

PROFESSIONAL SOIL CLASSIFIERS ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA

MINUTES – 2013 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2013 Annual Meeting of the PSCAA was held on June 6-7, 2013 at Historic Blakeley State Park, near Spanish Fort, Baldwin County, Alabama.

TECHNICAL SESSION -- Thursday, June 6, 1:00 – 4:45 p.m.

- ◆ Joey Koptis, President, PSCAA welcomed the 21 members and guests present to the meeting and introduced guest speaker, Mr. Fred Nation.
- ◆ Mr. Fred Nation, an Ecosystem Botanist and Blakeley State Park Board Member, delivered an overview of the historic Park and showed a short video high-lighting the Park's diverse ecosystems and Civil War history.
- ◆ Dr. Bonnie Gums, University of South Alabama and Teresa Paglione, USDA-NRCS, led a tour of the Washington Square site in the old town of Blakeley and discussed the history and archeological significance of the town. Artifacts, including Civil War bullets, buttons, and pottery shards were displayed.
- ◆ Mr. Sandy Page and Joey Koptis described a soil profile from a backhoe pit and led a discussion centering on the suitability of the site for an onsite sewage system.
- ◆ Mr. Fred Nation led a tour of the Civil War battle site where trenches, embankments, and other fortifications were viewed. Mr. Nation provided a brief history of the Battle of Blakeley. He also discussed efforts to control Cogongrass, an invasive plant, which is overpowering native plant ecosystems in the Park and south Alabama.
- ◆ Mr. Greg Brannon, Soil Data Quality Specialist, USDA-NRCS, provided a brief update on Soil Survey activities in Alabama and the reorganization of the Soil Science Division.
- ◆ Mr. John Clement and David Gray, Alabama Dept. of Public Health, discussed upcoming revisions to the Onsite Sewage Rules and Regulations. They stated that the revisions should be implemented in August or September, 2013.

The technical session adjourned at about 4:45 p.m. The group rejoined for the Business Session at 4:50 p.m.

BUSINESS SESSION – 4:50 – 6:00 p.m.

President Joey Koptis called the business meeting to order at 4:50 p.m. and called for the reading of the minutes and financial report.

George Martin, Secretary-Treasurer, stated that the minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting were sent via email to all members for review and a written copy was provided to each member present. A motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept them as written was made by Ken Johnson and seconded by Greg Brannon. The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

The Financial report for 2012-2013 was presented by George Martin, Sec.-Treasurer, and accepted as read.

Committee reports were called for and presented as follows:

Membership Committee – Rick Smith, Chairman

- ◆ No new members joined since the last meeting.

Constitution & By-laws Committee – George Martin, Chairman

- ◆ Mr. Martin recommended a minor revision in wording under “Article III.--- Membership, Section 3, Membership Qualifications a.(3)” to correct a problem in membership categories. A motion to accept the recommended revision was made by Ken Johnson and seconded by David Gray. The motion passed with no dissenting votes. The Sec.-Treasurer will amend the Constitution as discussed.

Scholarship Committee – George Martin, Chairman

- ◆ Announced that the FALL 2012 scholarship was shared by two students, Mr. Jordan Toombs and Andy Svyantek of Auburn University.
- ◆ The 2013 scholarship is to be awarded to a Tuskegee University student. Dr. Ramble Ankumah, scholarship coordinator for Tuskegee University, will make the selection.
- ◆ The Scholarship award will be increased to \$1,000 in 2014.
- ◆ Chairman Martin announced that the Soil Judging Award ---\$50 to the High Individual Scorer on the Auburn University Soil Judging Team in the Regional or National Contest – was awarded to Ms. Jenna Platt, high individual on the AU Team in the 2013 National Collegiate Soil Judging Contest. Mr. Martin recommended that the award be increased to \$100. Discussion followed and a motion was presented to increase the award to \$100 beginning with the 2013 Regional Contest. The motion, presented by Sandy Page and seconded by Steve Good, passed without dissention.

Ethics Committee – John Clement, Chairman

- ◆ No report of ethics violations was presented. The Chairman did remind members of their responsibility to adhere to high standards of ethical and professional conduct. He stressed the importance of reviewing the work submitted by subordinate employees and to ensure they are qualified to perform professional work.

