



MAWS

Maine Association of Wetland Scientists

Minutes of Meeting

- Subject:** Maine Association of Wetland Scientists (MAWS)
Annual Meeting
- Date:** March 21st, 2008
- Time:** 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM, followed by a MAWS Executive Committee
Business Meeting from 2:45 PM to 4:00 PM
- Location:** Maple Hill Farm Bed & Breakfast and Conference Center, Hallowell,
Maine
- Attendees:** MAWS Membership, Executive Committee, and Guest Speakers
(approximately 90 attendees)

The Maine Association of Wetland Scientists (MAWS) held its annual meeting on March 21st, 2008 at the Maple Hill Farm Bed & Breakfast and Conference Center in Hallowell, Maine. The morning session consisted of six speakers given by local professions and the two 2007 MAWS stipend winners; each followed by an interactive discussion.

8:30 – 8:45 AM

Welcoming Remarks and Introduction of Speakers – Lauren Stockwell - President

8:45 – 9:30 AM

Vector Bourne Diseases – Chuck Lubelczyk of the Maine Medical Center Research
Institute

Chuck discussed the stages of tick growth and when ticks are most susceptible to transmit Lyme disease. He mentioned that most studies have shown that it takes at least 36 hours of feeding until the tick can transmit the disease. Discussion covered the symptoms, tick distribution, the difference between deer and dog ticks, tick habitat, and personal

protection equipment (PPE). Other noted tick borne diseases include Human Granulocytic Anaglamosis (HGA), RMSF, and STARI.

Diseases discussed which are carried by mosquitoes include West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). Neither disease are carried by mosquitoes breeding in Vernal Pools.

Other topics covered by Chuck included the effectiveness of different PPE, DEET concentrations/effectiveness, and availability of vaccinations.

9:30 – 9:40 AM

Presentation by Eugenie Francine in memory of Wildlife Biologist, Eric York

9:40 – 10:00 AM

Variable Leaf Water Milfoil Reproduction – Katelyn Michaud, University of Maine – Farmington, MAWS 2007 stipend winner.

Katelyn discussed the forms reproduction employed by milfoils in Maine, including sexual, vegetative, and hybridification. She has also been working on comparing the DNA of different samples of milfoil to determine the introduced species and compare it to the native species to determine the extent of hybridization.

10:00 – 10:15 AM

Break

10:15 – 10:50 AM

Regionalization of the ACOE Manual – Dave Rocque

Dave mentioned that the process began in Alaska in 2003. The objective is not to replace the manual but to provide regional supplements to supersede certain portions. The supplements will be implemented for one year for testing.

Some points of interest included:

- Hydrophytic vegetation will be used as a sign of hydrology
- Regional plant lists will be developed
- The +/- rating system will be dropped
- The growing season will be defined differently
- Floodplain soils will need hydric soil morphology
- Version 3 will not be used

Dave mentioned that there will be serious differences between the national indicators and the Version 3 indicators and workshops should be organized to teach delineators the differences.

10:50 - 11:00 AM

Muffins Served

11:00 – 11:45 AM

Vernal Pools and In-Lieu-Fee Updates – Jim Cassida

Jim discussed LD 1952 and its implications to the new Vernal Pools regulations. The three main changes within this Legislative Decision are:

- The hydroperiod will be defined as such that if a pool is not inundated as of July 15th of that year, the pool may be deemed as ‘not significant’
- Significant pools cannot have a permanently flowing inlet OR outlet (MDEP stream)
- New species were added to the rarity list

Jim also mentioned that LD 1952 is listed as emergency legislature

Jim then discussed the In-Lieu-Fee program. It is managed by The Nature Conservancy. Currently, the In-Lieu-Fee program is only used for wetland impacts and not implemented for wildlife impacts. Legislation is in process for upland areas. In-Lieu-Fee compensation is largely based on the functional assessment performed on the wetland to be impacted.

11:45 – Noon

ACOE Update – Peter Tischbein

Peter summarized Ruth Ladd’s presentation regarding the jurisdictional determinations that must be made when NRPA does not cover a wetland alteration.

Noon – 12:45 PM

Lunch

12:45 – 1:30 PM

Shoreland Zoning Updates – Mike Mullen

Mike discussed the need to update the municipalities’ ordinances by July 1st, 2009 to adhere to the Shoreland Zone ordinance. Coastal wetlands are now exclusively determined using the Highest Annual Tide elevations as opposed to observed debris lines. Mike also mentioned that a new buffer strip point system has been developed.

1:30 – 2:00 PM

Eelgrass Growth - Tara Goodrich, University of Maine, MAWS 2006 Stipend Winner

Tara discussed the importance of Maine’s eelgrass beds including their growth habits and habitat they provide. She noted that there has been a worldwide decline of eelgrass up ranging between 70-90%. Her study focused in the Taunton Bay Estuary to determine the cause of eelgrass decline. Her study is still underway and she is utilizing aerial photography and a grid mapping system to calculate regression lines showing the decline of the eelgrass beds.

2:00 – 2:30PM

Certification Subcommittee Update – Don Phillips

(See attached Outline Don provided for talk)

-Don resigned as subcommittee chair

-Jim Boyle accepted the position as chair

2:30 – 4:00PM

MAWS Business Meeting

Executive Committee Election

Nominees for the Executive Committee positions include:

Membership Chair Danielle Dyer

Ethics Chair Lauren Leclerc

Treasurer Dale Knapp

There are no other nominees.

Chris moved to vote to accept the slate of nominees as written, it was seconded, all in favor by show of hands, vote carried.

Programs

Jennifer West noted that Arthur Haines has not been reached yet and that Aram Calhoun was out of the country presently.

It was discussed that there is an interest in a workshop comparing wetlands the way we currently delineate them vs. wetlands delineated using the new national indicators. Dave Rocque volunteered to search for suitable sites for this workshop.

Further discussion showed that there was interest in workshops covering invasive species, general delineations, and GIS topics. Jennifer West and Danielle Dyer were to coordinate regarding the invasive species workshop.

Secretary's Report

There was a motion to accept the minutes of the MAWS 2007 annual meeting as written by Alex Finamore and posted on the MAWS website. It was seconded, all in favor, the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

There was a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as written by Dale Knapp and as it appeared in the 2008 *Obligate*. It was seconded, all in favor, the motion carried.

Ethics Report

There was a motion to accept the Ethics Report as written by Lauren Leclerc and as it appeared in the 2008 *Obligate*. It was seconded, all in favor, the motion carried.

Stipends

Jim Boyle mentioned that we should aim for students of environmental law, legislature, and policy. Lauren Stockwell volunteered to send out notices targeting these disciplines.

There was a motion to maintain the stipend amount of \$1,000. It was seconded, all in favor, the motion carried.

Legislative

There was a motion to accept the Legislative Report as written by Eugenie Francine and as it appeared in the 2008 *Obligate*. It was seconded, all in favor, the motion carried.

Membership

Rich Jordan was in Costa Rica at the time of the meeting.

Other Issues

Chris D. motioned to offer a \$200 scholarship in memory of Eric York. It was seconded, all in favor, the motion carried.

Danielle Dyer moved to close the meeting. It was seconded, all in favor, the motion carried.

Respectively Submitted By:

Alexander Finamore

MAWS Secretary

April 10, 2008