

# Research Needs Committee

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# Charges

- **Charges:**
- **Review reports and recommendations from 2006 NCSS Regional Conferences.**
- **Identify, document, prioritize, and address the critical research and development issues within the NCSS.**
- **Identify opportunities for partnering on priority research needs.**
- **Identify opportunities for funding priority research needs.**
- **Continue Task Force activities:**



# Charges (cont.)

- **Benchmark Soils and Landscapes in Soil Survey** The purpose of the Task Force will be to formulate a plan to re-establish a targeted measurement program of chemical and physical relationships in soil properties and conditions through NCSS partnerships on Benchmark Soils and Landscapes for the US Soil Survey. This task force would also address compilation of NCSS cooperator laboratory databases of soil properties into LIMS and data base model for this effort. The NCSS Research Agenda Standing Committee will report the Task Force's recommendations at the NCSS.

**Cannot mandate. Responsibility lies with SSS.  
Template being developed in Illinois with  
NSSC.**



# Charges (cont.)

**Gypsum and Expanding Salts in Western States** The purpose of the Task Force will be to formulate a plan to produce a targeted measurement program of chemical and physical relationships in soil properties and conditions through NCSS partnerships on Gypsum and Expanding Salts for the US Soil Survey. The NCSS Research Agenda Standing Committee will report the Task Force's recommendations at the NCSS.

Working group has been formed and charges developed. Progress report given by Thomas Reinsch and Susan Horton.



## **Charges (cont.)**

**Open File Task Force.** The purpose of this Task Force will be to institutionalize the open file system

**Task force developed and submitted report. Report was reviewed and approved and will be forwarded to Micheal Golden.**



# Charges (cont.)

- **The NCSS Research Agenda Standing Committee will be required to report its activities at each National Conference.**



# Topics Discussed

- **Request to link field scientists with university scientists for suggestions for field research projects.**
  - **Ideally this should be addressed within states through an annual soil survey work planning meeting**



# Discussion Topics (cont.)

- Request for soil analyses standard samples on regional basis.
  - Collect bulk sample. Send to NSSC for analyses. Return to originating region.
  - Have bi-annual analyses comparison among cooperating laboratories from subset of bulk samples

Mickey Ransom will submit a formal request to the committee from the North Central Region.



# Topics Discussed (cont.)

- Need was expressed that contact persons be available to discuss questions from users accessing data base and online information.
  - Will pass this to Bob Ahrens and Jon Hempel
- What do we do with measured data and how do we track it? (formed working group)
- A working group is needed for discussion of the role of NSSC in general, and the Soil Survey Laboratory in particular, in the future of soil survey. (formed working group)



# Topics Discussed (cont.)

- **What constitutes a “complete data set” for a soil profile sampled in the context or in support of the cooperative soil survey? Currently, field-measured variables (Ksat, infiltration, bulk density) are not included. (included in data working group)**
- **How do we do a better job of systematically notifying cooperators when funds are available through NRCS? (will pass to Bob Ahrens and Jon Hempel)**



## Topics (cont.)

- **Open file report submitted to committee with request to review by Wednesday meeting. After Wednesday meeting Susan will route to Mike Golden. Probably no problem with soil survey horizons because of volume of submissions.**



# Working Groups

- **Two working groups were formed.**
  - Chairs were identified
  - Some members volunteered
  - Working group chairs were instructed to complete working group membership, have teleconference to develop charges, and report to Research Needs Committee Chairs by Oct. 1, 2007.



# Working Groups

Working group formed to discuss the role of NSSC, and the Soil Survey Laboratory in particular, in the future of soil survey.

Mark Kuzila will co-chair with Jim Richardson

## Membership

Wayne Hudnall (with emphasis on laboratory issues)

Larry West

Others?



# Working Group

**Soil Survey Data Working group:**

**What do we do with measured data and how do we track them?**

**What data will be required from the field for the MLRA soil survey update process.**

**Thomas Reinsch co-chair with Toby O'Geen**

**Tom Hallmark?**

**Ken Olson?**

**Henry Ferguson?**

**Others?**

