

2011 NTCHS Annual Meeting,

Delaware Valley College, Doylestown, PA

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Lenore Vasilas(DC, NRCS), Chris Smith(DC, NRCS), Mike Vepraskas(NC State University), Shawn Finn(MA, NRCS), Richard Griffin(Prairie View A&M University), Chris Noble(USACE), Aaron Miller(NM, NRCS), Ralph Spagnolo(EPA).

Members absent: Robert Boyd (DC, BLM), Steve Lawrence (GA, NRCS), Jim Dick (NM, USFWS), Wade Hurt (Univ. of FL), Chien-Lu Ping (Univ. of Alaska), Steve Monteith (NE, NRCS)

Vacant positions: USFS, NRCS Hydrologist, University Pedologist

3-8-11 at 8am

Larry Hepner from Delaware Valley College delivered a presentation on the history and other facts about the college. DVC, founded by Dr. Joseph Krauskopf, is one of 3 small private agricultural schools in the nation, became an accredited college in the early 60's. Mostly a teaching institution, this college does some research and has several graduate programs.

Quorum: With 8 members present, we will have a voting presence at this year's meeting. Noble recommends an invitation to Dave D' Amore with USFS in AK for induction into the committee. NTCHS would like to accept the resignation of Randy Dahlgren from membership, as well as Dawn Ferris and Dave Zuberer. We should look to add at least one more member, preferably a pedologist. Vepraskas recommends approaching Paul Rodrigue, a hydrologist, as a new member too.

Future Mission of NTCHS: C.S. noted that we may need to "adjust" our mission statement to pursue more quantification of ecological functions for hydric soils. We need to communicate to congress why NTCHS is still relevant and important to convene.

National Wetland Conditions Assessment: This may be a great opportunity to learn about the functions of indicators. NTCHS may find value as a recommending body for areas of research that could provide insight into hydric soil functions and ecosystem services.

Motions: first motion by M.V. for a letter to be authored by Vasilas and Smith and drafted by 4-8-11 that will ask Dawn Ferris, Dave Zuberer, and Randy Dahlgren to resign from active membership on NTCHS and serve on a technical advisory committee. 2nd by Griffin, unanimous agreement is reached. Second motion by Vepraskas is for University members to appoint a

pedologist as a new member of NTCHS. 2nd by Noble, unanimous agreement reached. Third motion by Vepraskas is for Federal agency members to work to appoint a hydrologist to NTCHS. 2nd by Griffin, unanimous agreement reached. Vepraskas also moved to create an advisory group of people with expertise that may be needed but whose membership would not be included in the voting body. Those members that are being asked to step down from the committee will become members of this advisory group. 2nd by Smith, unanimous agreement.

Note: if Cindy Stiles does not continue to serve on NTCHS we would also like to add her to the technical advisory committee.

OSD: No progress was made on last year's motion to add the hydric soil indicator section to Official Series Descriptions. Smith will champion this topic at next SBAAG meeting 2011 and will report back to NTCHS immediately following and with his assessment of timeliness that this may occur.

USACE update: the term "Capillary Fringe" remains in use in ACE wetlands delineation manual glossary, but is not referenced in any section pertaining to indicators. As far as NTCHS interests pertain, this action is completed. Caribbean Islands Supp. due out this summer; NC/NE Supp. revision due in Fall 2011; East Mountains and Piedmont Supp. interim phase due October 2011 with final version in Spring of 2012.

1987 Manual update draft has been written and reviewed. A release date is currently unknown.

Training for hydric soils may be cut due to budgetary downsizing.

Motion: Vepraskas moved that all minutes should include an accurate list of current members so that quorum requirements can be determined easily. Lenore will provide the list. Motion amended by Noble to include adding this list to all agendas as well. 2nd by Griffin unanimous agreement reached.

USFS: Smith will pursue a new member to NTCHS from USFS.

Motion: Miller moved to accept minutes from NTCHS annual meeting 2010. Vepraskas will write a tech note on stripped matrix formation by 8/11. 2nd by Smith, unanimous agreement reached.

Vasilas provided a presentation regarding proposed additions of S7 and A10 for use in Michigan. The issue was tabled to request additional information related to how percent coated sand grains normal rainfall was determined. The topic will be reviewed on Wed. if information can be provided before the meeting is adjourned on Wed.

Indicator: discussion of altering the wording of S7 indicator to be tabled for now.

Contrast table proposal: Jacob Berkowitz put together a table to separate faint contrast from distinct and prominent contrast. A few modifications were made by the committee and the committee approved the addition of the table to the Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States. It will be added to the errata and the next version of the indicators.

Approved table:

Upper Threshold for Faint		
Δ Hue	Δ Value	Δ Chroma
0	≤ 2	≤ 1
1	≤ 1	≤ 1
2	0	0
Δ Hue	Value	Chroma
Any	≤ 3	≤ 2

EPA Update: Most activity has been with the Mid-Atlantic TF2 indicator revision. No other activity to report aside from work on the National Wetlands Condition Assessment.

Hydric Criteria: Vasilas motions that we use the NTCHS definition of hydric soils to develop the hydric soils list. The Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States and the Hydric Soils Technical Standard can help identify those map unit components that are hydric by definition. 2nd by Smith, Unanimous agreement reached.

