

November 7, 2002, Cover letter and November 7, 2002, teleconference notes

To --- United States Consortium of Soil Science Associations Official Contacts

The United States Consortium of Soil Science Associations (USCSSA) hosted a teleconference on November 7, 2002. The minutes of this national teleconference are attached. We appreciate the excellent discussion and recommendations of those participating in the teleconference.

We ask that you share the minutes of this teleconference with other members of your organization as appropriate. These teleconference notes will be posted on the USCSSA web site -- <http://soilsassociation.org> under the heading "Organizational Operations".

Highlights:

Notes on soil science exhibit being planned at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History at Washington, D.C.

Need good potential photos for USCSSA brochure. Send hard copy or electronic copy to J4culver@aol.com or Jim Culver, 611 Jeffery Dr., Lincoln, NE 68505.

Membership update for USCSSA web site.

Best Regards,

Jim Culver, Advisory Group - USCSSA

UNITED STATES CONSORTIUM OF SOIL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS (USCSSA)

November 7, 2002, Teleconference

Participants: Jim Culver- USCSSA Advisory Group, Ron Bauer- USCSSA Advisory Group, Bob Kendall -National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists, Wayne Bachman- Professional Soil Scientists Association of South Dakota, Danny Lemaster- Association of Ohio Pedologists, Jon Brandt- Professional Soil Scientists Association of Texas, Charles Saari- Minnesota Association of Professional Soil Scientists, Tom Fenton- Professional Soil Classifiers of Iowa, Mark Kuzila- Nebraska Society of Professional Soil Scientists, Skip Bell- West Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists, Charlie Cail- Professional Soil Scientists Association of Oklahoma, Mark Silverman- Empire State Pedologists - New York, Daryl Brown- Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists, Margie Faber- Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England (includes the

states of Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island) and Association of Women Soil Scientists, John Warner- Kansas Association of Professional Soil Classifiers, Jim Ware- Soil Survey Division - NHQ (part-time), Duane Mohlman- USCSSA web site manager at Conservation and Survey Division - University of Nebraska (part-time), Linda Bouc - Administrative Management Assistant - NSSC (recorder).

Background Information and Agenda:

An e-mail message was sent to all Association/Society official contacts on 10-18-2002 setting up the date for this teleconference with suggested agenda items. This e-mail message requested suggested agenda items and confirmation of Society/Association participation in the teleconference. A number of excellent suggested agenda items were received.

One of the suggested agenda items was from Skip Bell, West Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists about the opportunity for the USCSSA to be involved in a soil science exhibit being planned at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History at Washington D.C. As a result of an e-mail note to Berman Hudson, Director of Soil Survey Division and Bob Ahrens, Director of National Soil Survey Center, Jim Ware who is the NHQ Soil Survey Division contact person on this soil science exhibit was able to productively participate in this teleconference.

The following agenda items sent to all Society/Association official contacts on 10-18- 2002 as a reminder of the teleconference.

1. Update and maintenance of our web site. We have received some excellent feedback on our USCSSA web site at <http://soilsassoication.org>
-- Lead: Jim Culver and Mark Kuzila
2. Results of registry/certification survey --Lead: Jim Culver
3. Organizational structure as described in Draft by-law's of USCSSA. ---- Margie Faber and All Participants
4. Preparation of an Informational Brochure. ---- All Participants
5. Potential participation in soil science exhibit at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History - Lead: Skip Bell, WV Assoc. of Professional Soil Scientists and Jim Culver
6. Potential activities of USCSSA --- All Participants
7. Brief summary of individual soil societies and associations activities -- All Participants

Teleconference Discussion:

Soil Science Exhibit at Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History

Jim: Discussion regarding the suggestion from Skip Bell about USCSSA

potential involvement in the soils exhibit at the Smithsonian Institute. Sent a note to Berman Hudson, Director, Soil Survey Division in NHQ, and Bob Ahrens, Director, National Soil Survey Center. We were informed that Jim Ware was doing the contact work on this activity.

Skip: The Soil Survey Division put a soils display together to represent the Centennial of soil survey. The display included 53 soil monoliths representing the state soils of all 50 states including Guam, Puerto Rico and Washington, DC. Now we are trying to find a place to permanently display these monoliths as a soil education exhibit. A design team including members of SSSA, Jim Ware, Forest Service, Department of Interior, and the Smithsonian are working on this. Fund raising will begin shortly. There will be a role in the future for each state's Society to get involved and sponsor their state's soil monolith. A proposal for cost for sponsorship would be about \$5,000. For more information on this, go to West Virginia's Association web page and choose the button that says to help expand Smithsonian exhibit.

