

The Obligate

Maine Association of
Wetland Scientists

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www.mainewetlands.org

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President's Message

by Kathleen Redmond-Miller, 2005-2007

The Times They Are a Changin'...or so goes the lyrics from an old Bob Dylan song. Never before (in my life anyway) has natural science been in the forefront of the news so frequently. Last week the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IGPCC) concluded it is *highly likely* that global temperature increases are caused by human activity (primarily burning of fossil fuels). They go on to define *highly likely* as having greater than 90% probability. Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* slideshow presentation on global warming has been nominated for an Academy Award and field scientists in Maine are reporting hearing spring peepers in January. Even more disturbing was a report on the evening national news about an unexplained *disappearance* of millions of honeybees. Beekeepers were interviewed, clearly upset (some actually crying) saying the hives are turning up empty over night with no explanation (and no dead bees found in or around the hives). I couldn't help but think...wow those beekeepers really love their bees. I had no idea.

Ironically, during the same week Exxon-Mobile reported the highest net revenues earned by a U.S. corporation, 371 billion dollars in 2006 (just over 1 billion dollars a day). Yes, that is a "b" for billion. Something is definitely wrong with this picture. It's not Exxon-Mobile's fault, they are playing by the rules. They have to because they are scrutinized vigorously by society. If our global environment is in jeopardy, it's because (in my opinion) our scientists and lawmakers are somehow disconnected. In fact, history has taught us when scientists are

empowered enough to put themselves and their message *out there*, a lot of energy is invested into discrediting both them personally, and their message. This will change when our environment is in serious jeopardy.

What's all this got to do with wetland science in Maine? I think some parallels can be drawn (or at least considered) between what's happening globally and what's going on with wetland science in Maine. When I accepted the nomination as President Elect four years ago, I had big plans for "making a difference" in this organization. One of my personal goals was to finally give the topic of certification of wetland scientists in Maine its due and put it to bed (one way or another) once and for all. The Certification Sub-committee deserves a lot of credit for investing the time and energy into finalizing the *Exploratory Report for Credentialing Wetland Scientists in Maine*. This report will be posted on the MAWS website by the time this newsletter goes to press, and was extremely valuable to me in the process of sorting through the issues myself.

I recently came to the realization that certification of wetland scientists probably isn't going to resolve *the problem* in Maine. Not unless this certification is completely embraced and supported by the regulatory agencies. If the rules of the game still allow anyone to delineate wetlands in Maine, what good would certification accomplish? What's missing in my opinion (i.e., *the problem*) in Maine is assigned accountability for jurisdictional wetland resources. Every piece of land developed in Maine needs to have a "responsible party" to certify in writing that they have reviewed the site in accordance with local, state and federal

regulatory requirements and that under pains and penalties of law that resources are accurately depicted in accordance with current professional standards (or something similar). I think this would be a significant step in the right direction without the down side (administration costs, continuing education credits, licensing fees, and all the other junk that provides no benefit to the resources). It's the Least Financially Damaging

Practicable Alternative (LFDPA). How hard would that be? I guess that's the next step...

In closing, I want to thank everyone for their support and encouragement during my time as President. I'll be handing the reins over to President Elect Lauren Stockwell at the annual meeting. I wish Lauren and the Executive Committee the best of luck moving forward.

Legislative Report for 2006
by Karol Worden, Legislative Chair

Although 2006 was not a particularly busy year for regulatory changes guiding the protection of natural resources in Maine, there were a number of significant changes. The following present some of the proposed and adopted amendments to natural resource regulations in 2006.

Federal

The New England District of the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) issued a public notice on October 31, 2006, related to proposed changes to their 2004 mitigation checklist and guidelines. The comment period, which was originally scheduled to expire on December 1, 2006, was extended to January 2, 2007. The most noticeable change to the mitigation checklist is the addition of a plan for long-term stewardship, which mirrors the addition of this category to the mitigation guidelines. Several of the proposed changes to the mitigation guidelines relate to the reorganization of various sections and appear to be relatively minor. Other proposed changes are more substantial and involve the addition of new requirements and more detailed guidance related to report formatting. The proposed mitigation guidelines would include a plan for long-term stewardship of the mitigation site. This plan relates to the need for long-term sustainability of the mitigation site as open space and as an area that is unlikely to be degraded by future development. Other additions include the requirement to notify the Corps within 60 days of the completion of a mitigation project involving

restoration, creation and/or enhancement. Under Section M of the guidelines, the Corps is recommending the submission of monitoring reports in electronic format and has provided details as to the length and level of detail for monitoring reports. In association with changes to Section M, is the inclusion of two attachments: a project overview form and a transmittal and self-certification form.

Additional information and a copy of the draft mitigation checklist and guidelines can be obtained from the Corps website at www.nae.usace.army.mil/.

State

Amendments to Chapter 305 Permit by Rule Standards, effective as of December 5, 2006.

