

PAPSS ANNUAL MEETING

October 28, 2017

Doors opened at approximately 9:00 with the business meeting beginning at approximately 9:45 AM.

Introductions and greetings from current President Yuri Plowden

President Plowden opened the meeting with greeting to the 25 PAPSS members in attendance and reviewed the highlights of the year. Two notable successes were achieved including the passage of changes to the PAPSS By-Laws and the 2017 Hollidaysburg Technical meeting held on August 7th and 8th on property owned by the volunteer instructor, Frank Plewa. 2017 also saw 5 new members joining PAPSS including 2 Apprentice Members, 1 Associate Member and 2 Professional members. One scholarship was awarded and two PennSoil issues were published. Furthermore, on-line conference registration and payment options were developed and incorporated into the organization's webpage. Our members and the Board participated in SSSA, SAC and PASEO activities and commented on proposals for Alternate On-Lot Septic Systems and for Soil Tech certification proposals. Lastly, Board members helped develop language on the methods for handling ethic complaints.

Review of SSSA Certification Issues- Laurel Mueller

Laurel had the floor and discussed her conversations with Luther Smith at the SSSA meeting regarding the new proposed soil technician certification and Luther's one-time grandfathering opportunity for people to become CPSSs without any exam. She will be on one of the SSSA Division Boards next year, and will further that discussion with SSSA along. A comment was made that low membership may be driving more certification levels in order for the SSSA to increase membership and revenues. Russ Losco pointed out that he took the fundamentals exams but failed the second more stringent test, and felt PAPSS should proceed to work with the SSSA to grandfather in existing professional soil scientists. Discussion also included improved communications with the SSSA and other States, while Cathy Sorenson and Neil Parker suggested that apprentice scientists could work under a mentor professional scientist. Laurel also suggested a 'seal' be available for professional soil scientists, much like engineers and geologists.

The main ideas here is to get more CPSSs in the fold perhaps the PA licensing effort could get a second wind.

Treasurer's Report - Bruce Willman

Bruce had provided the Board with a financial report earlier. The only update was not paying for a \$1.00 insurance cost against terrorist activities. Questions included how money was split or spent between scholarships and soil judging activities.

A discussion of the 2018 budget included discussion of wetland training as a fund raiser (hydric soil training is scheduled for every other year). Ms. Mueller made a motion to approve the budget and Matt Hostrander. provided a second motion. The motion passed.

Professional Registry Update – Laurel Mueller

Currently, the consultants list is handled through the Registry Committee rather than through the Treasurer as in prior years. In 2017, there were 31 professional members, 16 of which are CPSS's. Two members were added in 2017.

A discussion ensued regarding the need to check information applicants are submitting on their requests to join. Laurel indicated that several soil scientists had included a CPSS designation on their application when they did not hold that title. The Registry Committee will now validate all stated titles including SEOs, SWSs, etc. to ensure that PAPSS guidelines are met.

Further discussion under this topic included professional member status and the CPSS exam. Soil scientists are having difficulty passing both exams due to the weight each test section exerts on the overall score. Also, questions arose from Pat and Cathy regarding apprentice member's and their status if professional members are grandfathered as CPSS's by the SSSA. Laurel will address these questions following further discussions with Luther and the SSSA.

ETHICS COMPLAINTS – Jackie Heinl

Jackie presented the proposed procedures for the Board and membership to follow in the event future complaints are levied against a PAPSS member. Currently, PAPSS does not have a method to investigate or punish memberships found to be involved in unethical activities. She pointed out that in Western PA, a soil scientist made the local news for taking bribes when acting as a SEO and that recent Registry activity shows the need for procedures to be in place. Comments included the need to make the appeal process clearer, and that the process could get expensive to PAPSS should lengthy investigations be warranted. In addition, some questioned the need to go this far, while others pointed out that guidelines would have been useful in past Board activities. Also, membership wanted to know if the proposed language were procedures or guidelines, and whether it would be a general operating process.

PAPSS Website – Michael Callahan

Michael opened discussion noting that the website was up and running following a malware attack. Some questioned whether the new on-line payment center was the cause. Michael pointed out that the attacks won't stop and that new software will be needed as new threats emerge.

2018 Program

Laurel Mueller suggested a PAPSS Roadshow as an outreach to colleagues complete with speakers and a PowerPoint presentation. The PCPG does it with schools, clubs and associations and Septage Management has a movie. Matt suggested a one-day soil judging contest for PAPSS members where three pits could be examined. Other ideas included the history of soils and art.

