

February 16, 2006, Agenda, Discussion and Recommendations of the Teleconference

Minutes of the United States Consortium of Soil Science Associations (USCSSA) Teleconference on February 16, 2006.

Participants:

- Tom Fenton - Professional Soil classifiers of Iowa
- Bruce Putman - Illinois Soil Classifiers Association
- Dena Marshall - Association of Women Soil Scientists and Indiana Association of Professional Soil Classifiers
- Fred Gilbert - Empire State Pedologists
- Cathy McGuire - Arizona Soil Scientists
- Lee Sommers - International Union of Soil Science (IUSS) & Soil Science Society of America (SSSA)
- Caryl Radatz - Missouri Association of Professional Soil Scientists
- Lois Peterson - IUSS
- John Havlin - SSSA
- Paul Kamps - SSSA
- Jim Cooper - Florida Association of Environmental Soil Scientists
- Bruce Willman - Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists
- B. J. Shoup - New Mexico Association of Professional Soil Scientists
- Luther Smith - SSSA
- Larry Edland - Professional Soil Classifiers Association of North Dakota
- Margie Faber - Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England
- Chad McGrath - Oregon Society of Soil Scientists
- Susan Chapman - SSSA
- Randy Johnson - Professional Soil Scientists Association of Oklahoma
- Fran Nealman
- Jim Culver - USSCSA Advisory Group
- Judy Kisch, Administrative Assistant and Volunteer Coordinator at National Soil Survey Center.

An agenda was sent out to all official contacts and officers of the state and national soil societies/associations prior to the teleconference. The teleconference began at 10:00 am and ended about 11:25 AM Central time.

The following are the agenda items and discussion of each agenda item:

1 --World Congress of Soil Science meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, July 9-15, 2006 - Lee Sommers, Susan Chapman and John Havlin - SSSA.

Lee Sommers and Larry Wilding, are co-chairs of Executive Program Committee. Final announcement is out; let Lee know if you haven't received it. Changes are posted on the web site. They are in the process of finalizing the program. Eighty-three symposia will be offered; 2,700 plus abstracts were submitted. E-mails were sent to all authors indicating the status of abstracts. Symposia are scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, tours will begin on Wednesday.

February 1, 2006 was the deadline for signing up for tours. Did not have a good response so majority of the tours will be cancelled. Two that will be held are: Acid Sulfate tour before the meetings - tour guide is Del Fanning and the Post Congress tour in Alaska - tour guide is Chien Lu Ping. All others are cancelled. One hundred percent refund will be given. Registration through May 1 is \$550; after that it increases to \$650.

An Executive Committee meeting will be held this weekend in Philadelphia to finalize arrangements for meeting rooms, reception rooms, and all other details. Graduate students from Penn State and the University of Delaware are helping. This time next week everything will be finalized. The last time the World Congress was held in the United States was in 1960 when it was held in Madison, Wisconsin. Four years from now it will be held in Australia and four years after that it will probably be held in Seoul, Korea. A couple hundred people are registered at this time. It is expected that the majority will register the last week in April. All information is on the web site. You may register on line, pay for tours, etc. Philadelphia was selected because of the excellent transportation and accommodations the city has to offer. There will be a good number of excellent one day bus tours on Wednesday of the meetings.

2 -- Status of the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit and fund raising activities. Paul Kamps SSSA and All participants.

Paul Kamps: Approximately 1 million dollars has been raised thus far from individual contributions, society members and government agencies. The total cost for the entire project is about 4 million dollars. We need 2 1/2 million dollars by December 2006. This will pay for the state soil monoliths and exhibits that occupy about 5,000 square feet of space.

States are making excellent progress on contribution toward the 10,000 dollars for their individual state soil monolith display. About 21 states have made or exceed their 10,000 dollars and 8 other states are over the 50 percent mark. Some areas such as Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands are presenting challenges in raising the 10,000 dollars.

Next big effort is to get significant contribution from private industry, foundations and major companies – mostly agri related. We have had good initial meetings with several major companies – just beginning that phase.

The SSSA has prepared an excellent DVD 2-minute entitled “Now’s the Time! Substance of Life Soil” for distribution and use in meetings and etc. There have been seventy five to eighty requests for the DVD – suggested donation is \$100. The second phase is to target corporations or foundations in mining, oil, wine producing, paper products, warehouses, agriculture, chemical companies, fertilizer companies, etc. Packets of information have been put together in paper and electronic format. Let Paul know if you want a packet. His number is 608-268-4975 or pkamps@soils.org .

We will advertise and give exposure as a full page ad in the directory of AGI and GeoTimes in April and October. The Missouri monolith is up and operational at the Museum of Natural History. The Smithsonian offers excellent recognition opportunities. The exhibit is scheduled for 2008-2010; the monoliths will stay up longer than the two years since they are the permanent part of the exhibit (permanent in museum terms means 7-8 years beyond the closing of the other parts of the exhibit). Third phase is the tour (the traveling exhibit).

Dena reported the Indiana science teachers have a yearly convention; and information has been given to them so that hopefully they will become involved with raising funds. The Indiana classifiers are trying to push and get more of the conservation districts informed Paul participated in the NACD held their national meeting in Houston last month, and they are quite supportive in varying degrees depending on funds available. The main focus this year has to be on targeting major companies, corporations and foundations.

3-- State Certification, Licensing of soil scientist’s progress and opportunities for certification of soil disciplines in planning/land use decisions. Luther Smith – SSSA and Tom Fenton – Professional Soil Classifiers of Iowa.

