



Minutes of the NRCS Business Meeting
Southern Regional Cooperative Soil Survey Conference
June 3, 2002
Tybee Island, GA

Karl Hipple chaired the meeting. Wayne Hudnall represented the university group at the NRCS business meeting. Warren Lynn represented NRCS at the university business meeting.

The group reviewed the Action Items from the 2000 business meeting:

1. Soils of the South Region Project -- West to complete by October 2000.
Completed and on display at the current conference.
2. Southern Regional Experiment Station Home Page -- West to complete by September 2000. **Still to be done.**
3. Taxonomy Committee report. **The co-chair of the Soil Taxonomy Committee rotates by MO. Mike Golden, TX, is the current co-chair; Roy Vick, NC, will be the next co-chair. Craig Ditzler as the National Director for Classification and Standards is the permanent co-chair.**
4. Southern Regional Research Needs Committee report.
Berman Hudson reported that there is a National Research Needs Committee and that Rebecca Burt, National Soil Survey Center, and Curtis Monger, New Mexico State University, are co-chairs. There is a need to continue the South Region Committee on Research Needs.
5. Southern Regional Technical Committee for Hydric Soils
Daigle to chair, solicit members for TBD slots, and call the first meeting.
West to poll university representatives to get replacements for Pettry and Vepraskas.
Daigle reported there has been no progress. The group agreed that there should be no further action on this item. The National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils can field questions for the Southern region. If the National Committee does make regional appointments, the Southern region should have a voice in the selection of that person.
6. Identify additional uses of soil resource data to be tested in the southern region --
Norfleet to spearhead the project
Lee Norfleet reported that the dynamic properties study is the focus of research by several graduate students. Application of the research is needed now.
7. Identify and develop strategies or methods to be used to increase the visibility of soil resources and the use of soil resource inventory products.
This has been done, but not at the regional level. Gary Muckel chaired a group that developed a marketing plan for the soil survey program. The South Region provided input to Gary Muckel who included it in the National Marketing Plan.

8. Request from Horace Smith that the conference develop a plan for collecting measured soil chemical and physical laboratory data to populate the NCSS database under the stewardship of NRCS. Suggest that the national office encourage field soil scientists to gather field soil properties.

There was a lot of discussion about this item. It is a long-standing field problem. The issue seems to be two-fold. 1)There needs to be a clear understanding about what data is to be collected, and 2)There needs to be consistency in the procedures and equipment used to collect the data. A lot of data already exists. The group agreed to send the following recommendation to the Southern Regional Soils Conference Business Meeting:

RECOMMENDATION: The Southern Regional NRCS group suggests that Warren Lynn, Southern Soils Liaison, should review the literature and existing data to identify gaps in existing data and develop a plan that will provide national guidance to improve soil survey data.

9. Refer to the National Conference planning committee the suggestion to include an agenda item featuring technology.
Computer tools were emphasized at the national conference. Maxine Levin emphasized the need for communication from states about new technologies that may be useful to others.

Other items:

Wayne Hudnall asked about the print date for the field guide for describing and sampling soils. Hipple reported on the status of the project. Hudnall emphasized that 1) universities need the product by August for upcoming fall classes (the product will not be ready by August 2002), and 2) the printing needs to be sufficient to last for several years. The product will be available on the web, but a hard copy is still needed. Hudnall suggested that if cost is a factor in the printing, perhaps it could be contracted to a private printing firm and made available for purchase.

Notes by Julie A. Best
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