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) made numerous changes to the Permit by Rule (PBR) standards, which include the following:

- Under Sections 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 15 the standards have been updated concerning the use of lumber treated with chromated copper arsenate (CCA).
- Under Sections 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 15 guidance on erosion and sedimentation controls has been changed to direct people to use the Maine Erosion and Sedimentation Control Best Management Practices dated March 2003.

- Amended Section 16, Activities in coastal sand dunes.
 - Applicability now includes repair or replacement of existing seawalls, patios, decks, driveways and parking areas, as well as installation or repair of underground utility lines.
 - Submission requirements are now more detailed and specific.
 - The repair or replacement of a patio, deck, driveway or parking area cannot increase the height, length, width or thickness dimension of an existing structure.

- Added Section 19, Activities in, on or over significant (or potentially significant) vernal pool habitat. Specifically, this section applies to that area within 250 feet of the high water mark of the significant vernal pool depression. To qualify for this PBR there can be no disturbance to the vernal pool depression and a minimum of 75% of the critical terrestrial habitat must be maintained as unfragmented forest with at least a partially closed canopy of overstory trees. In addition, forest corridors connecting wetlands and the significant vernal pool must be maintained or restored, forest floor disturbance must be minimized and native understory vegetation and downed woody debris needs to be maintained. An activity that does not meet these standards must be permitted under an Individual Natural Resource Protection Act application. Based upon discussions with Mike Mullen of MDEP, Section 2 of the PBR, which addresses activities adjacent to protected natural resources, will not apply to activities adjacent to a freshwater wetland that contains a significant vernal pool.

- Added Section 20, Activities in existing developed areas located in, on or over high or moderate value inland waterfowl and wading bird habitat, or shorebird nesting, feed, and staging areas. Applicants can build new structures, add driveways and add

development within existing developed areas provided that the activity complies with local shoreland zoning ordinances. Existing developed areas means those areas of a property that are currently altered, which includes buildings, driveways, parking areas, wastewater disposal systems, and lawns and other areas of non-native vegetation. Any proposed activity to take place between July 15 and September 15 must occur within a window of time approved by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW).

Amendments to Chapter 310 Wetlands and Waterbodies Protection Rules, effective as of December 5, 2006.

Amendments to this chapter include a few minor word changes, but one major change to be aware of relates to requirements for a functional assessment and compensation [Section 5(C) Compensation (6) Exceptions (a)(ii)]. As adopted, alterations of **15,000** square feet or more for a wetland not of special significance will require a functional assessment and wetland compensation.

Amendments to Chapter 335, Significant Wildlife Habitat, effect as of June 8, 2006

Amendments to this chapter follow closely the proposed changes that were initiated in 2005. Note that Section 9, significant vernal pools, will not become effective until September 1, 2007.

- Inland wetland complexes determined by MDIFW to be high and moderate value waterfowl and wading bird habitat by definition include a 250-foot wide zone surrounding this complex. Similarly, high or moderate value shorebirds nesting, feeding, and staging areas includes a 250-foot wide zone surrounding those areas. It should be noted that bills are expected to be introduced during the upcoming legislative session to amend or repeal the newly adapted changes that relate to protection of shorebird feeding and staging areas. These proposed changes

likely would reduce the setback for development from shorebird feeding areas to 100 feet from the currently adopted 250 feet.

- The general standards (Section 3) now include compensation to off-set lost habitat function. Similar to the goal applicable to wetlands, the goal of compensation is to attain no net loss of habitat functions and values. Compensation is required when the MDEP determines that an impact to significant wildlife habitat will result in the loss or degradation of habitat functions or values. In general, compensation occurs on-site or near the affected significant wildlife habitat. The minimum amount of compensation required, unless otherwise determined by MDEP, is 2:1 for restoration, enhancement or creation and 8:1 for preservation.
- Section 9 of this chapter addresses significant vernal pools. A significant vernal pool is determined by the number and type of amphibian egg masses in the pool, the presence of fairy shrimp, or use of the pool by threatened or endangered species. Significant vernal pool habitat consists of a vernal pool depression and a portion of the critical terrestrial habitat within a 250-foot radius of the spring or fall high water mark of the depression. The following egg mass counts constitute a significant vernal pool:
 - Blue spotted salamander: presence of 10 or more egg masses
 - Spotted salamander: presence of 20 or more egg masses
 - Wood frogs: presence of 40 or more egg masses

Note that egg mass counts should be completed just past the peak breeding period and the chapter provides suggestions as to peak breeding times for the different amphibians depending on the geographic region of the state.

- An activity impacting an unmapped significant vernal pool does not require a

permit if the pool is not located on a parcel owned or controlled by the person carrying out the activity. However, if the significant vernal pool has been mapped by or is part of a GIS data layer maintained by MDIFW or MDEP, a permit would be required regardless of ownership or control of the property. An application should check with MDEP for the location of mapped significant vernal pools. Forest management activities within 250 feet of a significant vernal pool do not require a permit if the significant vernal pool is not defined and mapped in accordance to 38 M.R.S.A. §480-I. It may be necessary to defer the determination on the significance of a vernal pool or other wildlife habitat to the appropriate time of year so this should be taken into account when scheduling the permitting phase of a project.