Public Relations/Education Committee – Sandy Page, Chairman

- ◆ No report was presented.
- ◆ George Martin stated that the new PSCAA webpage was on-line at www.alabamasoilclassifiers.org and encouraged members to check the site out. JMedia, of Dadeville, AL, designed the webpage at a cost of \$475. Hosting and maintenance fee is \$25/month.

Nominating Committee – Jerome Langlinais, Chairman

- ◆ Chairman Langlinais submitted the names of Boyd Rogers as nominee for President-elect and George Martin as nominee for Secretary-Treasurer.

Workshop Committee – Joey Koptis, Chairman

- ◆ Chairman Koptis thanked committee members for their help in preparing for the Annual Meeting.
- ◆ Called on Earl Norton to present an update on the Geology, Soils, and Erosion and Sediment Control Workshop. Mr. Norton indicated that the workshop was scheduled for August 20, 2013, from 9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., at the Alabama Power Conference Center in Clanton, Alabama. Registration is limited to 100 participants at \$75 per participant. Pre-registration deadline is August 5, 2013. Agenda and registration details are available at www.alchapterswcs.aces.edu.
- ◆ Mr. Norton also provided handouts on the SWCS Annual Meeting (June 12-14, 2013) and the Clear Water Alabama Seminar and Field Day on October 8-10, 2013.

President Koptis opened the floor to old business after the Committee reports.

- ◆ George Martin, Sec.-Treas., reported that he has made no progress in pursuing incorporation and tax-exempt status for the PSCAA.

There being no further old business, out-going President Koptis turned the meeting over to in-coming President Rick Smith. President Smith thanked Mr. Koptis for his outstanding service and opened the floor to new business.

- ◆ First item on the agenda was the election of officers: Nominated for President-elect was Boyd Rogers and for Sec.-Treasurer, George Martin. President Smith called for other nominations from the floor, but none were submitted. A motion to accept the nominees by acclamation was presented by David Gray and seconded by John Clement. The motion passed without dissent. Boyd Rogers was elected for a 2-year term as President-elect and George Martin as Secretary-Treasurer.
- ◆ President Smith announced that the Committee Chairman would remain the same, with the exception of the Membership Committee Chairman, which would be assumed by Boyd Rogers, President-elect. President Smith also stated that he would assume the Workshop Committee Chairmanship after the scheduled workshop occurring on August 20, 2013.
- ◆ Joey Koptis, current Workshop Committee Chairman, indicated that he was approached by Mr. Mike Shelton, Education Coordinator of Weeks Bay Preserve, about the PSCAA providing assistance for a Hydric Soils Workshop. Discussion followed and a motion directing Joey Koptis to maintain contact with Mr. Shelton regarding PSCAA participation in a Hydric Soils Workshop and to report to the

- Executive Council was made by George Martin, seconded by Sandy Page. The motion passed without dissent.
- ◆ Some discussion on hosting an On-Site Workshop with no decision. President Smith indicated that the Workshop Committee would continue discussion and make a recommendation to the membership.
 - ◆ George Martin, Chairman of the Advisory Council to the Board of Registration for Professional Soil Classifiers in Alabama, presented a report on Advisory Council activities. He stated that: (1) The Council had approved a \$1,500 grant to PSCAA to assist in Annual Meeting costs; (2) The Board received and accepted one application for examination in 2013. The examination is scheduled for June 25, 2013; and (3) The Board held a hearing on complaints of unethical and unprofessional conduct by a PSC, which resulted in a decision to not renew the registration of the subject PSC.
 - ◆ Joey Koptis presented an overview of the next days' Field Trip.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Field Tour – Friday, June 7, 2013, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

- ◆ A tour of the Tensaw-Mobile River Delta, on the Delta Explorer pontoon boat, was enjoyed by 15 members and a few spouses. The tour was guided by Mr. Fred Nation and a Park Ranger. We observed wetland habitats, geology (25' vertical bluff), many nesting ospreys and other wildlife, Civil War gun sites, and heard interesting discussions of Civil War battles and history of the area.