

# January 29, 2004

## Lincoln, Nebraska

**Nebraska Society of Professional Soil Scientists  
Minutes of the January 29, 2004  
NSPSS Holdrege State Soil Exhibit Committee  
Plant Science Building, UNL, Lincoln, Nebraska.**

### **Nebraska Society of Professional Soil Scientists -- Smithsonian – Holdrege State Soil Exhibit Committee**

The Nebraska Society of Professional Soil Scientists Committee working on the Holdrege State Soil – Smithsonian Soil Exhibit, met January 29, 2004, in Rm. 279a of Plant Science Building on east campus of University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

#### **Participants were:**

- John Duran - Research Soil Scientist-- ARS- UNL
- Bill Zanner - Associate Professor Soils—UNL
- Luis Hernandez – State Soil Scientists
- Bob Pollock - Soil Scientist- retired
- Earl Lockridge – Soil Scientist-- National Soil Survey Center
- Gary Muckel – Soil Scientist-- National Soil Survey Center
- Jim Culver - Soil Scientist – retired

#### **Background and actions of December 2, 2003 meeting:**

Our committee's first organizational meeting to support the Smithsonian Soil Exhibit was December 2, 2003 at Kiem Hall on East Campus of University of Nebraska. Attending this session was: John Duran, Bill Zanner, Luis Hernandez, Bob Pollock, Earl Lockridge, Gary Muckel, and Jim Culver.

#### Action items included:

--- Send a letter to all members of the Nebraska Society of Professional Soil Scientists about the 10,000 dollars in financial donations needed to sponsor the Nebraska State Soil – Holdrege for the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit.

Results: Gary Muckel prepared a draft letter that was send to our group for review. Steve Scheinost sent out this letter to all NSPSS members encouraging then to financially assist with this project in mid December of 2003.

--- Bill Zanner sent an e-mail to Patrick Drohan, co-chair for the National Smithsonian Soils Exhibit Project inquiring about what other states were doing and material that help explain the exhibit and etc.

Results: Bill received some good comments from Patrick that were shared by e-mail with our group. Bill also received an excellent short Power Point presentation about the State Soil - Smithsonian Soil Exhibit project.

--- Need to develop and/or modify material about the State Soil and its importance in the Smithsonian Soil Exhibit to be used in talking with potential contributors. Goal is to have a review draft prepared by our January 26th meeting. Culver, Hernandez and Pollock currently taking lead.

Results: Draft prepared and reviewed by Jim Culver and Bob Pollock and discussed with Linda Greene, Communications Specialists – Northern Plains Regional Office for editing.

### **Discussion and actions of January 29, 2004 meeting:**

Norm Helzer had suggested we need better documentation of how contributions to this project can be made. We contacted Valerie Breunig ASF/SSA and she prepared an excellent “Smithsonian Soils Exhibit – Donation Fact Sheet”. This Donation Fact Sheet was reviewed and concurred by our group.

Luis had several copies of a first draft brochure about the Smithsonian- Nebraska State Soil exhibit prepared by Linda Greene for review. Good general discussion on draft of brochure. Bob Pollock suggested that perhaps we needed two different brochure themes. One for the present to promote contributions and one in the future to promote the state soil and could list the major contributors for the Smithsonian-Holdrege State Soil project. Luis Hernandez and Jim Culver will continue to work with Linda to complete the brochure and have copies available at the NSPSS winter meeting. The goal is for the brochure to be used as a promotional tool by members in visiting with potential donors for the Smithsonian- Holdrege State Soil Project.

### **Discussion on potential donors:**

Tony Vrana due to weather conditions was not present but provided some excellent suggestions on potential donor contacts.

Jim Culver distributed two lists of potential donor references. One included information from Lincoln Library about some of the larger Nebraska based business and the second was a summary of potential donors discussed at our first meeting. Earl Lockridge suggested Well Fargo be added to our list.

Jim Culver discussed the Smithsonian- Nebraska State Soil project with Steve Oltmans, Papio-Missouri River Natural Resource District. Steve indicated he is in favor of a 1000 dollar donation for this project. Steve also indicated he will work with us in contacting two or three other potential high profile donors in the Omaha and Lincoln area. Jim will work with Steve and Valerie Breunig, Agronomic Science Foundation (ASF)/SSSA on the process of how the donations are

physical made and credited to Nebraska.

Bob Pollock and Tony Vrana suggested the Holdrege Bank and Central Nebraska Public and Power be contacted. Jim Culver will contact Buddy Sterinshouer, Retired District Conservationists at Holdrege and Tyler Labenz, Soil Scientists, Holdrege to explore this opportunity.

Earl Lockridge plans to visit with a contact and representative of Wells Fargo Bank for contributions. Bob Pollock plans to contact a personnel contact for potential contributions from an Omaha Agency. Jim Culver will visit with Ray Ward, Ward Laboratories, Hastings and Steve Oltmans, Papio – Missouri River NRD in coordination of a high potential contributor in the Omaha area. Ray Ward is also a member of a Smithsonian Soil Exhibit national fund raising team.

Luis Hernandez and Jim Culver will plan to meet with Susan Secrest , Nebraska Groundwater Foundation on their opportunities to participate in the Smithsonian-Holdrege State Soil project.

Jim Culver will contact Valerie Breunig to find out if any Nebraska contributions have been sent to ASF/SSSA. Information will be available at NSPSS winter meeting.

John Duran raised the question of what our time line is for raising the 1000.00 dollars for this project. Some general discussion – Suggested goal of July 1, 2004. Will be discussed at NSPSS Winter meeting.

**Activities planned for business session of the NSPSS 2004 winter meeting:**

Jim Culver will give a brief overview on the status of the Smithsonian-Holdrege State Soil Project.

Bill Zanner will present a Smithsonian Soil Exhibit power point presentation.

Discussion on minimum contributions from each member of NSPSS toward the Smithsonian- Holdrege State Soil project. Will recommend each NSPSS contribute a minumn of 25.00 dollars for this project. A contribution of 25 dollars by 40 members will rise 1000.00 dollars. This is the minimum amount that will enable the Nebraska Society of Professional Soils Scientists to be on the permanent recognized label identifying the donors for the Holdrege soil monolith.

Overall, the quality discussion of several issues by all participants was good in laying the framework for successful completion of this project. This group will meet briefly at the NSPSS winter meeting to assess our progress and plan our next implementation phase.

Meeting adjourned at Noon.  
Jim Culver – NSPSS Smithsonian Soil Exhibit Coordinator