Jim Ware: The role-out on this will be next week at SSSA meeting. On Monday afternoon there will be a get together and the Director of the exhibits of the Smithsonian and Barbara Stoffer will be present. They have come up with a design layout. After next week will start publicizing more. Plans are to have monoliths serve as foundation for soils exhibit. Cost to get these on display is approximately \$250 - \$350 thousand. This will be in conjunction with a current exhibit called "Forces of Change" that will be on display for a minimum of 5-8 years. These can be changed and added to depending on funding and public acceptance. There are between 6-9 million visitors that come through the Smithsonian on a yearly basis. As far as the fund-raiser, individuals can donate what they want and these are tax-deductible. State Societies play a tremendous role in this. After next week more information will be coming out. The donor's will be recognized with plaques that will be part of the exhibit at the Smithsonian. There are donation applications available. The area designated is between the IMAX theatre and the Hope Diamond. There is the possibility of handouts, brochures; whatever the Smithsonian is willing to have on display. There is a Visitors Center where they can buy souvenirs.

Margie: Can the information about donor levels be sent to the State Societies.

Jim Ware: Will get something out under Berman's signature to NCSS cooperators and also to the State Societies using the list of members that is posted on the web-site. Would like to have this donor information posted to web-site.

Action: Jim Ware will work with Jim Culver on this

Contact information for Jim Ware if you have any questions or comments.

Phone: 202-720-1808 or email: jim.ware@usda.gov

Jim: Need to continue discussion on our potential role in the Smithsonian display. Jim Ware indicated the SSSA and others will discuss this project next week during their annual meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Action: Will plan to arrange for a teleconference of the USCSSA Advisory Group and other interested people with Jim Ware following the SSSA meeting in Indiana.

Web Site Discussion:

Jim: Ron Bauer updates the membership lists on NSSC web-site, but this needs to be updated and he does not always receive these changes as they occur.

Ron: Our Soils Home Page within NRCS has been moved to web-farm in Fort Collins. The server for the Consortium home page is at UNL. Ron updates this and requests that all updates be sent in to Gary, so Ron can update this list as changes occur.

Jim: Suggested to Ron that the NRCS web-site link to the Consortium web site as this list be maintained. Some general discussion on the role of the USCSSA on maintaining a current list of officers. General feeling was that the USCSSA should maintain and keep this list current. Others such as the NSSC could easily link to the USCSSA site.

Tom: Indicated this would be a desirable procedure in keeping the USSCS list of officers current. This would result in only one list to maintain and keep current. USCSSA would have this responsibility. NRCS and others could link to the USCSSA web site for list of Society/Association officers.

Ron: Suggest to check with Gary on how he wants to handle this.

Action: Jim Culver will check with Gary and others as appropriate on agency policy on this.

Jim: Currently on the USCSSA web site only the officers and other leadership of the Society/Association are listed under the Web Site main heading - Membership. Should we change this to officers or just leave as membership of the society?

Duane: I have recently made some good improvements on the web-site where officers are broken out.

Jon Brandt: Could call it member organizations and this might clarify it.

Skip: Who makes corrections?

Jim: Most corrections come in to Jim, and then they forwarded to Duane at UNL.

Action: Send corrections for officers to Jim Culver.

Jim: What kind of process do we need for updating: quarterly, semi-annually, etc.?

Summary of general discussion of participants: Should be up to the state to make sure their list is current.

Ron: Suggest to have the time frame that the officer is serving. (No comments received)

Recommendation: Require changes once a quarter.

Action: Jim will send out note with guidelines and format suggestions that we would like to use to keep our membership lists current. A reminder will be sent each Quarter to inform the Societies/Associations about update of their officers.

Jim: Any comments on having a chat board or message board?

Margie: Tried this on Southern New England's web page, but no one appeared to use it.

Mark: Duane can set it up for a trial period. Message will be sent out that this is available. If not used, can remove it.

Bob: Currently have a discussion group on the National Association of Consulting Soil Scientist's web page and get a fair amount of participation on this. Could provide a link to this.

Jon: List server uses Yahoo group. This is a free service. The Texas Board of Geomorphologists is on line. Working to get this for soil scientists. Requirements are listed on our web page.

Action: Duane will put up a message board for a trial period -- about 6 months or so.

Jim: We have a link to state soils at NRCS. Profiles have been put on quite some time ago. Recent Planners (Calendars) of the NRCS have excellent soil profiles and landscapes of selected state soils. For the most part, these photos are much better quality than what is currently on the NRCS State Soils. It would be desirable to get the state soils updated on the NRCS web-site to match the

soils on the planners.

Action: Jim will contact Gary Muckel

Jim: One item on web-site is "What's New." This has not been very productive so far. Any comments or suggestions?

Mark Silverman: Have MO-12 newsletter that comes out electronically. Could have them send this to Jim or have a link to it.

Action: Mark will check on the possibility of linking to this.

Charlie: If you link back to the State's Society web-site this information is posted there.

Jim: Perhaps have a communications board to post or list these and their location. Have lists of all newsletters, they could click on what's new in that area.

Registry/Certification Survey:

Jim: Questionnaire was sent out to all Societies/Associations in May requesting a June 15, 2002 response. Quality responses were received from about 12 states on their experiences in registry and certification. These responses were summarized and sent out as information prior to this teleconference. Tom and several others indicated they could not open the excel file.

Action: Jim will follow up with Societies/Associations who have not responded to encourage information on their experiences in state certification. This additional information will be included with what has already been summarized and sent to all organizations. This summary and appropriate information will be posted on the USCSSA web site.

