

Hastings, Nebraska

Nebraska Society of Professional Soil Scientists Field Trip & Minutes of September 17, 2002, Society Meeting at Hastings, Nebraska.

Minutes of meeting of the Nebraska Society of Professional Soil Scientists held at the Holiday Inn in Hastings, NE. on Sept. 17, 2002.

President Earl Lockridge called the meeting to order at 3:30 P.M. with 15 members present. See list of members attending at end of report.

Earl introduced the new elected officers of NSPSS, followed by introductions of everyone present.

Treasurers report by Gary Muckel.

<u>\$612.37</u>	March 21, 2002, Transferred from Wells Fargo to the Lincoln USDA Federal Credit Union.
\$690.00	Membership dues collected from March up to September 17, 2002
-\$92.66	Expenses; postage, envelopes, mailing labels.
\$1215.55	Balance as of 9/17/02
65	Membership as of 9/17/0

Reviewed minutes and notes from winter meeting.

Constitution and By-Laws. Karl Hipple led the discussion on revisions of the NSPSS Constitution and By-Laws. Several points of the constitution were discussed, and some modifications were made. All members present were in agreement to the new Constitution. The new updated Constitution will be sent out with the minutes of this meeting, and final vote of approval will be at the next meeting to be held sometime this winter.

NSPSS application form. A new colorful NSPSS application form designed by Tammy Nepple was passed around to the group, and all agreed to proceed to prepare a final copy and use the new form.

ARCPACS Affiliation. Karl Hipple agreed to follow up as to member status for individuals and for NSPSS as a group.

Development of NSPSS Web Site. Mark Kuzila offered the services of UNL to put together a web site for NSPSS. There was some discussion as to set up the

site as a .edu or .org site. Mark Kuzila along with Gary Muckel, Ron Bauer, Karl Hipple, and Steve Scheinost will work together to establish a web site for NSPSS.

Projects for NSPSS.

1. Update "Soils of Nebraska" Resource Report, No. 2. By John Elder, Published by U. of Nebraska, Conservation and Survey Division. May, 1969.
2. Contact Dave Sands, Audubon Nebraska Executive Director from the Audubon Society to see what soils information NSPSS can provide at Spring Creek Ranch, which is used by the Audubon Society for educational field trips.
3. Some ideas were listed at a NSPSS meeting in Grand Island several years ago. Look them up.
4. Make up known soil texture samples in 1 pint or quart containers to be distributed to vo-ag instructors through out the state and at Land Judging Contests.

Discussion-"What can NSPSS do for me?" A lively discussion among the group centered around what the society needs to do to recruit new members, retain present members, and get members interested in attending most of the meetings. The society needs to get all members active in projects, so the work does not fall on a regular few. What local, state or national issues can be discussed to get the members involved and attending meetings and tours? What issues, topics or projects will make everyone want to come to the meetings and tours, and be an active member? Further discussion on this issue will be brought up at the next winter meeting.

Next meeting. A winter meeting is tentatively scheduled for February, 2003 to be held in Lincoln. More information will be coming later.

Topics for an evening speaker were discussed. Mark Kuzila will contact someone from the Lincoln Planning Board to talk about the saline wetlands mitigation process that is taking place on the I-80 27th St. interchange. Other possible topics include; Drought conditions across the state and how it affects water quality. Ground water levels across the state.

President Lockridge closed the meeting with a viewing of the video on pit safety.

Evening activities included a social hour followed by a buffet. The after dinner speaker was Chris Helzer, of the Nature Conservancy. Chris presented a slide show on the goals and purpose of the Conservancy, along with slides of fauna and flora of grasslands.

Field trip on Wednesday, Sept. 18. The group traveled to a site northwest of Clay Center on the USDA Animal Research Center where Mark Kuzila and Bill Zanner were in the process of collecting core samples in order to better understand soil morphology in relation to the topography around the large basins in the area. Mark and Bill discussed some of their findings and theories of the soil forming processes in the rain water basin area.

At the second site, Steve Moran, Coordinator of the Rain Water Basin Joint Venture discussed what he does and how he works with all agencies on restoring wetlands.

NSPSS members that participated in the summer meeting and/or field tour were:

1. Gary Muckel
2. Tommy Etudor
3. Norman Helzer
4. Casey Latta
5. Karl Hipple
6. Earl Lockridge
7. Lyle Steffen
8. Luis Hernandez
9. Russ Kelsea
10. Steve Scheinost
11. Henry Mount
12. Tyler Labenz
13. Robert Engel
14. Mark Kuzila
15. Roger Hammer
16. Phil Young
17. Jay Wilson
18. Bill Zanner

Submitted by Steve Scheinost, Secretary
September, 19, 2002