

**February 20, 2003, Agenda, attachment (2003 council officers), cover letter and minutes of February 20, 2003, teleconference.**

**USCSSA February 20, 2003 Teleconference -- Agenda and Background Information sent to all societies and associations.**

**Official United States Consortium of Soil Science Associations (USCSSA) contacts and other interested people.**

Attention --- Agenda for USCSSA National Teleconference

Scheduled Time:

The teleconference will be Thursday, February 20, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. Central Time. Expected duration of teleconference is one to one and one-half hours.

Call in Information:

Call in telephone number is 712-247-1904.

Participants Passcode is 294521.

Agenda Items include:

1. Review of November 7, 2002 teleconference recommendations. Lead: Jim Culver
2. National Soil Survey Center link to USCSSA web site for Societies/Associations contacts. Lead: Gary Muckel, NSSC
3. Briefing and discussion of Smithsonian Institute Soils Exhibit. Lead: Jim Ware, Soil Survey Division- NRCS and Valerie Breuning, Director of Development for SSSA
4. Status of USCSSA brochure preparation. Lead: Jim Culver
5. Discussion of USCSSA Council Membership and potential meeting for 2003. All Participants (See attached review draft)
6. Review of Certification Questionnaire responses and discussion of certification. Lead: Jim Culver and all participants
7. Brief summary of individual soil societies and associations activities -- All Participants

The attached document is for your information and discussion during the teleconference.

Review Draft of Potential USCSSA Council Membership

Thanks for your continued assistance and plans to participate in this teleconference.

We are looking forward to an informative productive teleconference.

Jim Culver, Advisory Group Member  
e-mail: [j4culver@aol.com](mailto:j4culver@aol.com)

**REVIEW DRAFT: (Attachment to agenda of USCSSA teleconference of 2-20-2003) USCSSA COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP FOR CALENDER YEAR 2003**

Recommended membership for calendar year 2003 of Council of United States Consortium of Soil Science Associations (USCSSA) based on by-laws:  
Reference- See by-law's on web site of USCSSA at <http://soilsassociation.org>

**Northeast Region**

Empire State Pedologists (2002 host state\*) -- 1 year membership Official  
Contact: Mark Silverman  
[mark.silverman@ny.usada.gov](mailto:mark.silverman@ny.usada.gov)  
[oosoilman@aol.com](mailto:oosoilman@aol.com)  
ESP/Suite 57  
100 Saratoga Village Blvd.  
Malta, New York 12020 President – Fred Gilbert

West Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists - -(2004 host state) -- 2  
year membership  
Official Contact: Skip Bell, Secretary - Treasurer  
1446-2 Edwin Miller Blvd.  
Martinsburg, WV 25401  
E-mail: [skip.bell@wv.usda.gov](mailto:skip.bell@wv.usda.gov)  
President - Ron Estep  
USDA-NRCS  
Moorefield, WV 25526  
Office phone - 304-538-7583  
E-mail: [restep@hardynet.com](mailto:restep@hardynet.com)

**North Central Region**

Wisconsin Society Professional Soil Scientists (2002 host state) -- 1 year  
membership Official Contact and President:  
Leroy Jansky, President E-mail: [ljansky@aol.com](mailto:ljansky@aol.com)

Indiana Association of Professional Soil Classifiers (2004 host state -- 2 year  
membership  
Official contact and President: Steven L. Wade, President  
289Bstreet NW  
Linton, Indiana 47441  
Phone: 812-847-8142  
E-mail: [swade@osmre.gov](mailto:swade@osmre.gov)

## **South Region**

Georgia Soil Classifiers Association (2002 host state) -- 1 year membership

Official contact:

Gail Meads, Secretary/Treasurer

PO Box 1821

Athens, GA 30603

E-mail: [gm@plantationcable.net](mailto:gm@plantationcable.net)

President – G. H - (Sam) Asady

Professional Soil Classifiers Association of Mississippi -- (2004 host state -- 2 year membership

Official Contact:

Robert Wimbish, Secretary/Treasurer

2655 Traceland Drive

Tupelo, MS 38801

E-mail: [rwimbish@ms.nrcs.usda.gov](mailto:rwimbish@ms.nrcs.usda.gov)

President - Delmer Stamps

Delta RGNL Wetland Team

P.O.Box 1967 Room 203

Vicksburg, MS 39180

E-mail: [dstamps@ms.nrcs.usda.gov](mailto:dstamps@ms.nrcs.usda.gov)

## **West Region\*\***

Oregon Society of Soil Scientists -- 2 year membership

Wyoming -- Currently no state soils society/association(2004 host state -- 2 year membership

\*\*West Region membership will need to select among there soils societies/associations who will represent the west Region for Calendar year 2003.

