

# Summary of Soil Interpretations Committee

2010 North Central Regional Soil  
Survey Conference

June 17, 2010

Columbus, OH

# Participants

- Edwin Griffin, Curtis Talbot, Steve Prebonick, Brian Cooley, David Hopkins, Jon Reedstrom, Todd Hoveer, Gary Struben, Jason Steele, Will Bowman, Rick Griffin, Scot Haley, Jesse Turk, John Warner, Cameron Loerch, Mark Abney, Ron Collman, Cleveland Watts, Gordon Starr, Mark Kuzila, Bob Parkinson, Sam Brown, Jon Gerken, Randy Miles (chair)

# Committee Responses to Charges

- Charge 1: Review status of new ecological site staffing efforts in NRCS

*Committee believes this charge is within the business aspect of the cooperative soil survey and is not an “interpretations” recommendation.*

# Committee Responses to Charges

- Charge 2: Review benchmark soils in the region and recommend those soils which would have the most value added from ecological sites

*Committee believes this concept is important but the benchmark soils should be defined at the MLRA, MO, and state levels.*

# Committee Responses to Charges

- Charges 3,4,5, and 6: Charges centering on ecological site assessment and dynamic soil properties.

*Committee believes that 1 DSP project every 2 years instead of one every year for an MO is appropriate.*

# Committee Responses to Charges

- Charges 3,4,5, and 6: Charges centering on ecological site assessment and dynamic soil properties.

Need for:

- National criteria (not default); base inventory is soil survey
- Identify scale

# Committee Responses to Charges

- Charges 3,4,5, and 6: Charges centering on ecological site assessment and dynamic soil properties.

Need for:

- Identification of cooperators: biologists, foresters, wildlife professionals etc
- Use Northern Plains special ecological site team for adaptation of process.

# Committee Responses to Charges

- Charges 3,4,5, and 6: Charges centering on ecological site assessment and dynamic soil properties.

State and Transition Model:

The transition from state to state (west to east) will decide the influence of discipline's influence: Range less influence to the east with an increase of forestry into the ESD, ELT, etc

# Committee Responses to Charges

- Charge 7: Risk assessment

*Committee believes the use of risk assessment tools such as that presented by Mark Tumeo can provide an added dimension for interpretations especially for environmental applications for a new generation of soil survey users. The need for the use of model-based decisions to make these types of interpretations is keen.*

# Committee Responses to Charges

- Charge 8: Urban Interpretations

*Committee discussed many aspects of urban interpretations. Some points:*

- *Urban areas are NOT terminal use*
- *There are many distressed parcels in some localities.*
- *There is current project in Cleveland with EPA: 1<sup>st</sup> order soil survey; multi-needs and agency involvement; much is water quality driven*

# Committee Responses to Charges

- Charge 8: Urban Interpretations  
(continued)

*Further points:*

- *Mapping performed on a Landform/Parent Material basis.*
- *“Urban Land” does not convey anything*
- *Many interpretations may be based on “Urban Hydrology” basis.*
- *“High Resolution” soil survey.*

# Committee Responses to Charges

- Charge 8: Urban Interpretations  
(continued)

*Committee discussed many aspects of urban interpretations. Charge National Leader for Technical Services. Some points:*

- *User needs*
- *Policy/Standards*
- *How to deliver and house*

# Committee Responses to Charges

- Charge 8: Urban Interpretations  
(continued)

*Further points:*

- *Mapping performed on a time era basis.*
- *Need for data from engineers and other sources: location of sewer and utility lines.*
- *Capture urban soil properties*
- *Use of technology to ID physical setting: GPR, EM, etc*

# Committee Responses to Charges

- Charge 8: Urban Interpretations  
(continued)

*Further points:*

- *Chemical contaminants status.*
- *Urban garden interpretation needs.*
- *Need for disaster response in urban settings i.e. flooding*

# Interpretations

- Need to identify and remove

“The interpretative junk in the data base”

# Interpretations Committee

- Most number of participants in my memory
- Greatest quality and quantity of discussion during this time!
- Thank you!