Committee Reports

Charlie Klinger presented the Scholarship Committee Report – one application was reviewed and a free year of membership is now included with the scholarship application. Application is now online but minor wording changes are needed.

Fundraising Committee Report was received. No sales were obtained from an on-line auction of the large Pennsylvania map.

SAC Committee

The SAC report had been received and reviewed. Discussion of the newly passed PA ACT 26 occurred. DEP will be formulating the rules and regulations in December.

New Business

A report on Chris Whitman indicates that although Chris suffers from memory loss, generally his health is okay. Contributions may be made through GoFundMe rather than through PAPSS.

Licensing was discussed with State Senator Elder Vogel who is working with the State's Licensing Board. Vince continues to lobby unofficially.

Elections

Elections were held to replace Yuri Plowden and Matt Hostrander.

Tim Ratvaskey and Mike Brown accepted nominations and were elected.

Yuri Plowden agreed to serve out the remainder of Luke Smeltz's term (due to Luke's continued recovery)

Charlie Klinger, Alex Dado, and Tim Ravetsky were voted to serve as President, Vice President, and Secretary respectively. Attenders elected Bruce Willman to continue as treasurer. Officer terms are for one year for 2018.

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Dates in parentheses denote their term on the Board

President, Charlie Klinger (16-18)

Vice President, Alex Dado (17-19)

Secretary, Tim Ratvasky (18-20)

Treasurer, Bruce Willman (16-18)

Board Members at Large

Jackie Heintl (16-18)

Yuri Plowden (17-19)
(filling out vacated position)

Michael Brown (18-20).

Motion to Adjourn meeting made by Yuri Plowden, seconded by All. Adjourned at 12pm.

At this time the Meeting ended with a soil texture competition and an excellent lunch prepared once again by Moe

Respectfully Submitted,
Jackie Heintl, Board Member

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Clean Water
Sewage Advisory Committee (SAC) Activity Report 2017)

PAPSS Designated Representatives

Mark S. Mills, CPSS (Primary)

Bruce P. Willman, CPSS (Alternate)

(DEP Appointments through March 2019)

Sewage Advisory Committee, October 4, 2017 Meeting

The first Sewage Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting of the new two-year session (April 1, 2017 - March 30, 2019) was held at the Rachel Carson building in Harrisburg on October 4, 2017. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved; new DEP personnel were introduced; and, officers for the upcoming session were selected. Following the introduction of the current committee members, the DEP presented several reports associated with the Department and current changes that it has implemented.

The initial presentation was "Updates to the Regulatory, Technical Guidance, and Advisory Committee Policies." The regulatory review summarized "updates made to ensure that the policy remains relevant to current practice." The development of DEP's regulatory review process was discussed, especially regarding a current amendment. Changes to the Technical Guidance policy were noted. The role of the Advisory Committee was also clarified, in association with the DEP's regulatory and technical guidance review process.

Most importantly, the DEP reported on the recent (July, 2017) amendment to Act 537. Act 26 of 2017 specifically impacts "Alternate Systems Planning and System Evaluation," and will become effective on March 17, 2018. ("Alternate" systems are those that are not currently identified in the existing regulations -Title 25, Chapters 71, 72, and 73 - rather than "conventional" systems that are specified in the regulations.) In the future, "alternate" systems may be proposed for new land development planning, if newly established standards can be met.

The new review protocol will include: performance verification at a test center (NSF/ANSI Standard 40); field testing performance verification, by an independent third party at 12 sites monitored quarterly; and, periodic verification of ongoing performance. An emphasis on statistical data analysis was stressed. After required standards are developed, statistical limits can be met, and field testing is verified, these "alternate systems" would then be considered as "conventional" for planning review and approval.

The DEP and SAC are directed by Act 26 to address the alternate systems review process. SAC is to provide review comments to the Department by the end of the year. Therefore, there will be an additional full SAC membership meeting on December 5 at the Rachel Carson Building. Three additional SAC workshop group meetings will be held, to review pending draft proposals. These meetings are scheduled for November 2, 15 and 30. Individuals interested in attending any workshop meeting(s), should contact the SAC Chairman Duane Mowery (duane@expertseptic.com). For more information regarding the Department's current or future program, contact presenters Jay E. Patel, PE (jaypatel@pa.gov) or Brian Schlauderaff (bschlauder@pa.gov) at Harrisburg's Central Office of the DEP. Additional information about the Sewage Advisory Committee can be found at:

<http://www.dep.pa.gov/PublicParticipation/AdvisoryCommittees/WaterAdvisory/SAC>

Respectfully submitted: Mark S. Mills, PAPSS SAC Representative

Sewage Advisory Committee, March 23, 2017 Meeting

Call to Order -Mr. Duane Mowery, Chairperson

DEP Acting Secretary introduction and comments - Mr. Patrick McDonnell

- Questioned on regulation updates; recognized that there have been many reviews and staff is beginning to revise the Chapter 71-73 regulations
- Alternate system use issue brought up; expects regs to reflect change when revised. Until then, attached handout states the current inability to use alternate systems on less than 20 inch limiting zones for new land development planning.
- Federal cutbacks in funding under President Trump affecting programs especially the Chesapeake Bay Initiatives.

