

# PROFESSIONAL SOIL CLASSIFIERS ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA

## MINUTES – 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2016 Annual Meeting of the PSCAA was held on June 2-3, 2016 the Little River Canyon Center, Fort Payne, DeKalb County, Alabama

Registration and vendor visits began at 9:00 a.m. Cooper Nichols, President-Elect, in the absence of President Rogers, formally welcomed the 18 members and 11 guests to the venue, and informed the group that the Business Session would be held prior to the catered lunch, and the Technical Session would commence thereafter.

**BUSINESS SESSION** – Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016, 11:00 – 12:15 p.m.

Cooper Nichols, President-Elect, called the business meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and called for the reading of the minutes and financial report.

Frank Cochran, Secretary-Treasurer, stated that the minutes of the 2015 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 George Martin and seconded by Sandy Page. The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

The Financial report for 2015-2016 was presented by Frank Cochran, Sec.-Treasurer. A motion to accept the report as read was made by George Martin and seconded by Rick Smith. The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Committee reports were called for and presented as follows:

**Membership Committee** – Cooper Nichols, Chairman.

- Mr. Nichols reported that two new members, Aaron Friend and Joel Penn, had joined since our 2015 meeting.

**Constitution & By-laws Committee** – George Martin, Chairman

- Mr. Martin stated that no changes to the Constitution or By-laws had been proposed. He reminded the membership that both documents are located on the web-site and encouraged all to read.

**Scholarship Committee** – Frank Cochran, Chairman

- The 2015 scholarship was awarded to Abigail Johnston at Auburn University.
- The 2016 scholarship will be awarded to a Tuskegee University student. Dr. Ankumah, scholarship coordinator for TU, will be contacted to make the selection of a nominee.
- Cooper Nichols and John Burns informed the membership of the work they have been doing with TU with Soil Morphology class, and the potential of the school joining Southeastern Region Collegiate Soil Judging.

**Ethics Committee** – John Clement, Chairman, not present.

- The Chairman was not present and no report was presented, however discussion clarifying the role of the committee took place.

**Public Relations/Education Committee** – Vacant, Chairman

- Frank Cochran informed membership that he had been getting information placed on website. It was encouraged to invite students to the annual meetings, and Cooper Nichols suggested we have a monthly newsletter sent out to the membership.

**Nominating Committee** – Jerome Langlinais, Chairman

- Chairman Langlinais informed the membership that he would be taking nominations for Treasurer/Secretary and President-Elect for vote at the 2017 annual meeting.

#### **Workshop Committee – Vacant, Chairman**

- Earl Norton discussed success of last workshop (Geology, Soils, Erosion and Sediment Control) and suggested another be held in 2017. Joey Shaw had previously expressed willingness to participate again. Mr. Norton informed the membership of the potential of a new group forming (Stormwater Management Association), of which may be a good partner for workshops. Additionally, Mr. Norton reiterated continuing to partner with the SWCS. Mr. Norton will provide more information as planning progresses.
- Sandy Page discussed the feasibility of the PSCAA working with Mike Skelton, Weeks Bay Foundation, to present a Hydric Soils Workshop. Joey Koptis suggested having the USACOE involved and advertising CEUs. Some discussion followed but no motion to proceed was offered.
- Andrew Croy suggested we look into partnering with the Society of Wetland Scientists in the future. Discussion regarding involvement with the USACOE ensued. No motion to proceed was offered.

President-Elect Nichols opened the floor to old business after the Committee reports.

Items on Agenda were discussed at length during Workshop Committee report. No additional old business was reported.

President-Elect Nichols opened the floor to new business.

