaller crowds. Gary thought that Unity College had either a waived or reduced fee and was a much cheaper venue over others we have used in the past. Don Phillips mentioned that Unity College seemed to really appreciate our attention and would be willing to look into it for next year's meeting.

Johanna made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Corrine Leary seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **BUSINESS MEETING, SECRETARY REPORT:**

Amy Jones, asked if anyone had any questions/ comments regarding the 2016 Meeting Minutes. Tony Jenkins made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as presented. Cheryl Spencer seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **BUSINESS MEETING, SEPTEMBER WORKSHOP:**

Dave Marceau gave an overview of the proposed 2017 Workshop planned to be on Hydrologic Soil Groups (HSG's). The concept being how to more accurately assign HSG's for a given site. Dave would like to have the workshop on his 120 acre property in Searsmont which has some shallow to bedrock areas, some marine and lacustrine areas, a bit of "Hermon" type soil, and some basal till mostly on B/C slopes with some D slopes. His plan is to look for sites in June, dig pits in July (hopefully with backhoe help from Greg Granger of NRCS). The field day would be in September.

### **BUSINESS MEETING, TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

Dave Rocque provided an update regarding Version 4 of the Field Indicators For Identifying Hydric Soils in New England.

Version 4 was developed as a single hydric soil document to encourage consistency with hydric soil determinations in the New England region. It includes all applicable national indicators for the New England region (a number of New England indicators only had minor differences from the National indicators). Important New England indicators that were not part of the National Indicators were put in the Problem Soils section.

Version 4 was developed with the same language style as the National indicators.

The user notes section was expanded to include relevant guidance from the National and Regional Supplement. The user notes also include an explanation on identifying spodic horizons, maps identifying 5 areas of Problem Soils, and expanded definitions.

This version includes, as a supplement, a chart for determining percentage and size of redoxomorphic features, a field test for determining type of organic matter, a guide for altered soils, and an indicator flow chart developed by Chris Dorion.

Version 4 will not include (as did version 3) diagrams or photos, though photos may be added in the future (which was strongly encouraged by Tony Jenkins, especially for problem soils).

The expected effective date, with on-line availability is May 1, 2017, with publishing expected (hopefully) in one year.

### **BUSINESS MEETING, BOARD OF CERTIFICATION UPDATE**

Dave Rocque gave an update about the Board of Certification for Geologists and Soil Scientists. He talked about it becoming more and more difficult to become certified due to less classes

being available to receive 15 credit hours in soil science and the loss of the USM soils program. The board discussed and was willing to consider the possibility of allowing multiple pathways, such as using experience in lieu of course work for certification requirements. Dave said that these updates/revisions could be made as a matter of “house cleaning” as opposed to going to the legislature. Dave Marceau asked for a show of hands from the MAPSS membership for being in favor of a multiple pathway approach. Members were unanimously in favor.

#### **BUSINESS MEETING, ENVIROTHON**

Dave Rocque provided an update about Envirothon. Tony Jenkins made a motion to support Envirothon. Some discussion ensued about how much to donate. We gave \$2000 the last couple of years, increasing if from \$1000 to \$2000 when the soil judging team was no longer in action. There was mention of less income this year related to this year’s workshop costs. Tony amended his motion to donate \$1500 to the Envirothon. There was a second from Roger St. Amand. The motion passed.

Dave Rocque urged MAPSS to send a note to the Envirothon stating that due to a decrease in income for MAPSS, the organization is unable to offer the same amount as the last couple of years.

#### **BUSINESS MEETING, JANET E. CORMIER SCHOLARSHIP**

Don Phillips said there was only one applicant for 2017, Kaizad Patel, a doctorate candidate from UMO. He had two glowing recommendations (Don read the one from Ivan Fernandez) and the \$1000 was awarded to him.

Glenn Angell asked about the possibility of making the scholarship more permanent through the University. Dave Marceau commented that it brings up many questions about who has control over who the money goes to. Dave Moyses said that back when the scholarship was originally set up he looked into this and it was fairly strict and limited recipients to UMaine only, so we couldn’t look at students from other colleges. Dave Moyses preferred the flexibility of MAPSS having control over it. Johanna agreed. However, Glenn agreed to look in to the possibilities with the University.

Don made a motion to give \$1000 to the JEC scholarship for 2018. A second was made by Tony Jenkins. The motion passed.

#### **BUSINESS MEETING, UMAINE UPDATE**

Dave Marceau gave a brief synopsis of an e-mail from Ivan Fernandez that not much has changed since last year (in terms of the Soils and Environmental programs at the University). There has been a bit of an increase in the number of students taking the basic soil science.

#### **BUSINESS MEETING, MAWS UPDATE**

Roger St. Amand provided an update about happenings with the Maine Association of Wetland Scientists. Daniel Tetreau is the new President. There are several mining related laws being looked at by the legislature. There is also an LD to modify NRPA, which MAWS plans to

comment on, though it looks like this bill won't go anywhere. A work group has formed to look at changes to the wetlands of special significance rules. MAWS is also developing a Stream Determination Protocol similar to that for vernal pools.

#### **BUSINESS MEETING, ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

A slate of officers was presented by Dave Marceau. Dave was willing to stay on as President as well as all other current officers: Don Phillips, Past President; Anna Donohue, Vice President; Gary Fullerton, Treasurer; Amy Jones, Secretary; George Bakazja, Director. There were no other nominations from the floor. Dave Moyses moved to accept the slate of officers as presented. Roger St. Amand seconded the motion. The motion passed.

#### **BUSINESS MEETING, TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AGAIN**

Tony Jenkins presented a shortened version of the proposal from the Technical Committee for Identifying Hydrologic Soil Groups. The committee would like to incorporate a HSG triangle methodology, similar to that used in Rhode Island into HISS guidance. The triangle is a good starting point and can be refined in the future as it gets used.

Dave Rocque mentioned that we need to be sure that DEP will accept it before it can be incorporated.

Dave Marceau asked for a show of hands from the membership on whether the tech. committee should continue to pursue this. All were in favor.

#### **BUSINESS MEETING, ADDITIONAL NOTE**

Tony Jenkins mentioned that on the NRCS side of things there are some proposals out for major changes to soil taxonomy to make the system less complicated and more user-friendly. There are numerous challenges to doing so.

#### **GUEST SPEAKER**

Sean Smith, Assistant Professor, School of Earth and Climate Sciences, University of Maine presented a talk on Hydrology and Sediment Transport within Mount Desert Island.

#### **GUEST SPEAKER**

Darryl Toucette, Human Resources Manager, NRCS, Augusta, ME gave a presentation on Ethics.

#### **GUEST SPEAKER**

Jon Giles, GIS Manager and Licensed Surveyor provided a presentation on GIS for Land Development Decision Making with special attention to the Maine GeoLibrary and a proposed base mapping program called OneMAP for ME.

Meeting adjourned 4:00.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Amy Jones, Secretary