Presentation: A.M. delivered talk on the status of the Bosquecito Hydric Soils study. Helpful dialogue was contributed by all.

Web Soil Survey: Vasilas moved to create interpretation for WSS that categorizes hydric soils by their mapunit composition for the categories of 0%, 1-49%, 50-99%, and 100% hydric composition. 2nd by Spagnolo, unanimous agreement by all.

University update: Vepraskas demonstrated use of DRAINMOD for predicting climate change effects on water table and the ways that hydric soils issues may directly impact general population to increase public awareness. Chin-Lieu Ping sent a report stating he is getting mixed results using MRIS and IRIS tubes in AK volcanic wet soils. Griffin has been working on water tables across whole landscapes, summit-to-summit, dynamics of Fe and Mn movements within basins.

Recommendations: contact NSSL to produce IRIS tubes. MRIS tubes might be useful but still have undetermined limitations. Need to provide procedure for developing protocol for Color Change Propensity Index.

Red Parent Material proposal: Vasilas presented data submitted to NTCHS in support of a proposed red parent material indicator submitted by the Mid-Atlantic Committee for Hydric Soils.

Discussion: After reviewing data submitted for S7 and A10 in Michigan and the proposed new red parent material indicator the committee discussed putting together an example or template for submitting data to the committee to ensure that the correct information is submitted in a format that can be analyzed properly. This is something that could be posted as a tech. note on the NTCHS website.

Overview of Wednesday field trip.

Adjourn 4:30pm

3-10-11

NTCHS meeting 2012: The committee discussed the location of the next meeting. It was decided to meet in Michigan in May 2012 and Alaska in 2013.

Indicator F21 proposal: Noble wrote up changes to Red Parent Material Indicator. He inserted "matrix has a value and chroma greater than 2 and less than or equal to 4". Vasilas moves to adopt Red Parent Material indicator with final wording to be hammered out for publication. 2nd by Spagnolo, unanimous agreement reached.

Approved indicator:

F21. Red Parent Material. *For use in MLRA 147 and 148 of LRR S and MLRA 127 of LRR N; for testing in all soils derived from red parent materials. A layer derived from red parent materials (see glossary) that is at least 10 cm (4 inches) thick, starting within 25 cm (10 inches) of the soil surface with a hue of 7.5YR or redder. The matrix has a value and chroma greater than 2 and less than or equal to 4. The layer must contain 10 percent or more depletions and/or distinct or prominent redox concentrations occurring as soft masses or pore linings. Redox depletions should differ in color by having:*

- a. Value one or more higher and chroma one or more lower than the matrix, or
- b. Value of 4 or more and chroma of 2 or less.

User Notes: This indicator was developed for use in areas of red parent material, such as residuum in the Piedmont Province Triassic lowlands section or the Paleozoic "red beds" of the Appalachian Mountains, and in alluvium or colluvium derived from these materials. In glaciated areas, the indicator may form in glacial till, outwash, deltaic sediment, or glaciolacustrine sediments derived from similar red lithologies. In order to confirm that it is appropriate to apply this indicator to particular soils, soils formed from similar parent materials in the area should

have been evaluated to determine their Color Change Propensity Index (CCPI) and be shown to have CCPI values below 30 (Rabenhorst and Parikh, 2000.) It cannot be assumed that sediment overlying red colored bedrock is derived solely from that bedrock. The total percentage of all redox concentrations and redox depletions must add up to at least 10% to meet the threshold for this indicator.

This indicator is typically found at the boundary between hydric and non-hydric soils. Users that encounter a depleted matrix in the upper part should consider F3-Depleted Matrix. F3 is often found in sites that are anaerobic for a longer period. Users that encounter a dark soil surface (value 3 or less and chroma 2 or less) should consider F6-Redox Dark Surface or F7-Depleted Dark Surface. If the site is in a closed depression subject to ponding users should consider F8-Redox Depressions. See glossary for definition of Red Parent Material.

Motion: Vasilas motions to table approval of MI S& test indicator until submission in writing of clarifications are validated. 2nd by Spagnolo, unanimous agreement reached.

Motion: Vasilas motions to table decisions concerning marl until next year. 2nd by Noble, unanimous agreement reached.

There was a discussion over confusion of the changes made to the masked sand grain requirement for dark sandy layers. Smith moved to table the discussion and run the wording by the NRCS editor to get his interpretation of the wording, 2nd by Miller, unanimous agreement.

National Wetland Conditioning Assessment: Vasilas lead a discussion on the EPA effort to conduct a National Wetland Conditioning Assessment on wetlands throughout the US. EPA has contracted with NRCS to run the soils analysis in the NRCS Soil Survey Lab in Lincoln, NE. NRCS has also taken the lead in assisting the contractors in the development of the soil sampling protocols and training the field crews on using the soil sampling protocols. Data collection for the assessment will begin in mid- to late spring and run through early fall of 2011.

Quorum issues: Smith will write letters of inquiry to USFS and USFWS inquiring about the status of their membership on the committee. The USFS member recently retired and the USFWS has not been to the last two meetings.

Adjourn: 11:30 am