



**Meeting Minutes of the MAPSS 2018 Annual Meeting
Unity College Center for the Performing Arts
Unity, ME
March 7, 2018**

Meeting began at 8:45 a.m.

INTRODUCTION/WELCOME:

Kevin Spigel, Unity College Professor of Geoscience and Chair of Unity's Earth Sciences Program welcomed MAPSS. MAPSS President, Dave Marceau, also welcomed attendees and gave a brief overview of the meeting agenda.

2018 SUMMER WORKSHOP POSSIBILITY/REPORT:

Tony Jenkins suggested a workshop, that he would head up, at the UMaine university forest in Orono focusing on morphology and mapping. He's already talked to the head forester and the Wednesday after Labor Day is open and reserved for the group, if desired. Greg Perkins asked if students would be in session at that time and could there be some involvement there, if so. Some comments were made on pulling in some wetland and shoreland zoning topics to widen the interest of potential attendees. Dave Marceau suggested possibly bringing in a LUPC person to discuss some upcoming LUPC rule changes (changes are being made to be more consistent with DEP).

BUSINESS MEETING, TREASURERS REPORT:

Gary Fullerton, Treasurer, discussed the 2017 treasurer's report. Income from dues was a bit less due to a slight drop in membership. The 2017 annual meeting cost more than what was brought in due to UMaine typically being higher in cost, plus there were some additional costs due the snowstorm and rescheduling. The annual workshop wasn't much of a money maker in 2017 since it was focused essentially on soil science and thus attracted less interest from other groups. Overall the account was down approximately \$1500 for the year, though there is still about \$10,000 in the account.

Tony Jenkins made a motion to accept the Treasury Report. It was seconded by Dave Rocque. Motion passed with no nay votes.

BUSINESS MEETING, SECRETARY REPORT:

Amy Jones, secretary, asked if anyone had any questions or comments regarding the 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes. They had been posted in the most recent MAPSS newsletter. No one had anything to say. Tony Jenkins made a motion to accept the Secretary Report. It was seconded by Dave Rocque. Motion passed with no nay votes.

BUSINESS MEETING, UNIVERSITY OF MAINE UPDATE

Kaizad Patel, PhD student, read a report from Ivan Fernandez (since Ivan could not attend the meeting) regarding soil science at the university. Essentially Ivan's report said that not much had changed in this past year. Most of the soils work that is being done is indirectly through forestry, wetland, and waste management related programs/classes.

BUSINESS MEETING, JANET E. CORMIER SCHOLARSHIP

Kaizad Patel was the recipient of last year's 2017 scholarship. He stated that he used his scholarship money to help pay his Visa fees, as well as to purchase some soil science books. He is nearing the end of his PhD program. His research and analysis are completed, and he is currently writing, with the potential for defending in early summer.

Emily MacDonald was the scholarship awardee for 2018. She is the first Unity College recipient. She is a Junior pursuing a double major in Earth/Environmental Sciences and Sustainable Agriculture. She is considering pursuing a career in soil science in the government sector and is interested in soil quality and soil health.

Don Phillips made a motion to provide \$1000 for the scholarship for 2019. Lee Burman provided a second. The motion passed with no nay votes.

BUSINESS MEETING, MAWS UPDATE

Rod Kelshaw and Lee Burman provided some information about MAWS activities that may be of interest to MAPSS members. Rod mentioned the state legislature Environment and Natural Resources Committee had a meet and greet about proposed metallic mining legislation. MAWS did not provide a position in favor or opposed to the legislation but did go through the proposal and commented on certain components that they thought should be addressed in going forward with the legislation.

Lee said that MAWS was also looking at how the state might be able to include better language for interpretations regarding wetlands of special significance in chapter 10 of the Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA).

BUSINESS MEETING, NRCS UPDATE

Tony Jenkins talked about two projects. The first was that NRCS is doing soil sampling for mercury content watershed wide on Passamaquoddy Lands.

The NRCS, as far as soil mapping goes, is currently focused primarily on coastal zone mapping. Matt Dorman said they are doing tidal marsh transects and sampling for bulk density and carbon. They have Gouldsboro as a soil series and there are proposals for potentially six more some having primarily loamy or sandy material, and possibly a hemist. Matt also mentioned that in the mountainous regions, MRLA 143, they are continuing to do Ecological Site Descriptions.

Tony said the USDA has done a lot of reorganization and they may be moving towards privatizing some work, but it has yet to be determined. He also mentioned that in the soil science division work is ongoing to harmonize soils data.

Tony also let MAPSS know that the Kennebec Community College is looking for a Soils 101 Instructor and would MAPSS be interested in collaborating with NRCS in providing something.

