

PROFESSIONAL SOIL CLASSIFIERS ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA

MINUTES – 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2014 Annual Meeting of the PSCAA was held on June 6, 2014 at Red's Catfish Cabin, near Mellow Valley, Clay County, Alabama.

TECHNICAL SESSION -- Friday, June 6, 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

- Rick Smith, President, PSCAA welcomed the 22 members and 8 guests present to the meeting and introduced guest speakers.
- Ms. Angela (Dani) Rheams and Mr. Fred Vengrouskie, Environmentalists with the Alabama Dept. of Public Health, presented a discussion on On-site Rules and provided examples of site plans.
- Dr. Jim Lacefield, Professor (ret.), University of North Alabama, presented an interesting and informative discussion on Alabama geology.
- Dr. Eve Brantley, Water Resources Extension Specialist, Auburn University, presented an informative and interesting discussion on the ecology and ecosystems of the stream and river systems of Alabama.
- Mr. Lawrence McGhee, State Soil Scientist, USDA-NRCS, provided a brief update on Soil Survey activities in Alabama and the reorganization of the Soil Science Division.
- Mr. Earl Norton, CPESC, presented an update on the CPESC program and stated that there were currently 100 CPESCs in Alabama. Mr. Norton also announced that the SWCS Chapter meeting was scheduled for June 11-13, 2014 in Huntsville, AL and that the 2014 Clear Water Alabama Seminar and Field Day is scheduled for October 8-9, 2014 at the 5 Rivers Delta Resources Center in Spanish Fort, AL.

The technical session adjourned at about 12:30 p.m. The group had lunch, prepared and served by Red's Catfish Cabin, and rejoined for the Business Session at 1:30 p.m.

BUSINESS SESSION – 1:30 – 2:20 p.m.

President Rick Smith called the business meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and called for the reading of the minutes and financial report.

George Martin, Secretary-Treasurer, stated that the minutes of the 2013 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 Lawrence McGhee and seconded by Stephon Thomas. The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

The Financial report for 2013-2014 was presented by George Martin, Sec.-Treasurer. A motion to accept the report as read was made by Lawrence McGhee and seconded by Troy Perry. The motion passed with no dissenting votes and accepted as read.

Committee reports were called for and presented as follows:

Membership Committee – Boyd Rogers, Chairman

- No new members joined since the last meeting.

Constitution & By-laws Committee – George Martin, Chairman

- Mr. Martin stated that the Constitution had been revised as voted upon at the 2013 meeting and was posted to the PSCAA website.

Scholarship Committee – George Martin, Chairman

- Announced that the FALL 2013 scholarship was not awarded because the liaison at Tuskegee University did not respond to repeated requests for a nominee.
- The 2014 scholarship is to be awarded to an Alabama A&M University student. Dr. Monday Mbila, scholarship coordinator for Alabama A&M University, will be contacted to make the selection of a nominee.
- The Scholarship award will be increased to \$1,000 in 2014.
- Chairman Martin announced that the Soil Judging Award ---\$100 to the High Individual Scorer on the Auburn University Soil Judging Team in the Regional or National Contest – was awarded to Mr. Andy Syvantek, high individual on the AU Team in both the Regional and National 2014 Soil Judging Contests.

- **Ethics Committee** – John Clement, Chairman

- The Chairman was not present and no report was presented.

Public Relations/Education Committee – Sandy Page, Chairman

- The Chairman was not present and no report was presented.
- George Martin encouraged members to visit the webpage (www.alabamasoilclassifiers.org) and to send in appropriate meeting or workshop dates for the Calendar.

Nominating Committee – Jerome Langlinais, Chairman

- Chairman Langlinais reported that no office was open for election, but invited members to contact him if interested in office for the terms beginning in 2015.

Workshop Committee – Rick Smith, Chairman

- Chairman Smith and Earl Norton reported that the Geology, Soils, and Erosion and Sediment Control Workshop, jointly sponsored by PSCAA, SWCS, and the Erosion & Sediment Control Partnership, was held on August 20, 2013 at the Alabama Power Conference Center in Clanton, AL and was well attended. PSCAA members Dr. Joey Shaw, Jerome Langlinais, and Earl Norton were instructors at the Workshop. PSCAA earned \$606 as a result of its sponsorship.
- Earl Norton proposed that the PSCAA and the AL Chapter of SWCS hold joint Annual Meetings in the future, which could lead to increased attendance for both groups. After some discussion, members agreed that the proposal had merit and should be pursued. Mr. Norton said that he would continue the discussion with the SWCS at their Annual Meeting.

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

No old business was reported.

There being no old business, President Smith opened the floor to new business.

- Lawrence McGhee brought up for discussion the need to provide avenues for potential soil classifiers to gain experience in soil classification. Some discussion by Ray Deese, Cleo Stubbs, and others followed, but no motion for action was proposed.
- Stephon Thomas brought up a proposal for PSCAA or soil-themed tee shirts. Discussion followed and Stephon agreed to work with Sandy Page, Chairman of the Public Relations/Education Committee on the proposal.
- 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 again approved a \$1,500 grant to PSCAA to assist in Annual Meeting costs; (2) The Board received no applications for examination in 2014; (3) The Board received one complaint of unethical conduct by a PSC. The complaint was handled via a letter of warning; and (4) Rick Smith was appointed to the Advisory Council, replacing James Mason, whose term expires June 30, 2014.
- George Martin presented an overview of the afternoon Field Trip.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Field Trip – Friday, June 6, 2014, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

- The rain-shortened field trip consisted of a tour of the Alabama Gold Camp, a recreational gold mining operation on Crooked Creek, Randolph County, AL and observations and discussion of soils developing in residuum and in alluvium. Members observed shallow (Louisa-like) and moderately deep (Badin) soils developing in residuum from phyllite on shoulder and back slopes of the Piedmont uplands and very deep, well drained soils (Toccoa) developing in alluvium on a frequently flooded floodplain. Discussion centered on use and limitations for onsite sewage disposal.

An employee of the Gold Camp, Blaise, lead members on a tour of the property, discussed the operational aspects, and pointed out various items of mining equipment. He also demonstrated the use of 'high bank' sluices.