

PROFESSIONAL SOIL CLASSIFIERS ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA

MINUTES – 2015 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2015 Annual Meeting of the PSCAA was held on June 17, 2015 the Blackbelt Research & Extension Center, Marion Junction, Dallas County, Alabama

TECHNICAL SESSION -- Wednesday, June 17, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- Rick Smith, President, PSCAA welcomed the 19 members and 13 guests present to the meeting and directed the group to the field sites on the Center property.
- The group reconvened around pits of Houston clay (very-fine, smectitic, thermic Oxyaquic Hapluderts) and Vaiden clay (very-fine, smectitic, thermic Aquic Dystruderts), common soils of the Blackland Prairie. Dr. Joey Shaw, assisted by George Martin, discussed soil properties and morphology of these Vertisols and on-going studies regarding the origin of the carbonates in these soils. Rick Smith and Stephen Speaks provided insights on interpretations for On-site Sewage Disposal. Jaime Yeager provided insights on agricultural use of these soils.
- A buffet lunch, catered by the Golden Ranch BBQ & Grill, of barbequed chicken and pork with all the trimmings was enjoyed by all.
- Dr. John Soileau (TVA soil scientist, retired) presented a historical background of a sample of Houston clay collected by Dr. Cyril G. Hopkins in 1914 and presented the historic sample to Dr. Joey Shaw of Auburn University for archiving.
- Dr. Joey Shaw, Professor of Soils, AU, discussed the success of his AU Soil Judging Team which won the 2015 National Collegiate Soil Judging Contest which was held in Arkansas. He announced that Kristen Pegues, a team member, was the High Individual Scorer in both the Regional and National Contests. Dr. Shaw also announced that he will coach the U.S. Soil Judging Team at the International Contest to be held in Hungary and Kristin Pegues will be a member of the team.
- Mr. Stephen Speaks, PE, of Larry E. Speaks & Associates, Montgomery presented an interesting discussion of large-flow sewage treatment and disposal systems, permitting authorities, and discussed examples of working decentralized systems.
- Mr. Terry Boyer, B&B Medical Concepts, presented an interesting study of community classifications of Green Pitcher Plant (*Sarricenia oreophila*) Bogs in northeastern Alabama.
- Mr. Lawrence McGhee, State Soil Scientist, USDA-NRCS, provided an update on Soil Survey activities in Alabama and discussed new initiatives and partnerships to provide services.
- Mr. Earl Norton, CPESC, presented an update on the CPESC program and stated that there were currently about 100 CPESCs in Alabama. Mr. Norton also announced that the SWCS Chapter meeting was scheduled for June 22-24, 2015 at the Five Rivers Delta Resources Center in Spanish Fort, AL and that the Clear Water Alabama Seminar and Field Day is scheduled for September 2-3, 2015 at the Tuscaloosa River Market in Tuscaloosa, AL.
- Mr. Thad Pittman, ADPH, briefly discussed the on-going re-organization of the On-site Rules and Regulations and indicated that PSCAA members would have an opportunity to review and comment on the rules prior to publication.

The technical session adjourned at about 3:40 p.m.

BUSINESS SESSION – 3:45 – 4:20 p.m.

President Rick Smith called the business meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. and called for the reading of the minutes and financial report.

George Martin, Secretary-Treasurer, stated that the minutes of the 2014 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 Sandy Page and seconded by Troy Perry. The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

The Financial report for 2014-2015 was presented by George Martin, Sec.-Treasurer. A motion to accept the report as read was made by Troy Perry and seconded by Joey Koptis. The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Committee reports were called for and presented as follows:

Membership Committee – Boyd Rogers, Chairman, was not present.

- George Martin reported that one new member, Jessica Lene-Jobe, had joined since our 2014 meeting.

Constitution & By-laws Committee – George Martin, Chairman

- Mr. Martin stated that no changes to the Constitution or By-laws had been proposed.

Scholarship Committee – George Martin, Chairman

- Announced that the FALL 2014 scholarship was not awarded because Alabama A&M University did not recommend a qualified candidate until late in the Spring 2015 semester.
- The 2015 scholarship is to be awarded to an Auburn University student. Dr. Joey Shaw, scholarship coordinator for Auburn University, will be contacted to make the selection of a nominee.
- The Scholarship award was 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 Contest – was awarded to Ms. Kristin Pegues, high individual on the AU Team in both the 2014 Regional and 2015 National Soil Judging Contests. Ms. Pegues was also the overall High Scoring Individual in the National Contest and a motion was made and passed to award an additional \$100 to her for this outstanding achievement.

Ethics Committee – John Clement, Chairman

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

Public Relations/Education Committee – Sandy Page, Chairman

- Chairman Page 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 submitted one nominee, Cooper Nichols, for the office of President-elect, and one nominee, Frank Cochran, for the office of Secretary-Treasurer. President Smith accepted the nominees and opened for nominations from the floor. Troy Perry motioned to accept the two nominees by acclamation and Sandy Page seconded the motion. A vote to elect the nominees was called for and there were no dissenting votes. Cooper Nichols was elected President-elect and Frank Cochran was elected Secretary-Treasurer for a two-year term.

Workshop Committee – Rick Smith, Chairman

- Chairman Smith reported no activity since the last meeting.
- Sandy Page discussed the feasibility of the PSCAA working with Mike Skelton, Weeks Bay Foundation, to present a Hydric Soils Workshop. Some discussion followed but no motion to proceed was offered.
- Earl Norton proposed that PSCAA join with SWCS and the Erosion & Sediment Control Partnership to sponsor a Geology, Soils, and Erosion and Sediment Control Workshop in 2016. The workshop would be similar to the one held in 2013. Discussion and a motion to accept the proposal followed with the stipulation that, since the incoming President, Boyd Rogers, was not present, the proposal would be presented to him for concurrence.

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

No old business was reported.

There being no old business, out-going President Smith, in the absence of in-coming President, Boyd Rogers, opened the floor to new business.

- New Committee Chairmen were announced as follows: Cooper Nichols, Membership Committee; George Martin, Constitution & By-laws; Frank Cochran, Scholarship & Awards; John Clement, Ethics; Jerome Langlais, Nominations; **Vacant**, Public Relations/Education; and **Vacant**, Workshop.
- 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 Board received one application for examination in 2015, but the applicant was denied because he did not meet the experience criteria; (2) Sanderson Page was appointed to the Advisory Council, replacing Dr. Joey Shaw, whose term expires June 30, 2015. Dr. Shaw agreed to continue as Examinations Coordinator/Administrator; and (3) No complaint of unethical or non-professional conduct by PSCs was received by the Board since our 2014 meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.