\*Host state for Regional National Cooperative Soil Survey Conference

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

The United States Consortium of Soil Science Associations (USC SSA) hosted a teleconference on February 20, 2003. The minutes of this national teleconference are attached. We appreciate the good turn out, excellent discussion and recommendations of teleconference participants.

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. Excellent discussion lead by Jim Ware, Soil Survey Division and Valerie Breunig, SSSA highlights.
- Progress on USCSSA brochure.
- Plans for national meeting of USCSSA Council, Advisory Group and other interested people at November SSSA meeting in Denver.

Best Regards,  
Jim Culver, USCSSA Advisory Group

**UNITED STATES CONSORTIUM OF SOIL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS**  
Teleconference - February 20, 2003

**Participants:**

- Jim Culver- Advisory Group
- Earl Lockridge-Nebraska Society of Professional Soil Scientists
- Bob Eppinette-Soil Science Society of South Carolina
- Lester Bushue-Illinois Soil Classifiers Association
- Steve Campbell-Oregon Society of Soil Scientists
- Bruce Willman-Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists
- Jon Brandt- Professional Soil Scientists Association of Texas
- Jerome Lang- Professional Soil Classifiers Association of Mississippi
- Charles Saari-Minnesota Association of Professional Soil Scientists
- Tom Fenton- Professional Soil Classifiers of Iowa
- Dan Shurtliff- Professional Soil Scientists Association of South Dakota
- Valerie Breunig- Director of Development SSSA
- Jim Ware- Soil Survey Division NHQ- NRCS
- Jim Cooper-Florida Association of Environmental Soil Scientists
- Keith Anderson- Professional Soil Classifiers Association of North Dakota
- Kari Sever- Association of Women Soil Scientists and Professional Soil Scientists Association of Oklahoma
- Nan Gray-Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists
- Mark Silverman- Empire State Pedologists
- Margie Faber- Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England
- Leland Sasser-Utah Society of Soil Scientists
- Linda Bouc - Administrative Assistance NSSC-NRCS (recorder)

### **Follow up on recommendations of November 7, 2002 teleconference notes.**

1. Background information on Smithsonian Soils Exhibit: Jim Ware-NHQ and Skip Bell-West Virginia Association of Professional Soil Scientists provided an excellent discussion on the Smithsonian Museum Soil Exhibit at the November 7, 2002 teleconference. During that discussion, it was recommended to have a follow-up teleconference after the SSSA meetings in November with emphasis on the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit.

### **February 20, 2003 discussion on Smithsonian Soils Exhibit:**

Jim Ware: Back in 1999 we had the Soil Survey Centennial celebration. For this celebration we had each state including, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, send in a soil monolith and these were displayed on the mall. It was quite a hit. We were looking for a place for permanent display. A year and a half ago West Virginia got wind of this and thought this would be a good thing. SSSA got involved started doing some brainstorming on this. The official role-out was at the SSSA meeting last November. It has been a long effort to develop materials, etc., for this display. Various soil themes will be developed around the monoliths. They will be displayed from 4-7 years. Depending on money raised it could be around longer than that. Exhibit will be called "Forces of Change." Between 6-9 millions visitors come through the Smithsonian each year. This exhibit will have great exposure. Great opportunity to educate people about soils.

Valerie: The Monoliths will be on an exterior wall. They are calling it a permanent collection. They don't see ever replacing it and treating it as very long term. The hands on information that will be part of the exhibit will compliment each other well. After interactive is done they make it available for loan to other museums. There will be educational activity depending on budget. There will be materials on soil science that will be sent to educators. Also, webbing activity. The Smithsonian and SSSA will have information on their web-sites. Admission to all Smithsonian exhibits is free. That is why they need help with funding. Currently have 20 liaisons in different states. A letter was sent out asking for educational materials, volunteers to be state liaisons, any ideas, etc. The timeline is for the display ready by the 2006 International Union of Soil Science meeting that will beheld in Pennsylvania. The goal is to have it up and ready so attendees at this meeting can walk through this exhibit. Currently have a list-serve set-up to email status reports. If you would like to subscribe send an email message to [smithsonian/request@soils.org](mailto:smithsonian/request@soils.org) and in the body of the message type subscribe. You can also check the [www.soils.org](http://www.soils.org) web-site for update information.

Keith-ND: What are the responsibilities of a state liaison?

Valerie: We want every state to submit materials and ideas and be a resource for information.

Jim Culver: How many liaisons can there be from each state?

Valerie: Would like a small enough group, but will take 2-3 from each state.