USCSSA By-Laws Draft:

Jim: By-laws draft prepared by working group on organization structure was attached to agenda items. Comment: Several recommendations of the working group were not included in this draft i.e. The name of our organization will use "Associations" rather than "Association". This is a recommendation of the working group with input from editors Stan Anderson - NSSC and Pattie West, MO office.

Margie: Did another update with changes. Under Article 2 - Purpose - have changed association to consortium.

Jim: The Council would consist of two people from each region. Even years they would meet with regional work planning conference. Odd years they would

meet with Soil Science Society of America.

Jim: Do bylaws, goals and objectives go under one heading on the UCSSA web site?

Action: Margie will send comments to Jim on changes to the By-laws. By-laws will be sent to all organizations and posted on USCSSA web site.

Information Brochure:

Jim: I have prepared a rough draft outline for a USCSSA brochure. This draft is modeled after one prepared by the Soil & Water Resource club at the University of Nebraska. The Soil & Water Resource Club did a brochure with sections on Purpose, Benefits, Activities, and Membership. The brochure included photos showing interstate type field studies, etc. We need a few good photos from the USCSSA membership to use in preparing this brochure.

Some general discussion on who would help in preparing the final draft and where would the brochure be printed?

Mark: Would be willing to help get it printed. The photos should show people working with soils. Include an annual tour or meeting with people in photo. Artwork, also. Then will decide on number of copies.

Action: State Societies/Associations to send Jim Culver either electronically or hard copy of photos with people involved in field activities or special meetings that could be used in this brochure.

Question: Could this be incorporated with the exhibit at the Smithsonian? Yes!!!

Potential Activities for Consortium:

Jim: In 2006 there will be an International Meeting of Soil Scientists in Pennsylvania. They will have both pre- and post- field tours.

Action: Send any suggestions on potential activities to Jim.

Brief Summary of Soil Societies/ Associations Activities:

Bob: National Association of Consulting Soil Scientists has been in existence for about 15 years. Focusing on education, public and regulatory agencies. Pursuing licensing, certification and sharing with other states. Web-site updated monthly. Information on this regarding different states efforts. Annual meeting is scheduled for February 6-8, 2003 in Orlando, Florida.

Margie: The Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England is meeting

tonight. We have two field meetings. One is called Back to Basics. They now want to have a more advanced course. A CD-ROM of soils information was given to attendees. These CD's may be distributed further. We would like to share with other groups. Not sure how we will market it. The Society of Women Soil Scientists is meeting during the SSSA meetings next week in Indianapolis. Margie will pass along information gathered today.

John: The Kansas Society of Soil Scientists held their annual meeting in April. We are trying to get back to basic and change how we do things. Would like to have more field trips and get more involved with college students. Willing to have a spring or summer field. Some discussion and interest in another interstate field trip with the Nebraska Society of Professional Soil Scientists.

Charles: Minnesota Association of Professional Scientists (MAPS) has been around since 1974. Summer tour was in Southwest Minnesota. Looked at soils landscapes. Winter meeting is on December 6 in St. Cloud. Topic is to be forensic soil scientists. We currently have 110 members.

Mark: Empire State Pedologists had their annual fall meeting at Minor Institute. It is an Ag Research Facility connected to Cornell and Ag Schools in Vermont. We did get back to basic soil describing concentrating on infiltration. Also had election of new officers. Will send changes to Gary and Jim. Have about 15 interns that have 10-15 week courses. They came out when we had the pits open and they thoroughly enjoyed it. Will get pictures to Jim.

Danny: Association of Ohio Pedologists started in 1976. Have been trying to get certification and now have members certified. Helped sponsor several meetings in state. Currently have 75 members.

Charlie: Professional Soil Scientists Association of Oklahoma had their annual meeting three weeks ago. Approximately 30 members were in attendance. New information on officers has been sent to Jim. Sponsoring an environthon in Oklahoma as well and a land judging contest in May.

Wayne: Professional Soil Scientists Association of South Dakota was started in 1974. Have two meetings a year. Hold an indoor meeting in March, then for our summer meeting we go out to the field. Had a tour of Eros Data Center meeting with different scientists who gave us information on what they are working on. Have web-site. Provide a scholarship each year. Check web-site for South Dakota Society information.

Skip: West Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists annual meeting was in June and part technical and part social. Had a white water raft trip and looked at soils and landforms in the river gorge. Helped sponsor joint meeting with Soil Conservation Agency, NRCS. Soil judging team and land judging activities. Raise resources through dues.

Mark: Reporting for Nebraska Society of Professional Soil Scientists. Need to have Earl involved as he is the President. The Society was started in early 70s. Recently had a field trip. Earl was going to contact Kansas for a joint meeting.

Brief general discussion: Dues for the Consortium. Presently there are no dues. Dues are an opportunity to raise funds for projects such as a brochure, science exhibits, etc. Some Societies/Associations have indicated they would pay dues to support these kinds of activities. Will probably be discussed again --- in the future.