

March 11, 2004 Teleconference

Chair: Jim Culver

Participants:

- Jim Culver- USCSSA Advisory Group
- Luis Hernandez - Nebraska Society of Professional Soil Scientists
- Ron Bauer – USCSSA Advisory Group
- Bruce Williams-Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists
- Terry Arroues- Professional Soil Scientists Association of California
- Kevin McSweeney- SSSA Smithsonian Soils Exhibit Coordinator
- Ron Kuehl-Florida Association of Environmental Soil Scientists
- Dan Shurtliff-Professional Soil Scientists Association of South Dakota
- Darwin Newton- Soil Scientists Association of Tennessee
- Mike Singer-SSSA Past President
- Mark Silverman-Empire State Pedologists
- Tom Fenton-Professional Soil Classifiers of Iowa
- Chad McGrath- Oregon Society of Soil Scientists
- Valerie Bruening-Director of Development and Membership of SSSA
- Luther Smith-Executive Director of Certification Programs, ASA-CSSA,SSSA
- Margie Faber- Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England
- Tom Sims-SSSA President, Jane Anklam- Wisconsin Society of Professional Soil Scientists
- Delany Johnson-Professional Soil Classifiers Association of Mississippi
- Bill Pauls-Missouri Association of Professional Soil Scientists
- Ellen Bergfield-NHQ, Linda Bouc (recorder)

Mark Bramstedt- Illinois Soil Classifiers Association, Roger Berggren and Suzanne D'Souza - Minnesota Association of Professional Soil Scientists tried but were unable to join the teleconference because of our oversight in provided incorrect call in number in the original conference information. Our sincere apologize to Mark, Roger and Suzanne.

Agenda Items sent our prior to teleconference:

1. Briefing and discussion on State Soils -- Smithsonian Soils Exhibit project.
Lead: Valerie Breuning, Director of Development for SSSA and Tom Sims President of SSSA.
2. USCSSA - SSSA plans for joint activities such as. "Roundtable" at the ASA-CSSA-SSSA meetings in Seattle, Washington this fall. Lead: Tom Sims,

Tom Fenton, Professional Soil Classifiers of Iowa and Jim Culver.

3. Information about a national survey of professional soil scientists. Lead Margie Faber, Soil Scientist, Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England.
4. Changes in SSSA lead for soil certification and ARCPACS use in state legislation/regulations. Lead: Luther Smith, Executive Director of Certification Programs, ASA-CSSA,SSSA.
5. Discussion of USCSSA Council Membership participation in the 2004 Regional National Cooperative Soil Survey Conferences. Lead: Jim Culver.
6. Brief summary of individual soil societies and associations activities – All Participants

Discussion during teleconference:

1 -- Briefing and discussion on State Soils -- Smithsonian Soils Exhibit project.

Valerie-SSSA: Goal for Smithsonian is 1-3 million dollars. Working on exhibit for monoliths. Curriculum exhibit at \$370,000. Short-term goal is to reach \$400,000. Will have enough money to hire a design firm for what the exhibit will look like. Would like to schedule this meeting in June. Get States to go in their individual direction. Have a committee together that includes H.H. Chen, Kevin McSweeney, and Patrick Drohan. Still looking for liaisons for Alaska, Arizona, Washington DC, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont and Wisconsin. Asking for names. They can be emailed to Valerie at vbreunig@agronomy.org.

Luis-NE: Asked if there have representation for Puerto Rico.

ACTION: Kevin McSweeney will follow-up on Puerto Rico.

Comment: Government is interested in who is supporting this and would like to have a list of committee members and liaisons.

Bill-MO: Need to get Valerie in touch with Mrs. Jones. There is a possibility of an increase of funds. Went to State committee two weeks ago with our state soil. Chairman of the Ag Committee is sponsoring it. This project has helped us along with this.

Kevin-WI: Contacted state chapter of SWCS. Wisconsin will provide \$500 to help defray costs of people involved in the campaign. For each state – any individual or entity donating \$1,000 or

more will get their name on the monolith. Suggest approaching Ag organizations, etc., for donations.

Bruce-PA – Had a golf outing. Received over \$1,000 from this golf outing and miscellaneous contributions. Touching base with some of these other Ag organizations for contributions.

