



2008 Report Research Needs Committee

Cynthia Stiles, Chair

Participants

- NRCS – National Soil Survey Center: Cynthia Stiles, Larry West, Phil Schoenenberger, Tom Reinsch, and Ed Dunkinson
- NRCS – NHQ: Maxine Levin
- NRCS – States: Bill Wehmueller; Cam Loersch
- State DNR – Tim Gerber
- Universities: Ken Olson; Mickey Ransom; Phil Owens; Dave Hopkins; Doug Malo
- KS Geological Survey: Marios Sophocleous and Margaret Townsend

Agency Alignment

Under the Soil Survey Division Strategic Plan for 2005 - 2015, the Research Needs Committee operations and outputs are aligned with Objective 4 under Mission Function 2 – *Keep soil survey relevant to meet emerging and ever-changing needs.*

Objective 4: Organized, prioritized, and systematically conducted research that addresses resource concerns and provides information necessary to meet users' interpretive and data needs.

Performance Measures (Committee Charges)

- Help with project oversight (including assistance in development) for the region, preferably involving non-agency cooperators and MLRA personnel
- Production of annual committee report describing progress on assigned tasks for active MLRA research projects. Each project will have a coordinator who will submit a concise and clear summary of activities and accomplishments
- Publication of results of finished projects in refereed journal articles, technical notes, or open file reports
- Integration of key information obtained from research projects, when possible, with public access venues such as Web Soil Survey or Soil Data Mart

Recommendation 1

- *Link NASIS with K_{sat} composite database to formulate a single delivery vehicle for this information. The supporting data to be included will be components of calculated K_{sat} and will encompass a broad range of acquisition methods. Keep this portion of the database updated with real time data whenever possible.*

Recommendation 2

- *Revise and update the Benchmark Soil List to provide a framework for future investigations. Each State Soil Scientist should provide a list of their benchmark soils, categorized by one or more of the qualifying four criteria:*
 - *1) extent of area*
 - *2) holds a significant position in Soil Taxonomy*
 - *3) has a great deal of information on characteristics*
 - *4) occupies a unique ecological/agronomic niche*

Committee Governance

- Cynthia Stiles, Chair (2010)
- Randy Miles, Co-Chair (2010) and Chair (2012)
- *Ad hoc* participants – Larry West, Phil Schoenenberger, and Doug Wysocki.