

## **September 18, 2003, Teleconference Cover Letter, Agenda and Minutes**

### **Cover Letter**

United States Consortium of Soil Science Associations (USCSSA) – Roundtable and Minutes of USCSSA September 18, 2003 teleconference

Attention: ROUNDTABLE MEETING

All members of societies and associations of the USCSSA are invited and encouraged to participate in the “A Roundtable on Meeting the Needs of the Professional Soil Scientist” Co-Sponsored by the U.S. consortium of Soil Science Associations (USCSSA) and the Soil Science society of America (SSSA). This Roundtable Meeting is Tuesday, November 4, 2003: 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Colorado convention Center, Room A209.

SSSA has done an excellent job of getting this information out to membership. Information about the Roundtable is also posted on the USCSSA web site under “What’s New” at <http://soilsassociation.org/>

Minutes of the USCSSA September 18, 2003 teleconference are attached. Please share these minutes with your membership. These minutes will also be posted on the USCSSA web site under “Operations”.

We are looking forward to an excellent participation of people during the Roundtable Meeting in Denver, Co.

Jim Culver, Advisory Group, USCSSA

### **Agenda**

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

Attention --- REMINDER --- USCSSA National Teleconference - September 18, 2003

Scheduled Time:

Thursday, September 18, 2003, at 10:00 a.m. Central Time. Expected duration of teleconference is about one hour.

Call in Information:

Call in telephone number is 630-395-0023

Participants Passcode is 10741

AGENDA:

1. Current status of SSSA-USCSSA joint roundtable evening meeting at 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 4, 2003, Adam Mark Hotel - Denver, CO. Lead: Mike Singer, President of SSSA.
2. Briefing and discussion of progress of state soil societies/associations toward support of their state soils for the Smithsonian Institute Soils Exhibit. Lead: Valerie Breuning, Director of Development for SSSA.
3. Distribution of USCSSA information brochure. Lead: Jim Culver
4. Discussion of USCSSA Council Membership and meeting during the SSSA November 2003 Denver meeting. All Participants
5. Brief summary of individual soil societies and associations activities - All Participants

Attachments:

- Agenda for SSSA-USCSSA Roundtable Meeting
- Distribution of USCSSA Information Brochure
- Review Draft of USCSSA Council Membership for Calendar Year 2003

We are looking forward to your teleconference participation.

Thanks,

Jim Culver, Advisory Group -- USCSSA

Note: To ensure sufficient conference lines please send me a response that you will be participating. A good number have already sent me a positive response.

**Minutes**

**USCSSA TELECONFERENCE**

**September 18, 2003**

**Chair: Jim Culver**

Participants:

- Jim Culver-Advisory Group-USCSSA

- Ron Bauer-Volunteer NRCS Soil Scientists
- Gaylin -Soil Classifiers Association of Michigan
- Earl Lockridge-Nebraska Society of Professional Soil Scientists
- Bill Pauls-Missouri Association of Professional Soil Scientists
- Dan Shurtliff-Professional Soil Scientists Association of South Dakota
- Tom Fenton-Professional Soil Classifiers of Iowa
- Mike Singer-Soil Science Society of America
- Kerry Arroues-Professional Soil Science Association of California
- Fred Gilbert-Empire State Pedologists-New York
- Dan Lemaster-Association of Ohio Pedologists
- Tom Flack-National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists-California
- Mark Stelford-Illinois Soil Classifiers Association
- Chad McGrath-Oregon Society of Soil Scientists
- Tom Simms-President-Elect-Soil Science Society of America
- Bob Eppinette-Soil Science Society of South Carolina
- Ron Kuehl-Florida Association of Environmental Soil Scientists
- Linda Bouc (recorder)

**Tom Simms:** Roundtable discussions at ASA Meetings. Room change. The Roundtable Meeting will be in Room A209 of the Colorado Convention Center -- Tuesday, November 4, 2003: 7:30 to 9:30p.m. Doing more publicity. Contacting board of directors and division chairs and asking them to promote and encourage people to come. Will mention at board of directors meeting on Sunday. Welcoming remarks from Mike Singer and Jim Culver. Speakers will give 10-minute presentations on topics such as enhanced soil scientist's disciplines, Smithsonian exhibit, World Congress, etc. Roundtables will be set up to share information. People can circulate among roundtables. Will set up for eight roundtables to include discussions on soil science examiners, ARCPACS, United Societies organization, etc... Everyone has been very agreeable to help.