Kevin-WI: The more we can demonstrate support, more dollars can be raised. Every donation counts.

Dan-SD: We sent out a direct mailing and are building a list of Ag organizations. We put together texture and sampling kits for sale at \$25.00 apiece and received about \$1,600 from these sales.

Jim: State Organizations having a Web-site are encouraged to post different activities going on within the states about raising money. Encourages states soil societies/associations contact the USCCA web site in posting what they are doing to raise donations supporting the State Soil Monoliths. An excellent way to share information with others. Banks and other lending organizations – are also good potential for donations.

Valerie-SSSA: Would like committee members and co-chairs names to add to database for future mailings, such as thank you notes, etc. Valerie offered to participate in any teleconferences among states.

2. -- USCSSA - SSSA plans for joint activities such as. "Roundtable" at the ASA-CSSA-SSSA meetings in Seattle, Washington this fall.

Tom-SSSA: The Roundtable was very successful at the SSSA Meetings in Denver, Colorado. Discussing the possibility of doing this again at the SSSA Meetings in Seattle. Considering coordinating and reevaluating the strategic plan for the Soil Science Society of America. Discussion on further direction on how SSSA can assist practicing soil scientists on certification. Need to decide if we want to have a roundtable discussion again and what topics we would want discussed.

Jane-WI: Sat in on roundtable discussion in Denver and think we should continue with this, as there is considerable confusion among soil scientists on the certification process.

Kerry-CA: Attended the SSSA Meetings in Denver also and agree to focus on this issue as well as accessory issues that should be discussed as well.

Tom-SSSA: Need to follow-up on a tour that could be tied to a session at the meetings on how a soil scientist would deal with this problem. At the session we could discuss solutions.

Jim: Include some things in a poster session, including Smithsonian and what soil scientists are working on.

Tom-SSSA: Will work on getting this on the program. Will draft tentative program and send out to group for comments.

Tom-IA: Need to contact State Soil Scientists early so their staff will have added incentive to attend the meetings.

Tom-SSSA: Targeted people on a SSSA mailing list and others and sent mailing to those within driving distance for the meetings in Denver. Propose to do this for the meetings in Seattle.

Jim: Last year Maury Mausbach, Deputy Chief of Soil Survey and Resource Assessment, sent a letter to the NRCS State Conservationists encouraging them to send at least one soil scientist from their state SSSA meetings in Denver, CO. Suggest this be done again this year to encourage attendance of NRCS field soil scientists at the SSSA annual meetings in Seattle, WA this fall.

Chad-OR: Washington, Oregon and Idaho are going to encourage as many of their field soil scientists as they can to attend.

3. -- Information about a national survey of professional soil scientists.

Margie-CT: Received feedback and added to questionnaire. The questionnaire is done and is being reviewed by Sarah at SSSA and will be put in format and posted online. Results will be captured and tallied digitally. Can have link and introductory paragraph out to as many people as possible. SSSA will put on web-site. Will go in SSSA News. Need to get word out on this questionnaire and will have available for two-three months. Will check with Sarah on the cost. Will check to make sure it can be submitted only once per person.

Bruce-PA: The listing with this group would at least be an initial attempt to notify them of the questionnaire.

Ellen Bergfield - NHQ. Single computer per questionnaire. There is a yearly fee for Boomerang, so there would not be any additional cost as it has already been paid. Single person can only submit one time per computer.

Bill-MO: Can this be linked per association web-site to be accessed directly from SSSA and also Consortium web-site.

Luther-SSSA: This questionnaire needs to be linked directly to SSSA.

4. - Changes in SSSA lead for soil certification and ARCPACS use in state legislation/regulations.

Luther-SSSA: Discussed ARCPACS. Spent a month of collecting information. Information gathered from states is that they have used it, but that it is not consistent. In the process now of reviewing data. This has helped us determine where it is in the states, and what our opportunities are. Still in discussion and research mode. Tell them to use the title of the certification.

5 -- Discussion of USCSSA Council Membership participation in the 2004 Regional National Cooperative Soil Survey Conferences.