- George Martin informed the membership that Committee Chairman are not elected, but are appointed. Cooper Nichols, President Elect, in the absence of President Rogers, appointed Frank Cochran as Chairman for Public Relations/Education committee. John Burns asked to assist, and stated that he would initiate a Facebook page.
- Frank Cochran read a request addressed to the Association. Dr. Joey Shaw, with Auburn University, requested a \$1,000.00 partial sponsorship for the banquet at the AU hosted 2016 Southeastern Regional Collegiate Soil Judging Contest. A motion to fulfill the request and dispense the funds to Joey Shaw was made by Joey Koptis and seconded by George Martin. The motion passed with no dissenting votes.
- 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) There had been no new applications; (2) There is a new vendor providing the PSC stamp; (3) The request for funds from the PSCAA was never received, and in the future must be received prior to the Council's meeting in May; and (4) One complaint of unethical or non-professional conduct by a PSC was received by the Board since our 2015 meeting. The PSC will receive a warning, but no license revocation will occur.
- Cooper Nichols initiated discussion regarding CEUs. George Martin informed the membership that the Association does not require CEUs to be acquired. Joey Koptis and George Martin gave a detailed account on the process of requiring CEUs and that Alabama Law would have to be amended to require. Rick Smith asked if the Association could offer CEUs at our workshop/meetings, and George Martin said yes, but it had to be approved from the SSSA.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

**TECHNICAL SESSION** -- Thursday, June 2, 1:00p.m. – 5:30 p.m. and Friday, June 3, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- Cooper Nichols, President-Elect, welcomed members and guests back after catered lunch and introduced Niki Wayner, Assistant Director, EPIC and Field Schools.
- Niki Wayner gave an overview of the Little River Canyon Center, the EPIC program, and then initiated a guided tour of the center. The 23,000 square foot center is a collaboration of Jacksonville State University and the US Park Service. It is the first University LEED silver certified building, and includes all water conserving facilities, re-cycled construction materials, recycled insulation, and used locally grown and harvested lumber. The center uses a state of the art geothermal climate control system. To conclude the tour, a video was displayed in the auditorium about the Center's partnerships, environmental foot print, and other conservation measures.
- Upon completion of the tour, the group prepared for the field trip. The group met at two locations in DeKalb county around pits of Hartsells (Fine-loamy, siliceous, subactive, thermic Typic Hapludults) and Wynnville (Fine-loamy, siliceous, subactive, thermic Glossic Fragiudults). George Martin and group, discussed soil properties and morphology. David Gray provided insights on interpretations for On-site Sewage Disposal. Tracy Cole provided insights on agricultural use and conservation of these soils. Due to inclement weather, both planned field visits were performed Thursday afternoon. The group adjourned for the day at 5:30.
- The group reconvened at the Little River Canyon Center Friday at 8:30 a.m. and Cooper Nichols reopened technical session at 9:00 a.m.
- 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. He informed the group of Alabama having a new State Conservationist, Ben Malone. Lawrence discussed the relationship with the Soils Division, Special Projects including NEON, Mobile Bay, and the use of GPR, and updated on the State Land Judging winners.
- Mr. Earl Norton, CPESC, presented an update on the CPESC program and stated that there were currently about 100 CPESCs in Alabama, but that the membership is expanding. Mr. Norton stated that the Alabama Chapter of the SWCS is partnering with ALDOT to provide the Exam Review Course. Mr. Norton announced that the SWCS Chapter meeting was scheduled for June 8-10, 2016 at Ham Wilson Livestock Arena in Auburn, AL; that the Clear Water Alabama Seminar and Field Day is scheduled for August 24-25 at the Insanity Complex in Madison, AL; and that International Erosion Control Association annual conference will be held in Atlanta, GA Feb. 21-24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Norton updated on other activities including RUSLE2 trainings, SWCC workshops, a stormwater symposium at Auburn, EPA/IECA conference in Nashville, and three training events at the AU ESC Test facility. Mr. Norton concluded by revisiting the geology and erosion workshop, stating that there were no firm dates, and suggested pursuing joint meetings with partners as well as attending more meetings in official PSC capacity.
- Mr. Troy Perry gave a talk on issues arising with regards to the public health department in Jefferson County and the increasing population density.
- Vendors were allowed to formally introduce their products to the group and included: Infiltrator Water Technologies, Plastic Tubing Industries, Inc., and Presbyeco Environmental Inc.
- Cooper Nichols introduced Dr. Harry Holstein with Jacksonville State University. Dr. Holstein presented "Sacred Native American Stone Structure Sites in Alabama: Thirty Years of Archaeological Research and Public Awareness" and discussed the importance of field soil scientist to be able to recognize these structures as they are very prevalent.

- Cooper Nichols introduced Steve Black, superintendent of Little River Canyon National Preserve. Mr. Black gave an overview of the Preserve's history, its daily operations, and the partnership held with JSU and the EPIC program.

The technical session adjourned at about 12:00 p.m.