



**MAINE ASSOCIATION
OF PROFESSIONAL
SOIL SCIENTISTS**

Rec'd 6/20/95

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages ▶ 2
To <i>Betsy Day</i>	From <i>Colin Peters</i>	
Co. <i>MAWS</i>	Co.	
Dept.	Phone # <i>623-0053</i>	
Fax # <i>623-6527</i>	Fax # <i>623-2597</i>	

1st P on Pg 2. Seems ODD

June 16, 1995

Mr. Colen R. Peters, President
Maine Association of Wetland Scientists
Timson & Peters
P.O. Box 150
Hallowell, Maine 04347

RE: Hydric Soil Delineation

Dear Colen:

It has been over a month since MAWS, MAPSS and DEP met to discuss the subject of who is qualified to identify and map the hydric soil component of wetlands in the state of Maine. The outcome of that meeting, and a subsequent meeting between MAWS and the Board of Certification of Geologists and Soil Scientists, was that a working committee, composed of MAWS and MAPSS members, would be formed to resolve the matter. On an interim basis, a definition of "Qualified Professional" would be developed to assure some degree of technical competence in hydric soil delineation. This would allow for the two organizations to develop a more permanent solution, such as Certification of Wetland Delineators or a Certification program for hydric soil delineators, by the Maine Board of Certification of Geologists and Soil Scientists.

As I mentioned to you at the May 10th meeting, MAPSS is ready and anxious to begin the process of working on the definition of Qualified Professional. The representatives from MAPSS are Hugh Durgin, David Marceau and myself. We can meet anywhere and we are assuming an evening meeting preferably from 7:00 to 9:00PM on any of the following dates:

June 20, 21, 22, 27, or 29

Let me again emphasize that this is not a "turf war" as some MAWS members mistakenly assume. Rather, it is a matter of complying with State laws designed to protect the public welfare and of following the Soil Scientists Code of Ethics. We are obligated to uphold the highest standards for our profession, and to assure that others do the same. Presently, anyone who wishes to, can practice as a wetland scientist, whether they have any credentials or not, including credentials for hydric soil

delineation. Those unqualified individuals damage the reputations of both our professions.

As to the matter of not all soil scientists being qualified to map hydric soil boundaries, it is no different from many other professionals requiring certification. Engineers, for example, may specialize in any of several areas, such as electrical, structural, civil or sanitary engineering. The same is true for doctors. It is up to the professional to limit his or her work to the appropriate area or areas of specialization. Limiting practice in these areas of specialization is at least in part guided by the Professional Code of Ethics. Boards of certification are designed to deal with individuals who need additional guidance or who may have crossed the line and therefore have put the public health, safety, or welfare at risk.

Again, let me state that MAPSS considers this an urgent matter, needing immediate attention. The MAPSS Executive Committee feels that a set of minimum qualifications for "Qualified Professionals" and a final decision on the method of certification for hydric soil delineators should be established by no later than September 30, 1995. Soon after that date, I intend to schedule a special meeting with the entire MAPSS membership to discuss the recommendations of the working committee.

As always I am available to discuss this or other matters with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Stephen H. Howell
President-MAPSS