Jim: The National Cooperative Soil Survey has recently added 1890 College and Tribal College to the membership of the NCSS Steering Committee. Would Consortium/SSSA want to be a member of the NCSS Steering Committee? The Chair of the Steering Committee is the Director

of the Soil Survey Division. This might be a good stroke of business. The Steering Committee also includes six representatives from NRCS, one from U.S Forest Service, one from Bureau of Land Management, National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists and a University representative from each of the four Regions. The Steering Committee generally meets during the SSSA meeting in the fall.

ACTION: Jim will visit with Mike Golden for feedback.

Mike-SSSA: Not sure how you would choose a person. Most Universities are official cooperators.

Jim: Our by-laws say that we have two groups. One is the Council and the other is the Advisory Group. The Council consists of two representatives from each of the four regions. The Regional conferences are meeting this summer. The State hosting the conference would have a representative as well as the State who hosted the conference in the region the last time.

6 -- Brief summary of individual soil societies and associations activities – All Participants

Chad-OR: Had our Oregon Soil Scientist Association meeting two weeks ago. Trying to build momentum for the Smithsonian project. Planning our summer meeting tour. Date not set yet. Will encourage soil scientists to attend SSSA meetings in Seattle.

Kerry-CA: Sent out mailer to PSSAC members and included a soils planner, a brochure from the Consortium, and a Soils Sustain Life brochure. Included information regarding the Smithsonian exhibit. Need about \$1,800 or so more to reach our goal. Have concerned individuals concerning ARCPACS.

Ron-FL: Have raised about \$7,200 dollars from members of the Consortium. Having annual Hydric Soils Workshop next week. Mary Collins is chair of a committee looking at undergraduate education to identify needs for soil scientists and on how Universities can attract undergraduates. If anyone has any input, please let Mary know by email – mec@mail.ifas.ufl.edu

Tom-IA: Having spring meeting April 3, 2004, discussing the Smithsonian project. A Committee has been formed. This year hosting the Soil Science Institute II which is a four-week course starting mid-May ending mid-June.

Bill-MO: Went down to Legislature and testified. Also raised last \$2,300 for the Menfro monolith. Trying to raise additional funds for the greater project. Our Missouri Association shirts and hats were handed out as freebies when donations were received. Float trip scheduled in August and ballgame in Kansas City this summer. Dr. Scribner and Dr. Renner received special awards for their long term excellent contribution to Missouri Cooperative Soil Survey Program. Certification committee is interested in the ARCPACS discussion. Appreciate this forum.

Luis: Last month held winter meeting with about 35 members participating. Smithsonian exhibit agreed to donate \$1,000 and now have about \$3,000. Continuing to look for other potential donors. Local newspaper is providing information to readers on donating to this exhibit.

Mark-NY: Had fall meeting. Tour of old Love Canal site near Niagara Falls in Buffalo. Looked at sinking houses in suburbs of Niagara Falls. Quite a number of homes in this development are sinking. No meeting scheduled for spring, but hope to have one this summer. No current information as far as fundraising for Smithsonian.

Bruce-PA – Held annual business meeting last December. Was voted again as President. Held session on soil/water management. Follow-up with technical session on storm water management. Working at getting our state soil legislated. Continuing on raising funds for Smithsonian exhibit. Involved with plans and field trip for World Congress in 2006.

Dan-SD: Annual business tomorrow. Sent out direct mailing on Smithsonian Soils Exhibit. Should have enough to send in down payment toward our 10,000. Will be discussing this and hosting soils judging in the Black Hills in 2005. Part of our summer meeting will be choosing sites for the soil-judging contest.

Jane-WI: Working raising funds for the Smithsonian. Making sure soil scientists across the state can participate in the survey.

Margie-CT, MA, RI: Will hold spring workshop in late May. Planning this as a fundraiser for the Smithsonian. We are about a third of the way for the CT monolith. Many members are renewing their memberships. Currently have about 210 members.

Mike-SSSA: Appreciate everyone's effort and time they have put into the Smithsonian project.

Delaney-MS: We have some good ideas for fundraising. The South Regional Work Planning Conference will be in Biloxi, Mississippi. Will have summer meeting in July. Working on fund raising.

Teleconference adjourned about 11:00 a.m.