Leland-UT: Who will they contact or who will contact them?

Valerie: Through H.H. Cheng University of Minnesota who is the Committee Chair of the Steering Committee Members Representing SSSA on the National Museum of Natural History Smithsonian Soils Exhibit or through Valerie.

Jon-TX: Discussed the sponsorship at our annual society meeting. Could the amount of \$10,000 be broken down?

Valerie: Initially we compromised on the \$10,000 amount since the Smithsonian has a guideline that no-one would get their name on a plaque unless they donated \$25,000. So we compromised on \$10,000. Multiple names can be on these plaques. Plaques will be a certain size limitation. Could list 10 contributors of \$1,000 each on one plaque.

Jon: Will be working with a committee working with outreach.

Valerie: Offer staff and services to help with brochures, participate in any teleconferences, etc.

Jon: What is total budget?

Valerie: 1-3 million dollars

Jim Ware: Just the monoliths will cost from 250,000 – 300,000 dollars. Cost could be higher depending on how complex this project is.

Kari-OK: How long do we have to raise this money?

Valerie: Three-year pledge. This way we would have the money in hand before the exhibit opened. Would need the money by 2005 or at least have the pledge for it.

Nan-VA: How to contact Valerie and whom do we make the check out to.

Valerie: ASF (Agronomic Science Foundation) Reference Smithsonian – designate state to give credit to state. Email: [ybreunig@agronomy.org](mailto:ybreunig@agronomy.org). Phone: 608-273-8090, ext. 315.

Jim Ware: Brochure and information is almost complete and will be available on this web-site. Should be available in the next couple of months.

Jim Culver: Could send something out to all Societies. Do you have a list of the liaisons and what states are represented?

ACTION: Valerie will send list of names to Jim Culver

Jim Culver: Bill Pauls in Missouri is coordinating fundraisers to raise money for this activity.

Dan: Having annual meeting in about two weeks. Hopefully will have liaison.

Valerie: Powerpoint presentation is available to show at meetings.

2. USCSS web-site recommendation on link of NSSC to USCSSA web-site for official soil Societies/Associations contacts – contacted Gary Muckel and note to Berman Hudson and Bob Ahrens on this recommendation.
3. Jim Culver: Progress on Linking of NSSC web site to USCSSA web site for official Societies/Associations contacts and officers. – COMPLETED: Gary Muckel has done an excellent job of linking the NSSC web site to the USCSSA web site for getting information about the official contacts and officers of each soil society and soil association.
4. Soil Societies/Association update of membership – COMPLETED: Send out guidelines on kinds of information to send in for update – Done by Jim Culver in January 2003. Will send out a reminder each quarter for update of officers, etc. Send all updates to Jim Culver at [j4culver@aol.com](mailto:j4culver@aol.com). Jim coordinates with Duane Mohlman who maintains the UCSSA web site at the Conservation and Survey Division - University of Nebraska University.
5. Message board progress – Duane completed first phase – second phase on University control information was done by another person. That person is now part of our call up military force and on his way to the Middle East or places unknown. Duane will try to complete this activity sometime in the near future.
6. NSSC web-site of State Soils – COMPLETED: Profiles have been updated. Probably a combination of our inquiry and current progress already underway.
7. SCSSA By-Laws Draft – COMPLETED: Margie reviewed and sent Jim final copy and Duane has posted them to the web-site.
8. Discussion on linking to other web-sites having Newsletters – Mark Silverman – NY. Note sent out to all MO offices to get a list of those who put out periodical newsletters or other kinds of information. COMPLETED: Now have a ready reference on USCSSA site to link to all MO's and soil societies/associations who have web-sites with newsletters, etc.

9. Status of USCSSA brochure preparation. Jim Culver – Draft prepared indicating what this consortium is all about. Thanks to Charles Cail, Professional Soil Scientists Association of Oklahoma for use of some excellent photos of a Professional Soil Scientists Association of Oklahoma field trip activity. Draft taken to Conservation and Survey Division – UNL for preparation – special thanks to Mark Kuzila, Director, for use of their staff and facilities for this project. Have had one review draft discussion with their editors. Should have a final draft within the next two weeks. Will need to determine how many copies to run off and what distribution is to be made. Could have a few thousand copies available and also have available electronic. Suggest to send ten or so copies to each organization. They could then request additional copies as needed.
10. What kind of review do we want to make prior to reproducing copies?  
**Recommendation:** Would like two-three more people to review the final draft for comments. Content may need some spicing up! Volunteers were – Tom Fenton-IA, Bruce Willman-PA, and Jim Cooper-FL.
11. Discussion on USCSSA Council Membership and potential meetings for 2003. The SSSA Meeting is in Denver, November 2-6, 2003. Suggestions to have a group of four or five people work scheduling a meeting during SSSA, to get an agenda, schedule meeting rooms, etc. Intitial Planning Committee – Tom Fenton (help with preliminary contacts in setting up meeting), Kari Severe, Margie Faber, (Need representative from West - Jim will contact Chad McGrath) and Jim Culver.