One issue that needs to be addressed is liability insurance for the consultants. This will be discussed at one of the roundtables. Will email speakers to remind them to bring materials and what the time limits are. Will send out final email on room change (will be in the convention center instead of the hotel). Will mention this in the daily paper for ASA.

**Jim:** Suggest having a roundtable council type session. Will have copies of the brochure available. Publicity – flyer was sent to all State Societies to inform them of roundtable activity. Maurice Mausbach, Deputy for Soil Survey and Resource Assessment - NRCS sent correspondence to NRCS State Conservationists encouraging them to approve attendance for field soil scientists to attend the ASA Meetings.

**Bill Pauls (MO):** Our Society was able to raise money for our state soil monolith. We raised this money from three main sources. Our professional organization will pledge about 25-35%. Had quite a few individual donations from within the Society. Wanted to raise half from a major donor – Mrs. Edward D. Jones pledged half. Wanted to share with Soil & Water Conservation Society. Will be able to list all three on plaque. Have seven SWCS counties that have donated. Each county name will be listed.

**Mike Singer (SSSA):** Soliciting within the Professional Soil Science Association of California and have raised close to \$6,000. Sent out email to mailing list to find out interest. Will need to go out to CA Farm Bureau Federation and other large organizations around the state.

**Gaylin (MI):** Will start raising money for our state.

**Kerry (CA):** The Professional Soil Science Association of California would like to have the \$10,000 raised by the Denver meeting.

**Mike (SSSA):** Would like to have the display up by the 2006 World Congress. Still have time to raise the money. Enough money has been raised that the Smithsonian is taking this display seriously.

**Dan (SD):** Made 30 Soil Texture Instruction Kits for Voc Ag teachers and charged \$50 apiece for them. Raised \$1500 to put towards the Soils Exhibit. Have received orders for more. Successful fundraiser. Society will match dollar for dollar up to \$5,000 for individual members pledging money.

**Jim:**

1. USCSSA Brochure: Produced the USCSSA Brochure in cooperation with the University of Nebraska in Lincoln and sent copies out this summer. Visited with John Duran and added the SSSA as a member of the USCSSA . If anyone needs more copies, contact Jim Culver. **ACTION: Jim will send Bill Pauls in Missouri 50 copies.**
2. List with number of members for each soil society/association. Will have available at the roundtable meeting in November in Denver.

**Tom Flack (NSCSS):** Will distribute brochure to our members that will be attending the meeting.

**Jim Culver:** Put together a master list for contacts of each society/association. Could post on Web-site. Also lists the President of each society/association. Jim will work on a master list with email contact and name and mailing address for each Organization and will work with the Web-master at UNL for posting.

**Jim:** Council Membership - made up of two members from each NCSS Region. Also have Association of Women Soil Scientists, National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists and will need to include SSSA in the USCSSA by-laws. This Council meets in odd years at SSSA Meetings and even years they meet at the NCSS Regional Conference. Could be discussed at roundtable and have participants from these states discuss Council membership and business. Currently the USCSSA does not have dues. We need more leadership to keep this Society going. Kerry will represent the West. Correspond by email with state soil societies/associations to get two representatives from each of the Regions to participate in Roundtable.

Question: What are your thoughts on this Consortium?

Comments:

1. Feel there should be linkage among State organizations and have communication between soil scientists and the USCSSA is one way to accomplish this.
2. Agree we should continue this Consortium. The roundtable success will either confirm this or not. Web-sites need to be kept up-to-date.
3. Can get feedback and comments on the Web-site. Great tool of communication.