Luther Smith: We started a concerted effort in the fall. We have visited several states and asking them to look at licensing and certification. We are helping them get started. Washington State started about a year and half ago. Georgia has made excellent progress but is now waiting for the governor to act. There is an SSSA grant program that will provide up to 5000 dollars for licensing as a way to get things started. Very political topic – states need to know when the political climate is right – may not be good this year but will be next year. Florida had the most interest in certification. Ohio is looking at the certification program - they don’t currently use the exam. Iowa doesn’t have that many soil scientists. Tom Fenton wanted to know if there were any other groups that might want to join

them. The geologists in Iowa are not interested. Geologists in other states have assumed partnership with soil scientists. It was suggested that perhaps Soil and Water Conservation District people might be interested. It takes time to get legislation through. The legislature in Pennsylvania does not want any more licensing bills entered.

4 -- USCSSA web site updates. Jim Culver and all participants.

Major effort is underway to update and get current officers and contact people for each soil society and association that are listed under "Membership & Officers on the USCSSA web site. This is important as the USDA soils web site at <http://soils.usda.gov> links to this section for those individuals who want to know who are the officers of individual soils organizations such as the Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England or the Association of Women Soil Scientists. Also it would be desirable for the USCSSA to have quality information available for those interested people attending the World Congress of Soil Science.

Good progress is being made in population of a new section "Members Meetings". This section list the times and kinds of meeting each soil society/association normally have each year. This was developed to assist SSA and others who wish to schedule time in working with states during their meetings and field trips.

There has been some positive interest in adding a section the USCSSA web site entitled: "In Memoriam" to recognize people who have contributed to soil science through the years. Several other organizational newsletters and etc do this i.e. SWCS, CSA, and ARSCSE. Will plan to add this to the USCSSA web site and let states know this acknowledgement is available.

5 -- Improved Communications - Societies/Associations who use e-mail group lists to send information to their members. Jim Culver & All participants.

Thirty-five different organizations have web sites. We should strive to get more societies and organizations to develop an e-mail group of their members so that we can get timely information to more people. Several of the state soils organization indicated they have a group e-mail list of their membership and can quickly get out information to all members who have e-mail addresses.

All States will be encourage to have an e-mail group list that can be used to effectively keep soil scientist abreast and be able to react to important soil issues.

6 -- Elections for officers of the divisions and commissions of the International Union of Soil Science (IUSS). Lois Peterson - IUSS & Lee Sommers.

Lois Peterson: Election for the officers of the divisions and commissions of the International Union of Soil Science were recently completed. Elections were open to all soil scientists in the United States. Lois provided the USCSSA web site information that was sent out encouraging all members of the USCSSA to vote. John Sparks is our president and Gary Peterson is the vice president. The year 2008 will be celebrated as the International Year of the Planet Earth. We need to tie the Smithsonian exhibit together with this.

7 -- Follow up on "Meeting the Needs of Professional Soil Scientists Survey of 2004". Margie Faber - Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England and others.

Margie Faber: It is time to decide if we need to do something more on this; we haven't for awhile. I need to review what the top survey items were and see if they were addressed yet. There is a need for more technical journals of interest to those that are not in the academic community. What are your ideas of what we can do?

Culver: Take the exhibit/display to Philadelphia? Would that help? Trying to get something together for Indianapolis. Expand for New Orleans in 2007.

8 -- Report of soil societies/associations current activities.

Kathy in Arizona - Arizona chapter of SWCS will be hosting the national meetings in 2007. Good accomplishments in support for Smithsonian Soils Exhibit.

Margie in New England - Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. The society is planning several field trips, workshops this summer. Over 200 soil scientists are listed on the website. Lots of interest in the new updated web soil survey.

Jim Cooper in Florida - working closely with getting state certification - hydric soil workshop scheduled in April.

Bruce Putman in Illinois - Classifiers Association president. Have soil classifiers certification program with 45 active certified professional soil classifiers that are certified through ISCA. The certified soil classifier is recognized in the state health code. There is an Illinois soils website.

Dena Marshall in Indiana- Soil classifiers talked about the Smithsonian venture. They are focusing on the Smithsonian exhibit and looking for ways to become more involved. They have a registration program in Indiana.

Tom Fenton in Iowa - Met the goal for the Smithsonian and are still working. We lost our president who moved to Indiana.

Carol Radatz in Missouri - The Missouri Association of Professional Soil Scientists has recently Honor individuals for lifelong achievements to soil science.

BJ Shoot in New Mexico - not a lot going on; we are struggling for membership. Annual meeting coming up in March. Some discussion with Katy in Arizona on some potential opportunities on joint field trips.

Fred Gilbert in New York - Annual meeting was held in December at Cornell. Dick Arnold was there, as well as Dr. Martin Cline who is about 95 years old. Dr. Richard Shaw is the new president. He is in charge of the soil survey of New York City. Certification and registration activities - tried to get licensing 3-4 years ago - state only interested if it is a money making business. There is an issue with licensing of land surveyors in the state.

OK - Talking about having meetings more centralized so that more people show up. Student chapter starting at Oklahoma State University. Approved seven new members at the last meeting. Fund raising up to 4000 dollars.

Bruce Willman in Pennsylvania - We're starting our 31st year. A number of our members are assisting in conference tours during the World Congress of Soil Science meetings. Our poster display will be set up at the Congress. Continue education, code of ethics.

John Havlin - Fundraising strategy for Smithsonian exhibit - now going after resources, corporations, etc. Ten thousand dollars is to support the soil monoliths. Need to support the traveling exhibit. The next strategy is to work with corporate and industry contacts on a local effort for the larger dollars.