

857 MAWS QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

Thanks to all of you who returned MAWS questionnaires. Out of approximately 100 questionnaires mailed we had responses from 31 by the September 7 deadline. Comments from the 5 late respondents were also included. A reasonable response level for survey questionnaires, the information will give us a starting point to understanding who we are and what we want to do. Following are highlights of the survey.

EDUCATION. Forty eight per cent (48%) of the respondents have bachelors degrees, another 48% have masters degrees, while the remaining 2% (one individual) has a Phd. The educational background of the respondents is strongest in the biological sciences. Of the total number of degrees held (bachelor, masters, Phd, plus minor fields), 19 degrees were awarded in the physical sciences (geology, hydrology, soils), 35 degrees were in the biological sciences (biology, zoology, wildlife biology, aquatic ecology, wetland ecology, water resources, and general ecology), 8 represented fields which usually require coursework in some combination of physical and biological sciences (includes environmental science, natural resources, plant and soil science, and forestry), while 6 degrees were held in unrelated fields (included in this total is one engineering degree, which requires physical science training).

WORK IN WETLANDS RELATED ISSUES. Seventeen (17) of the respondents work full time in wetlands related issues, 9 work half time, while 3 work less than half time in the field. Two (2) respondents have less than one year of experience, 9 have between 1 and 2 years, 9 between 2.5 and 5 years, another 9 between 5.5 and 10 years, and 2 between 11 and 20. This includes individuals who have extensive field experience and others who have primarily been involved in preparing permits. An overwhelming majority (24 respondents) indicated that the majority of their wetlands-related time was spent on wetland delineations. Four (4) spent most of their time on regulatory review of applications (we have many state and federal agency personnel on our mailing list), while another 4 were primarily involved in preparing permits. Seventeen (17) respondents rated wetland function/value assessments as the second most time consuming task, 10 rated permitting second. A total of 21 respondents rated mitigation either second, third, or fourth.

LICENSING AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. The number of licenses is heavily weighted toward physical sciences, since there are few biological licenses or certifications. The following licenses are held by the respondents: Maine Geologist: 2; Maine Soil Scientist: 8; ME Site Evaluator: 8; Other soil scientist: 3; other site evaluator: 7; HEP and IFIM: 3; Engineer: 1; Registered Forester: 3; TWS Certified Biologist: 1; TWS Assoc. Biol.: 2, Reg. Surveyor: 1, WET 2.0: 1; Certified Ecologist: 1. The

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respondents belong to virtual constellation of professional organizations. Twenty six (26) memberships are held in organizations which represent the physical sciences, while 32 memberships are held in biologically oriented professions.

GOALS OF MAWS. The following organization goals were suggested by the respondents:

Education of members	15%
Prof. Consistency/quality control	27%
Certification	15%
Sound Resource Management	3%
Agency assistance/liaison	11%
Professional recognition	3%
Public education	6%
Policy/legislative lobby	3%
Advancement of wetland science	7%
Professional contact	6%
Code of ethics	4%

MAWS BENEFITS TO MEMBERS

Inf/Education	32%
Career Devel.	7%
Prof. Contact	29%
Certification	12%
Prof. Recognit	9%
Prof. Standrd	5%
Agency Liaison	5%

COMMITTEE SIZE

1-5	23%
6-10	68%
11-20	0%
No Limit	9%

COMMITTEES TO FORM

Membership	8%
Executive	8%
Certification	17%
By-Laws	7%
MAPSS Liaison	5%
Prof. Standrds	7%
Agency Liaison	7%
Organization	19%
Membership	5%
Finance	2%
Education	7%
Wetl. Assess	2%
Vegetation	3%
Wildlife	2%
Publ. Educat.	2%

ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK. Most respondents had no opinion. The majority suggested an executive board with committees. Various examples, including The Wildlife Society (TWS), Am Inst. Prof. Geologists, Soc. Of Wetland Scientists, and MAPSS were suggested.

MAXIMUM DUES

\$ 10	17%
20	39%
30	22%
40	6%
50	11%
100	6%

HOW OFTEN TO MEET

MONTHLY	36%
QUARTERLY	45%
SEMI-ANNUALLY	5%
BI-MONTHLY	14%

Several respondents suggested monthly meetings until organized, then quarterly or semi-annually.

WHERE TO MEET

VARIED	48%
PORTL/AUGUSTA	13%
CENTRAL	30%
BATH/BRUNSW.	4%
BANGOR	4%

Suggestions: Rotate meetings Monday-Thursday since many have commitments on certain nights. Keep costs down by finding no-charge meeting places.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS (This question was poorly phrased, but was meant to imply qualifications for MAWS)

NO MINIMUM	17%
GENERAL EXPERIENCE/KNOWLEDGE	13%
B.S. IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE OR EQUIVALENT	7%
DIRECTLY RELATED SCIENCE EDUCATION PLUS EXPERIENCE	43%
FULL/ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS BASED ON CERTIFICATION OR QUALIFICATION	17%
RELATED EDUCATION PLUS EXAM	3%

For those who suggested a degree plus experience, experience ranged from "minimum" to 3 years, while only one individual suggested minimum education requirements, including 15 credits in soils and 15 additional credits in botany and hydrology. Some individuals whose work involves aspects of wetland science other than delineation suggested that membership should not be tied to minimum qualifications for delineation. (Ed.: Delineation is on the fringe (literally and figuratively), not the cutting edge of wetland science.

OTHER COMMENTS FROM RESPONDENTS

Would like official recognition of MAWS.
Minimum qualification/certification ASAP.
Coordinate with NHAWS, Maryland.
Minimum qualifications needed.
State certification or in-house?
Need wetland assessment method for Maine.
All members should have background and experience in wetland ecology, not just technical delineation criteria.
Full members should have thorough understanding of delineation and all aspects of wetland ecology.
Don't exclude people new to field due to lack of experience if they have suitable science background.
Sponsor seminars to promote educational goals.
MAWS should not be an organization just for delineators.
At least one biologist/ecologist on certification committee.
Thanks for getting things going!