BUSINESS MEETING, ENVIROTHON

Dave Rocque provided an update about Envirothon stating how important it was for organizations like MAPSS to contribute since some big donors are no longer contributing. Dave Moyse made a motion to donate \$1500 to the Envirothon. Gary Fullerton seconded the motion. Some discussion ensued. A question was asked about why big donors have dropped out. Apparently, some donors, such as Poland Spring have been bought out by larger conglomerates and are no longer "local companies". Corrine asked who oversees looking for donations. Dave said it is mostly SWCD employees. Corrine also mentioned that the Lever Foundation might be a potential donor and Dave asked for her to send him some information and he would pass it on.

Dale Brewer asked how long the Envirothon had existed. Dave stated approximately since 1990. Dave also mentioned that the Maine team did very well last year.

A vote was taken to accept the motion to donate \$1500. The motion passed with no nay votes.

BUSINESS MEETING, ADOPTION OF NEW METHOD FOR IDENTIFYING HSG'S

Dave Marceau put a proposal on the table for adopting the method of using the Rhode Island Triangle as a method for determining Hydrologic Soil Groups for small scale on site investigations. Larger scale projects would still defer to NRCS soil series and the table in the NRCS Engineering Handbook.

There was a concern that with the triangle there was no distinction between sandy wet soils versus wet clay soils and that they would both be put into HSG group D, while the Engineering handbook would put the sandy soil in group B.

Another concern was that the "table" (Table 7.1 from NRCS Engineering Handbook), sometimes puts soil series into group B or C when they should really be in D.

A couple of people mentioned there is a problem with the top part of the R.I. triangle in that it seems to sometimes put both moderately well drained and somewhat poorly drained soils both in to Group D and that is inconsistent with the "table".

Tony made a motion that MAPSS use on-site designation of HSG for HISS mapping based on the R.I. triangle but modified with those less than 24" [to seasonal high water table or impermeable layer]. It was seconded by Rod Kelshaw. Andrew Carpenter asked who would make the modification? Dave Marceau stated that the triangle shouldn't be just for HISS. There was some general dislike for this motion as stated. Tony rescinded his motion, Rod was fine with this.

Corrinne Knapp made a motion that we accept the Rhode Island triangle as an option to use, with Table 7.1 from the Engineering Handbook also remaining an option. Dave Rocque seconded the motion. Dave Moyses stated that this establishes an additional standard of practice and allows for best professional judgment. A vote was taken. There was one nay vote, many yea votes. The motion passed.

Another motion was put on the floor that the MAPSS Technical Committee begin looking at adjusting the triangle to address some of the concerns in its deficiencies. The motion was seconded by Rod. The motion passed with no nays. Tony Jenkins agreed to be the chair of the Technical Committee.

BUSINESS MEETING, ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Election of Officers was presented by Anna Biddle. Sean Donohue was nominated as a Director. Roger St. Amand was nominated as Vice President, Corinne Knapp was nominated as Treasurer. No one wanted to take on Secretary, so Amy agreed to stay on one more year. Dave Marceau also agreed to stay on as President, though stated this would be his last year. No other nominations were made. Anna put forth the slate of officers as: President, Dave Marceau; Vice

President, Roger St. Amand; Treasurer, Corinne Knapp; Secretary, Amy Jones; Director, Sean Donohue. A motion was made to accept this slate of officers and seconded. The motion passed with no nay votes.

The meeting continued with several speakers/discussions:

- Andrew Hedrich, PE from Gartley and Dorsky Engineering and Survey provided a talk on the engineer's perspective on the problems with treating stormwater, the importance of HSG's, the problems with current stormwater permitting rules and the reasons why and how certain rule changes to stormwater buffers could improve buffer sizing and effectiveness.
- Dave Rocque, Maine State Soil Scientist discussed flaws in the current DEP methodology for determining stormwater vegetated buffer sizing that they (DEP) are aware of. He has developed a new methodology for determining vegetated stormwater buffers that he has submitted to the DEP. It combines some of the concepts of biofilters and vegetated buffers to provide quality control and smaller buffer requirements allowing it to be used more often. The DEP is currently considering the alternative approach. Also, he mentioned that he and others are currently working a separate alternative approach that is still a work in progress.
- Bruce Hoskins from the University of Maine Analytical Lab and Soil Test Service provided information on what types of analysis can and are being done at the lab.
- A panel discussion was held with Unity College students on Soil Science jobs.
- Andrew Carpenter, from Norther Tilth, discussed Nutrient Management Plans—how they are made and what they are used for.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amy Jones, Secretary