Administrative

- Approval of minutes for the last *March 22, 2016) SAC meeting

- DEP Bureau of Clean Water reorganization & introduction of new personnel
 - * (Lee McDonnell, PE, was not at the meeting but is the Director of the Bureau of Clean Water.)
 - * Jay Patel has filled the vacant Bureau of Clean Water Planning and Permitting Division Manager Position.
 - * Brian Schlauderaff has filled the vacant Bureau of Clean Water Municipal Facilities Planning Section Chief position.
 - * Janice M. Vollero, Water Program Specialist, is aiding the SAC with meetings and correspondence. Janice also informed members that the appointment letters will be sent out from the Secretary in tomorrow's mail (March 24).
 - Nominations for committee members/alternates and Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson
- Since a committee was not formed before this meeting, a 3-person committee was nominated to get names for these positions to be voted on the next meeting in September. John Wagman, John Letty and Wayne Schutz were nominated
- Finalize draft SAC Bylaws

Most proposed revisions are administrative for DEP's benefit. Several organizations questioned why their name was not included in the list of committee members in the proposed Bylaws. DEP stated that the legal review recommended that the Bylaws be consistent with the wording in the Act 537. DEP also mentioned that draft minutes could not be provided any sooner than just before the next meeting because of internal review procedures necessary before any drafts are published. After discussion, it was agreed that DEP would go back to the reviewers and reword that a list of the members of the committee will be maintained by the Secretary and be available on the website (which it currently is.) Apparently, no additional consideration will be given to providing minutes in a more timely fashion soon after meetings.

Discussion I Information Items

- Geothermal well isolation distance issue update – Handout provided by Greg Marshall to illustrate issue. Questions involved the type of geothermal wells and design and what are appropriate isolation distances. DEP indicated that the proposed Chapter 73 revisions will address the issue of geothermal wells.
 - DEP update on the use of alternate onlot technologies for the purpose of obtaining new land development approval. Handout provided with current position that states the current inability to use alternate systems on less than 20 inch limiting zones for new land development planning. However, DEP stated that alternate systems could be used for replacement/reserve areas. There was discussion on what is a "permissible" system as referenced in Chapter 71.
 - Status of proposed draft Chapter 71a, 72a, and 73a. DEP plans to prepare draft language by the September 2017 SAC meeting for review and discussion. Janice Volero will develop a timetable with DEP staff for the update and revision of these regulations.
 - May 2015 SAC workgroup summary on draft NSF 350 guidance document – A guidance document was presented to the committee regarding the DEP's proposal to use the NSF 350 standard for treatment facilities. The primary differences between the NSF 40 and NSF 350 standards relate to the filtration and disinfection. I stated that in my opinion, this standard should not be tied to soil absorption systems since current pretreatment technologies reduce levels of TSS and CBOD more than adequately for ultimate discharge into a properly sited and designed soil absorption systems. DEP was evaluating this standard to have an additional regulatory option. I stated that the additional expense does not seem justified to be tied to soil absorption systems but may be more appropriate with surface water discharge systems. This issue was tabled to the next committee meeting.
 - Public Comments- Mark Mills and Tom Ashton
- Respectfully Submitted by Bruce P. Willman, CPSS

Website Update – PAPSS.org

Submitted by Mike Callahan

October 27, 2017

Our website experienced a malware attack in October. The result was the site was down for several days. The site is back up but experiencing some lingering effects that I'm working on. Most notably, the home page does not display correctly in internet explorer or edge browsers.

I have put into place a malware scanner to help detect and remove the malware on the system. This came with a cost of \$150.00 per year. I paid for that myself as a one-time gift. It was recommended by that company that we look into putting into place a firewall as well. A firewall would actively block this kind of activity, whereas what is currently in place just finds and removes it once it is there. The cost for the firewall would be an additional \$400.00 a year. So moving forward, we could be looking at an annual fee of \$550.00 to protect the website. I'm sure there are other things we could look at, and we may be able to find cheaper solutions. Additionally, we could operate with just the malware cleaning tool and roll the dice a bit on any potential future attacks.