The Web-site for the USCSSA is <http://soilsassociation.org>. There is a link from the National Soil Survey Center Web-site. Link on SSSA Web-site also.

**Tom Flack (NSCSS):** Having National meeting of the National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists in San Diego on February 5-7, 2004. Information will be on Web-site.

**Kerry Arroues (CA):** Meeting jointly with archeologists from California. Doing one in Modock County, California. Best thing is getting together with other soil scientists to discuss common goals, problems, etc. Should be able to have successful organization.

**Ron Kuehl (FL):** Will have annual workshop to raise money for Smithsonian. Will pass along other States ideas. Communication through this organization is what we need. Good idea.

**Mark Stelford (IL):** We will elevate the Consortium through our newsletter. Push for the Farm Progress Show that will be hosted in Illinois. Looking at small business needs of our members. Looking at professional registration in the State.

**Tom Fenton (IA):** Marketing soil texture kits to Voc Ag teachers. Sending out information in newsletters promoting Consortium. Tried link to the Gallery. Have to go through SSSA to get to the Gallery.

**ACTION: Jim will follow-up on this.**

**Gaylin (MI):** Our organization met last month. Final acre ceremony will be in the next two to three years. In process of contacting all soil scientists in the state. Working on raising money for the Smithsonian. Have 55 members. Trying to increase communication among members.

**Bill Pauls (MO):** Our annual summer meeting and float trip was in the Ozarks. Dr. Hammer discussed the 2006 Conference and we will sponsor the St. Louis field trip portion. Working on State Soil (Menfro) initiative – still have not got it passed. Used link to look up what other associations have been doing. Refer other people to it. Moved newsletter to Web-site. Executive board has picture on Web-site. Sponsored environthron. Purchased jackets for FFA State soil judging champions.

**Earl Lockridge:** In process of re-energizing group. Get soil scientists excited about our organization again. Have education effort next week at Audubon Society location. Received request to sponsor University soil judging team. Mike Wilson, editor of Soil Survey Horizons, is in need of articles. Consortium may be able to help promote articles for this publication. Need to publish more of our soil scientist information.

**Mike Singer (SSSA):** Would like to make Soil Survey Horizons an electronic journal and put on SSSA Web-site. May generate more membership. Could use color and make more appealing.

**Mark Stelford (IL):** Soil Survey Horizons is a benefit to being a member of Illinois society.

**Fred Gilbert (NY):** Our annual meeting is next week and will be hosted by Don Owens of Earth Dimensions, Inc. Don was the first person to do soil investigations over by Niagara Falls. Will revisit Love Canal. Will also be looking at unstable soils. Both geologists and soil scientists were trying to become registered at the same time. Became divided as to who had what responsibility. Any guidance on how to approach this subject on where soil science ends and geology begins? Will be meeting at his facility on Tuesday. Then will have tour. Need to learn more about Smithsonian effort.

**ACTION: Jim will send Fred information.**

**Dan Lemaster (OH):** Busy with summer picnic. Sponsored Glacial till fractures workshop. Will support Smithsonian exhibit. Support Ohio State and Wilmington Colleges soil judging teams.

**Bob Eppinette (SC):** Working on soils exhibits donations. Have received over \$200 so far. Soil kits – working with districts in giving these out across the state. Governor would like to privatize some of our functions. Convince him that Soil Scientists can provide assistance on some of these services.

**Dan Shurtliff (SD):** Committee has put together Soil Texture Kit. Did not have summer meeting. Will have joint meeting with South Dakota Real Estate Appraisers on uses of soil survey, etc. Supporting the local land-judging contest in South Dakota. Making plans for putting together regional soil judging that will be here in 2005.

**Chad McGrath (OR):** Consortium – one good thing is the relationship with other associations. This type of thing helps re-energize those associations that have slowed down. Working on putting together a field trip for World congress on volcanic ash.

**Tom Simms (SSSA):** We need to promote the roundtable discussions as much as we can. This is a good opportunity to get ideas

Teleconference adjourn at about 11:15 a.m. Central Time.