**ACTION** Will have follow-up discussion on this regarding contacts, etc. Tom will check to see when other meetings are scheduled that may conflict. Will need leadership assistance from all societies and associations to ensure a productive and successful meeting. A good theme for the meeting could center around activities, progress and reports about the Smithsonian Soil Exhibit.

12. Review of Certification Questionnaire responses and discussion on certification. These responses have been summarized, sent out and posted to web site. Some states still have not responded. Do we want some more in-depth analysis and identify some good examples that can serve as reference for other interested people. North Carolina had some good dos and don'ts for getting state organizations recognized.

Nan: Has certification in Virginia. Can offer some dos and don'ts there.

Jim: Could reference some of the highlights. Several states noted high priority to having a lobbyist.

**Brief summary of soil societies and associations activities. All participants.**



Margie: Trying to sponsor field session or meeting. Sent out questionnaire to find out interest. Will sponsor state soil monolith in Ed Sautter's memory.

Jim-FL: Trying to get membership on line on email. Currently have 77 members. 20-30 of these members are very active. Have workshop scheduled in April.

Lester-IL: Drummer is state soil. Helped with soil judging contest. Will have summer meeting regarding septic systems. Our annual meeting is scheduled in March – Don Franzmeier from the University will be speaker.

Tom-IA – Meeting coming up. Negotiating with Earl Lockridge for Soil Science Institute in 2004. Developing short course for Sanitarians. Have soil textural kits made up for Sanitarians that sell for \$25.00 per kit.

Charles-MN: Have new web-site. Working with septic systems and water movements.

Jerome-MS: Lost contact with University cooperators due to retirements and personnel being replaced. Have recently reestablished contacts this year. Rewriting regulations. Would like the dos and don'ts information.

Mark-NY: No activity since meeting last fall, which was before our last teleconference. A few retirements have occurred, but leadership has been transferred to a private consultant member.

A meeting is being planned in the western part of the state for late summer or early fall.

Earl-NE – Working on getting Society reestablished. Trying to get society active with activities within the state. Have a meeting scheduled next week.

Keith-ND: Currently have 24 registered members. Our Society meets once a year. Promote use of registered members. Working on web-site.

Kari-OK: Less than 20 active members. Obstacle is always money. Trying to come up with fund-raising activities. Will have a fall meeting. Lot of activity with the Association of Women Soil Scientists organization. (Note - Kari is representing Professional Soil Scientists Association of Oklahoma and the Association of Women Soil Scientists)

Steve-OR: Had a summer tour last September. Have web-site and four newsletters each year. Make contribution for a scholarship to the University.

Bruce-PA: Have new officers. Getting committee assigned. Will have conference with display the 1<sup>st</sup> week of March with brochures. Have technical session in summer. Several members working on day trips for the 2006 IUSS meeting.

Bob-SC: Giving out several soil kits to elementary schools. Different colors and textures and lesson plans. Expand to more than three-four counties and plan to go statewide eventually.

Dan-SD – Upcoming winter meeting. We will discuss Smithsonian display. This meeting is in conjunction with the University and will have presentations from grad students. Have been approached to have a joint meeting next year. Working on education planning for this meeting. Our summer meeting includes a field trip. Last year toured EROS Data Center.

Jon-TX: Voted to sponsor National Soil Judging Contest. Contributed \$1,000. Contributed \$1,500 scholarship to Texas Tech. Looking at having soils of Texas on the Web-site.

Leland-UT: Will have leadership meeting to keep organization going. Working with other agencies to get new members.

Nan-VA: Will have onsite workshop discussing septic systems. Very few septic systems fail if done by soil scientists. 20-25 members very active. Have some certified soil scientists in our group. John Galbraith from the University takes his class to look at soils across the state. Our society sponsors a campout. Also sponsor judging team. Our annual meeting is in the fall. We sponsor a booth at the State Fair.

Jim Culver: On USCSSA web-site, click on state name to get their Society membership. Would it be better to have a map and then click on state? Since there are no comments, we will leave like it is.

We appreciate the good attendance and excellent open discussion during this teleconference. We will get the minutes out and will follow up with activities working on organizing a USCSSA meeting at SSSA in November of 2003.

Teleconference Adjourned.