A larger question I think we need to discuss as an organization is what do we want out of our website, and what are we willing to invest to reach those goals. Perhaps we don't even need a website. We could explore things like Facebook groups or other social media avenues that might accomplish similar things as our website. As part of that discussion, I'd like to review what we've done this year on the website and what we can pursue in the future.

In 2017 the Board authorized some changes to the PAPSS website. Those changes include:

- The ability to have participants register for events on the website
- The ability to accept online payments
- A means to collect names and email addresses of those interested in keeping up with PAPSS and its events.

The changes were implemented in the spring of 2017 along with some changes to the look and feel of the PAPSS website. We have used these new tools for the summer tech session, the hydric soil seminar, and the annual meeting. We would appreciate feedback on the user experience and payment processing. You will also be able to submit annual dues and consultant registry fees for 2018 online.

The PAPSS website is built on the wordpress framework. This is a very popular and flexible framework and provides the foundation to do almost anything with the website. With all things, it just takes time. I have run the website now for a few years, and I think it is in a very useable format at this point. I'm happy to continue serving in this role or I can also step aside if anyone else has a strong desire to run the website.

There are still some things I think we can do with the website to add value to PAPSS members, our partners, and to raise awareness of PAPSS. These things take time, and are beyond the scope of what I'm willing to do as a volunteer. Again, I'm happy to continue volunteering my time to keep the website going as is, I'm only bringing these other items up as possibilities. If any of these suggestions are desirous of the membership, I think the PAPSS Board should explore implementation routes. In my opinion, I think these are some ways we can, as an organization, grow our reach, expand our

membership, and provide continuing value to our members. These items may also provide us a reason to reexamine what we are as an organization and where we want to be in the future.

- **Interactive Consultants Registry:** A departure from the traditional pamphlet-style consultants' registry could be explored. This would be an interactive/searchable interface that the public could access. You'd be able to search by service type, location, etc. Beyond those benefits, it would allow for more frequent updates of registry information. The Board may want to consider changes to the registry fee structure to allow for different levels of information and/or the addition of dedicated member pages (see next item). We can certainly continue the pamphlet as well. It doesn't have to be an either/or scenario.
- **Dedicated member pages:** This would be an add-on to the consultants' registry. Basically a consultant's landing page so that the public could learn a little more about the consultant before contacting them. This might be particularly helpful for those without a website of their own, but can be tailored to all users.
- **Integration of PennSOIL newsletter:** The newsletter is a time-consuming item to keep up with, and in today's world perhaps a bit outdated. I would suggest a new approach to the services the newsletter provides. With the website, we have the ability to allow PAPSS members to sign in and draft blog posts (articles). These can then be reviewed by someone before posting. Once posted, anyone can read and share the article via email or whatever social network they are on. This approach allows for more timely dissemination of information and also puts it in a shorter, more digestible format. It would help us get more information onto our PAPSS Facebook page too. The way the website works, these articles will always be accessible, so overtime they can continue to draw interest and are bit easier to search than a traditional pdf posted to the website. Again, this should allow our website to draw more and more eyes overtime, and hopefully then more interaction with our organization and its members.
- **PAPSS members-only forum:** We could allow for an online forum where PAPSS members can go to ask questions or discuss items such as changes to regulations, PAPSS subcommittee tasks, etc. This would be for members only, so it would not be seen by the public. However, this might be something that is attractive to non-members, prompting them to become members or associate members.

PAPSS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE OCTOBER 2017

Prepared for PA Association of Professional Soil Scientists Annual Meeting
Submitted by Vince Phillips, Lobbyist 717-346-1063; xenobun@aol.com

ALTERNATE SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION AT DEP

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has begun the task of implementing Act 26 of 2017 (**Senate Bill 144**) establishing a framework for the recognition of alternate onlot systems. DEP's report to the Citizens' Advisory Committee for their October 17 meeting said "*The Planning Section of Municipal Facilities Division is working with legal counsel and policy staff to develop an implementation strategy.*" The Sewage Advisory Committee (SAC) September meeting was canceled but the Department planned an October meeting and issued a power point presentation on the implementation process as DEP sees it.

DEP's timetable for implementation includes a SAC October meeting and **possible SAC meetings in November** to finalize review of performance standards and review methodology. On **January 13, 2018**, the draft will be submitted for public comment in the [PA Bulletin](#) with the comment period closing **February 12**. DEP projects finalization by **March 16, 2018**.

