

MAWS ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 22, 1995  
MAINE STATE GRANGE, AUGUSTA 3 - 8 p.m.

Afternoon Program: Linda Gregory, COA graduate and botanist for Acadia National Park, spoke on the exotic plant management program at the park with a focus on *Lythrum salicaria* (purple loosestrife). Mechanical control seen as counterproductive (can increase resprouting) and biological control may have promise, but generates eco-ethical questions. Intensive chemical control of loosestrife using Rodeo has resulted in a substantial decrease in stem numbers at 6 of the 7 monitoring stations since 1989. Water level change resulting from beaver activity is a complicating factor in efforts to control the species and is seen as the cause of recent stem increases at the 7th station. Acadia will be hosting a Loosestrife 'summit' this summer and have invited various experts to help assess various control methods and their effectiveness.

Jackie Sartoris of the State Planning Office briefly recapped and updated her presentation of November 16, 1995 on the ME Wetlands Conservation Plan. The goal is to complete the plan by May 1996. Work group members will receive a report recently submitted to the legislature. An interim report is available addressing the question of Sec. 404 assumption by the state. She noted that the Corps' issuance of their Feb. 21 PN on proposed revision of the Programmatic General Permit has frustrated the evaluation of 404 assumption. SPO would like help from MAWS on the education and outreach work group so more people know why wetlands are important.

Business meeting Called to Order 4:50 p.m. by J. Lortie

1. A reminder was given that if you want to be certified as a wetland scientist by SWS under the grandfathering provisions, applications are due July 1, 1995 and require a bit of effort to complete.
2. Update on federal Wetland Delineation Certification Program: Lortie spoke with K. Kochenbach of Corps on 2/22 and found things haven't changed much. It's still undergoing internal review and a PN is expected winter 1995. There will be a 30-day comment period.
3. At least two Public Notices are out (DEP PBR revisions and Corps PGP reauthorization/revision) for which the Executive Committee (EC) recommends MAWS submit comments. Lortie reminded the membership that a policy was previously established by the membership authorizing the EC to comment on their behalf if there is no opportunity for a membership vote within the applicable comment period (Corps PN just handed out tonight). EC will contact as many members as possible to get their input.
4. J. Royte: MAWS is organizing a field trip (5/31) during the SWS spring meeting. The trip will go to Saco Heath and possibly some coastal areas, and will include a lobster bake. The committee is still seeking assistance and ideas. C. Peters et al. have submitted an abstract to SWS for a poster on Wetlands of Maine. Poster session/mixer is Thursday night, June 1.
5. D. Rocque: a) LD 88 - Act to Amend the Definition of Freshwater Wetland should be monitored by MAWS. b) Field Indicators for Identification of Hydric Soils in New England is due out in mid-April. It represents the culmination of a 2-yr effort by an interagency regional working group spearheaded by Peter Fletcher (NRCS). To be published by NEIWPC. Corps was involved and will accept use of indicators for soils criteria in delineations. The approach eliminates the need to determine drainage class. Dave briefly reviewed some of the differences between the existing Corps guidelines and the new indicators. Now NRCS is apparently initiating their own effort on the national level which may supersede the recently completed regional effort and is rumored to bring hydric

boundaries even further downslope. It's not clear at this time how this will play out. c) A legislative hearing was recently held on the proposal to make Chesuncook the official state soil.

6. D. Rocque suggested that MAWS make its mailing list available to Peter Fletcher so that members will be able to receive the new soil indicators. It will be a 3x5", coated paper, 3-ring binder (EPA-funded). A motion was made and seconded to approve sending the mailing list to Fletcher. Motion passed.

7. The group that put together the soils indicators is hoping to include in the publication as having been 'involved' in the process, the names of as many organizations as possible to indicate its wide acceptance. D. Rocque and W. Mahaney were the only MAWS members involved and did not involve the EC or membership in the process. There was discussion concerning whether or not this constituted MAWS involvement. A motion was made and seconded to omit MAWS from the list of entities involved. Motion passed.

8. J. Lortie brought up issue that had been discussed at the last meeting to expand the term of officers to 2 years. It's a logistics problem for treasurer to only be in office for one year. It was noted that the president-elect - president - member-at-large sequence would be a 6-year commitment if terms were 2 years. The 3-year track insures continuity within the organization. It would be more difficult to get nominees for 2-year positions. No motion to expand terms.

9. Committee Reports:

Ethics Committee: nothing to report

Legislative Committee: Chair not present. J. Lortie notes that there will be a lot of action in next few weeks in legislation concerning wetlands. Please contact EC if interested in being involved in commenting process.

Membership Committee: no report

Program Committee: no report

10. Treasurer's Report: A. Burnell reported a balance of \$2664.36 before dues collected today. Alan reviewed MAWS records and found that we've been sending newsletters to many people who haven't paid dues. Only 30-40% of Affiliate members have actually paid over the last few years. In 1994, only 46% of Active members paid their dues. As a result, expenses have exceeded revenues for the first time this year. Expenses were approx \$1800 last year and consisted primarily of meeting costs and mailings. It was suggested that a note be put on mailing labels of those who owe dues. Concern voiced that we may need more cash before SWS field trip expenses. Suggested we move membership meeting from June to May so it will be prior to SWS conference (May 28-June 3).

11. Election of Officers - Results:

President-Elect - Betsey Day, Secretary - Dave Cowan, Treasurer - Alan Burnell, Program - Josh Royte, Membership - Don Philips, Legislative - Don Witherill, Ethics - Hugh Durgin.

Recessed for dinner and evening program at approx. 5:45 p.m.

Evening Program: Jay Clement reviewed the 2/21/95 public notice on the Corps' proposed Programmatic General Permit (PGP) which would eliminate Nationwide Permits in Maine in favor of a more broad-based General Permit, similar to MA and NH. The PGP would no longer be based on state jurisdiction, and would cover both Sec. 10 and 404. There is no headwaters restriction. Jay went over the 3 categories: 1) Less than 5000 s.f. of impact (404 waters only) is non-reporting, 2) 5000 s.f. to 3 acres is a screening category, i.e. could be PGP or individual permit, depending on interagency review. 3) over 3 acres of impact goes to individual permit evaluation. 57% of last year's NWP's would have fallen into

Category 1. The PGP must take effect no later than May 1, 1995 due to expiration of current SPGP.

Cole Peters reconvened business meeting at 7:40 p.m.

12. Discussion on whether MAWS should comment on PGP. Motion made and seconded to have MAWS submit comments. Motion passed.

13. Discussed need for membership meeting before SWS in lieu of June meeting. April 26 suggested.

14. C. Peters' presented proposal on Wetland Research Stipend (handout). Suggested \$300, based on a review of MAWS treasury balance over last 4 years. A motion was made to approve program as proposed and establish a committee to develop and administer. Motion amended to incorporate a 2-year review period for program. Motion seconded and passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55.

Submitted by Betsey Day