

ORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONAL CONSORTIUM OF SOIL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

December 6, 2001

Minutes of Web Site Working Group Teleconference:

Participants: Tom Fenton, Steve Page, Ron Bauer, Jim Culver, Mark Kuzila, Margie Faber, Linda Bouc (recorder)

Jim: At the September teleconference we agreed to have a group work on developing the Web Page. Jim reviewed cover page for each society/association that has a web page. The URL for this National Consortium of Soil Science Association is soilsassociation.org. We still need some work on the cover page. We need someone to take the lead for each web site topic and to coordinate this for the web site.

Mark: Mark gave a brief background summary of the process used to get this web site established at the University of Nebraska. Duane Mohlman, Data Systems Coordinator at the Conservation and Survey Division worked to get the web site approved within the University of Nebraska system. Let Mark Kuzila know if you have trouble getting into the web site.

General discussion on cover for web site. Tom indicated recent changes in staff at Iowa State University presently limits their capacity to do creative web site covers. Jim: Cover page could include the Consortium's name and hot links to 10 or 12 items. Suggested options include a logo, abstract design, soil profiles or landscapes. Steve: Web-site design - suggest keeping it simple. Simplicity works. Consensus of Work Group is to keep it simple. Jim will coordinate with Ron and others at the NSSC to develop initial review drafts for a web page cover.

The following is discussion and recommendations of web site topics sent out for review prior to this teleconference: (copy of revised list of potential web site topics attached)

Topics

Introduction - Who we are. General Background Information. Brief introduction on first page then click on to go to a more in-depth description. Lead --Jim Culver, Tom Fenton, & Margie Faber.

Goals & Objectives - Done.

General Correspondence, Teleconferences, Minutes of Meetings, etc. Will review past communications to put on web site. Lead --Jim Culver, Linda Bouc & Ron Bauer

Membership -State Soil Societies/Associations and similar Organizations. Recommend having a list of each Society/Association and web sites where available. Also will have an official contact for each Society/Association and a list of officers such as President, Vice-President, Secretary, etc. Have list on server at UNL. Lead--Mark Kuzila

Current Events of What's New - To be Posted by All Organizations: Workshops, Field Trips, Upcoming Events, Educational Material, etc. Duane Mohlman would be the contact person to post these. Discuss the process of how this will be done when Ron, Jim, Mark and Duane meet in January.

State Soils - Link to NSSC home page. Lead – Ron Bauer

List of Congressional Contacts - Link to current Web-site for Congressman and Senators to provide information on the contacts and address of the elected public leaders in each state. Also have committees, such as, Agriculture Committee that could be listed. Are there certain issues to campaign for or against? Lead -- Jim Culver & Ray Sinclair.

Experiences in the Certification Process: North Dakota, Indiana and Texas are examples of states that have gone through the certification process. Some states were not successful. Could send out questionnaire to societies to see if they are certified, where they are in the certification process and what their experiences were. Lead -- Will have as an action item on next teleconference. Need to develop some basic working principles on how information will be put on web site before beginning this activity.

ARCPACS Certification - Background Information and List of those that are certified. Lead --Tom Fenton.

Consulting Services - Location of potential available consulting services. Reference to consulting soil scientists and the membership. Topic for next teleconference. Could have some of these topics discussed at state societies meetings. Lead --Jim Culver & Ron Bauer.

Newsletters Posted - Items or topics of interest sent in to be posted on national web-site. Or could list items or topics for the states and linked to their web site. Will the National Consortium have a Newsletter? Would be desirable to have a quarterly or semi-annual newsletter. Also can link to Soil Survey Horizons articles. Lead --Steve Page and Margie Faber. Steve: #5, #11 and #13 could be combined. Give Jim & Ron some ideas on how this web-site might be structured to discuss with Duane and Mark at their meeting in January.

Web Site Links to other sites: SSSA, SWCS, International Soil Science Society, Universities, Land Grant Colleges, etc. Ron put together a list of viable sites to link and e-mail to the group for discussion. Lead--Ron Bauer

National Cooperative Soil Survey Highlights: Could be under what's new and be linked to the NSSC web-site. Incorporate with number 5.

Contact People: Jim Culver initial contact on web-site.

General discussion on organizational structure. Presently, we have no organizational structure. Question was raised if there were going to be any officers or a board of trustees?

Margie: Would be desirable to have an organizational structure if we are to be successful. Need to have officers and several people involved rather than a few individuals trying to do everything. General consensus of group is to have some type of organizational structure. Will be the topic of future teleconference. Lead - Jim to set up teleconference sometime during the first three months of 2002.

Brief discussion on cost for web site and resources for a successful organization. Presently there are no plans to request funds or dues to assist in organizational operations. Mark indicated the Conservation and Survey Division will support this web site as part of their contribution to the National Cooperative Soil Survey.

We will want to post information on the Field Tours for the 2006 International Union of Soil Scientists (IUSS) Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Tom: At the S-5 Pedology Business Meeting in North Carolina Tom discussed and distributed handouts of the goals and objectives. Informed them to contact either Tom or Jim by email if they had any questions. S-5 Committee seemed fairly supportive. Put an article in Iowa's last newsletter. Would like to get some feedback from Iowa's society.

Ron: NSSC and Soil Survey Division web pages are being moved to the Web-farm in Fort Collins.

Jim: Horace Smith indicated that he would be supportive in keeping this going after he retires in January 2002.

Our next teleconference will be in January 2002.

UNITED STATES CONSORTIUM OF SOIL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

Web Site Items for Discussion ----

Who we are.

Goals and Objectives.

Membership: -- State Soil Societies/Associations and similar organizations. Includes available web sites and list of current year organizational officers.

Business Operations: Correspondence, teleconferences, minutes of meetings and etc.

Current Events or What's New.

- State Soils.
- List of Congressional contacts.
- Experiences in the Certification Process.
- PACS Certification: – Background information and list of those certified.
- AR
- Consulting Services.
- Web site links to other sites.
- Contact people for information about the United State Consortium of Soil Science Association.
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