BASIN COMMISSION SEEKS TO BAN FRACKING

On September 13, the Delaware River Basin Commission voted 3-1 to adopt a resolution that would start a process where drilling could be banned in the upper reaches of the Delaware River environs. Voting for was PA Governor Tom Wolf, joined by Governors from NY, and DE. NJ Governor Chris Christie abstained. The Trump Administration representative voted no. Specifically, the resolution says that draft rules governing natural gas development will be released November 30 to begin the public comment period. In addition, the Delaware River Basin Commission anticipates at least one public hearing.

The move prompted introduction of **House Resolution 515** by Rep. Jonathan Fritz (R-Susquehanna/Wayne) which, if adopted, would put the PA House of Representatives on record as opposing what the Delaware River Basin Commission did. On October 3, the House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee reported HR 515 out by a 16-10 vote with all but one Republican, Rep. Jim Marshall (Beaver/Butler), voting yes. On the Democratic side, two crossed over to vote with Republicans. They were Representatives Brandon Neuman (Washington) and Pam Snyder (Greene/Fayette/Washington)

***Personal comment:** Independent of whether or not a person approves of natural gas development, the larger question is whether or not a Pennsylvania Governor has the authority to vote for a measure that is in direct contradiction against existing PA law regarding Marcellus Shale natural gas development.*

IS THE BUDGET RESOLVED, OR NOT?

On October 4, Governor Tom Wolf chided the House Republican Caucus for not concurring with revenue plans advanced by Senate Republicans and supported by House and Senate Democratic Caucuses. He said, "*I've had enough of the games. House Republicans again failed to deliver on a budget agreement. Over the past several months, I have been flexible and patient as they have repeatedly failed to agree amongst themselves on how to approach the budget.*"

WOLF ACTIONS:

- Governor Wolf intends to tap into \$1.25 billion of future profits from the PA Liquor Control Board in order to "*manage the finances of the Commonwealth until the House sees fit to do what it is supposed to do.*" He projected that this action would cost PA \$86 million a year in interest, assuming a 4% rate of interest.
- On October 9, Governor Wolf announced that he will be leasing the Farm Show Complex out to an investor to receive \$200 million up front to be repaid over the next 29 years.

BORROWING LIMIT BILL PASSES HOUSE

House Bill 785 (Saylor-R-York) passed the House by a 117-81 vote on October 4 and goes back to the Senate for concurrence. The bill seeks to restrict future state borrowing. It decreases the debt ceiling of the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Project (RCAP) by \$250 million; limits borrowing for new projects

funded by debt (up to \$350 million in public improvement projects), and requires that the Administration use “responsible debt management practices”.

SUMMARY OF A NUMBER OF BUDGET ITEMS *(with thanks to Crisci Associates)*

- **House Bill 453** has been amended four times since its introduction. The most recent action was a September 13 Senate 43-7 vote to NOT concur with House amendments to the bill. As of now, HB 785: Includes \$15 million for small water and sewer projects (costing between \$30,000 and \$500,000) and transfers \$10 million from Building PA Program to small water and sewer systems; Allows public municipal authorities to use funds to replace private water and sewer laterals; Provides for audits for the Delaware River Basin Commission and Susquehanna River Basin Commission.
- **House Bill 542** was amended three times. Most recently, the Senate took out language forcing DEP to use a third party in conducting permit reviews and on October 3, the House Rules Committee adopted additional changes to HB542.

Still in limbo are funding for Penn State’s College of Agricultural Sciences and the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine.

OTHER LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

- The House may consider **House Bill 1486** (Zimmerman-R-Lancaster) exempting certain high tunnel buildings from needing storm water management plans.
- **House Bill 1256** (Zimmerman-R-Lancaster) would move required farm permitting from the responsibility of the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to the PA State Conservation Commission. Currently, it is in the House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee. Its’ companion is **Senate Bill 879** (Aument-R-Lancaster) which was referred to the Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee.
- **Senate Bill 487** (Vogel-R-Beaver) and **House Bill 587** (Zimmerman-R-Lancaster) mandates that DEP develop and maintain a tracking system for permit applications. SB 487 and HB 587 are in their chamber’s Environmental Resources & Energy Committees.
- There are some bills relating to the Engineer, Land Surveyor and Geologist registration Act, none of which affect soil scientists directly. Farthest along is **House Bill 1106** (Emrick-R-Northampton) which passed the House on June 13, 2017. Currently, it is in the Senate Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure Committee. One part of the bill to note is the addition to what defines the “Practice of Engineering” to include “*performance of engineering land surveys.*”