

## MINUTES

Society of Soil Scientists of Northern New England  
Winter Business Meeting  
Ashland Parks and Recreation Building – Ashland, New Hampshire  
February 11, 2011

In attendance were: Cindy Balcius, Jonathan Sisson, Timothy Winings, Gregory Howard, Jim Gove, Audra Klumb, James McMahon, Raymond Lobdell, Thomas Sokoloski, Peter Schauer, Joshua Brien, Joseph Noel, Jessica Philippe, Michael Cuomo, David Allain, Terry Ramborger, Thomas Carr, Timothy Ferwerda, James Long, Brian Tremback, Robert Colter, Joseph Homer, Thomas Villars, John Hayes, Gary Flaherty, Nicol Roseberry, Walter Polchlopek, Karen Dudley, Peter Whitcomb, Luke Powell, Gerald Rosenberg, Adam Doiron, Nancy Rendall, and Eric Fontaine.

The business meeting was called to order by President John Hayes at 12:45 pm.

John Hayes mentioned to everyone to remember to sign the roster for the business sign-in sheet and that it would be available on the website for downloading for CEU purposes.

### *Minutes – Summer Business Meeting – July 23, 2010*

Mike Cuomo made a motion to approve the minutes that were posted on the website with any necessary changes/corrections noted by the membership. This was seconded and approved by the membership.

### *Treasurer's Report*

Luke Powell, Treasurer/Membership Coordinator submitted a detailed report dated 12/31/2010 to the membership. Everyone at the meeting received a copy. The checkbook balance as of December 31, 2010 was \$2,773.26. This amount with the CD balance (as of 12/31/2010) of \$4,475.91 yields a grand total of \$7,249.17.

The membership summary and trends were also detailed by Luke.

### 2011 Membership Summary (2007 – 2009 included to show trends, 2011 as of 2-07-2011)

Membership Category	2007	2008	2009	<b>2010</b>	2011
Honorary	0	1	2	<b>2</b>	2
Active	56	39	44	<b>47</b>	19
Associate	4	5	5	<b>5</b>	3
Total	<u>60</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>51</u>	<b><u>54</u></b>	<u>24</u>

A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

## ***Newsletter***

John Hayes asked if the newsletter format submitted by Jessica Philippe was working well for the members. The membership is happy with the format and no changes are needed.

## ***NH Soil Judging***

Joe Homer notified the membership that the NH High School Soil Judging was cancelled this year. It was a difficult decision to make but due to the weather conditions (i.e., strong low front with high winds and heavy rain) and safety issues it had to be cancelled.

Joe Homer said SSSNNE has a tradition of providing help, which is always appreciated. Continued assistance for this years NH Soil Judging competition to be held on October 7, 2011 at Kingman Farm would be welcomed. Anyone interested can contact Joe.

Joe mentioned that any financial support from SSSNNE would also be appreciated. Jim Gove motioned to pledge \$125.00, which has been the amount given in past years. This motion was seconded and passed. Joe said that he will have Lisa Morin, on behalf of the Conservation District, officially request this donation.

## ***NH Envirothon***

Peter Whitcomb gave a description of the NH Envirothon. In addition to a soil section there will be a number of other categories, such as: forestry, wildlife, aquatics and current developments. Since there are only (3) NRCS Soil Scientists in New Hampshire there is certainly room for help from the SSSNNE membership. There would be a training day ahead of the event and those interested should contact Peter for more information.

Peter commented that each year Keene has a very strong team. Each year the winner gets to compete at the national level. Keene has made the top ten nationally. Funding for this competition is also limited due to economic times and any contribution from SSSNNE would be welcome. Mike Cuomo made a motion to support this event with a \$125.00 commitment. This was seconded and approved.

## ***Proposed Disturbed Soil Mapping Unit Supplement for NH AoT Site Specific Soils Maps***

John Hayes asked the membership for a discussion on Ray Lobdell's handout (*Draft Proposal 1/4/2011 Disturbed Soil Mapping Unit Supplement for AoT Site Specific Maps*) that was issued to the membership earlier in the day. Jim Gove made a motion to accept this document with the understanding that the edits and comments received earlier in the day during Ray's presentation would be incorporated. An edited version will be on the website for further membership review. Jim Gove's motion was seconded and approved by the membership.

### *Upcoming Workshop Ideas*

- From Karen Dudley's earlier presentation on the NEHSTC 2010 southern tour where a mucky versus mucky mineral field testing against lab data was one day of the two day tour. Some SSSNNE members felt this type of "test" would be a good workshop for the membership and other wetland scientists.
- Joe Homer also commented that the Cornell Soil Health talk by Karen Dudley is an exciting new topic. NH NRCS is applying this to its cooperative effort. The costs are is \$75.00 per test. A number of workshops will be put on through the extension service. The next one will be February 24, 2011 in Whitefield. Contact Joe Homer or Karen Dudley if you are interested. Although not related to site specific soil mapping, it is a topic with a lot of interest.
- Jamie Long (SSSNNE member and NHANRS Soil Chair) polled the membership on weekend versus week day workshops. The consensus was overwhelming to keep the workshops during the week.
- There was also interest from the floor regarding field visits to a disturbed site and review of map unit designations. This would enhance the classroom exercise that was covered by Karen Dudley and Peter Whitcomb in the workshop.
- Thom Villars suggested that SSSNNE consider a joint effort the SSSSNE (possible a more than 1-day event). This would focus on more regional topics that would be of interest to all (i.e., southern New England and northern New England). He suggested this be held at a location near the north-south line for equal convenience. Thom made a motion to hold such and event, which was seconded by Jim Gove and approved by the membership.

### *Nominating Committee*

John Hayes mentioned that the nominating committee (consisting of one member from each state) needed someone from New Hampshire. Ray Lobdell volunteered to fill that position. The 2011 nomination committee consists of: Thom Villars – VT, Ray Lobdell – NH, and Marc Jacobs – ME).

Greg Howard motioned to adjourn the meeting that was seconded and approved at 1:10 pm.

#### *Secretary's Note:*

The membership meeting was adjourned prior to the membership voting on the 2011 Board of Directors. From previous minutes the existing BOD is the following:

President - John Hayes Term (2010/2011)

Vice President - Karen Dudley Term (2010/2011)

Newsletter Editor - Jessica Philippe Term (2010/2011)

Treasurer - Luke Powell (Term was up will continue for Term 2011)

Secretary - Joe Noel (Term was up will continue for Term 2011)

All board members' terms will be up at the next winter meeting.

Respectively submitted on February 14, 2011 by Joe Noel, Secretary