- With the changes to these rules, MDEP is now typically handling requests for information related to Significant Wildlife Habitat rather than MDIFW. For each given project area, requests for information on Significant Wildlife Habitat should be directed to the appropriate MDEP regional office. According to Jim Cassida of MDEP, the on-call person at MDEP that receives a request should provide a map of the project area that depicts any mapped Significant Wildlife Habitat. The MDEP web site also includes links for mapped seabird nesting islands, shorebird feeding and staging areas, and high and moderate waterfowl and wading bird habitats for organized towns.

Amendments to Chapter 355 – Coastal Sand Dune Rules, effect as of June 8, 2006

Amendments to this chapter include the following:

- The deletion or revision of several definitions. These include changing the definition of a coastal wetland (i.e., removing the reference to areas below any identifiable debris line) and revising the significant wildlife habitat definition to conform to

changes of Chapter 335, Significant Wildlife Habitat.

- Demonstration by an applicant that the increased height of a building will not have an unreasonable adverse effect on existing uses that rely on access to direct sunlight. These uses include, but are not limited to, native dune vegetation and recreational beach use.
- Several changes to standards related to seawalls and similar structures.
- Relating to mitigation and enhancement (formerly referred to as restoration of disturbed areas), the DEP may require sand dune mitigation and enhancement for projects that interfere with the natural supply or movement of sand or gravel or that may increase the erosion of a sand dune system.
- Numerous changes to the standards for frontal dune projects. These include construction in the V-Zone and reconstruction of buildings.

Amendments to Chapter 1000: Guidelines for Municipal Shoreland Zoning Ordinances, effective as of May 1, 2006.

A number of changes were made to Chapter 1000, including relatively minor edits such as the addition, deletion or replacement of individual words and phrases and more significant changes such as the addition of a new section to the applicable Land Use Standards. The addition to the Land Use Standards applies to statewide standards for timber harvesting [15(O-1)]. Under this standard, individuals conducting timber harvesting and related activities are required to take reasonable measures to avoid disruption of shoreline integrity, the occurrence of sedimentation of water, and the disturbance of water body and tributary stream banks, water body and tributary stream channels, shorelines, and soil lying within water bodies, tributary streams and wetlands. This standard addresses a variety of activities and effects related to timber harvesting, including the treatment of slash; maintenance of adequate tree cover; skid trails, yards and equipment operation; land

management roads; crossing of waterbodies; and the slope of exposed land adjacent to a shoreline. Other changes include points of clarification such as the determination made by the Maine Supreme Court that an Official Shoreland Zoning Map is the primary resource to follow when there is a discrepancy between the map and the local ordinance, if the district boundaries defined within a local ordinance are not more specific than those provided in Chapter 1000.

Additional information on all of these changes is available by visiting the MDEP website at www.maine.gov/dep.

Proposed Changes to the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission Comprehensive Land Use Plan

The Maine Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) is in the process of revising its *Comprehensive Land Use Plan for the Plantations and Unorganized Townships of the State of Maine* (Comprehensive Plan). LURC is hosting a series of panel discussion to gather public input on issues under LURC's jurisdiction. The draft of the Comprehensive Plan will be presented to the public in a series of workshops held through the spring of 2007. Public hearings will follow with a planned presentation of the final draft Comprehensive Plan in the summer or fall of 2007. Additional information about this process can be found on LURC's website at www.maine.gov/doc/lurc.

**DON'T FORGET TO LOG ON TO
WWW.MAINEWETLANDS.ORG AND
SIGN UP FOR THE MAWS EMAIL LIST**

**Receive workshop and regulatory updates
from the comfort of your inbox!**

Message from the Ethics Chair
by Lauren Leclerc

As part of our commitment to participating in educational programs, The Maine Association of Wetland Scientists (MAWS) typically offers a wetland research stipend to actively enrolled students for use on a research project(s) relating to Maine wetlands. Each year, an announcement describing the MAWS stipend is circulated to departments of colleges and universities in Maine involved in wetland-related studies. The MAWS Executive Committee reviews the proposals/abstracts and awards the stipend(s) to the selected candidate(s). As part of receiving the stipend, the student(s) are committed to giving a presentation on the outcome or progress of their research at the MAWS annual membership meeting.

This year, MAWS voted to award two \$500 wetland research stipends. One of the 2006 MAWS stipend winners was Tara Mae Goodrich, a graduate student at the University of Maine, Orono. Ms. Goodrich is measuring changes in

eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) distribution over time. She is using various techniques including aerial photography and ground truthing to quantify eelgrass changes in Taunton Bay; she is identifying the initial conditions (1955-1975), and the change in patch size and distribution over time (to 2005). We look forward to hearing more about this exciting research in March!

The second 2006 MAWS stipend winner was Amanda Shearin, a doctoral student at the University of Maine, Orono. Ms. Shearin is studying the amphibian species composition and movement between vernal pools and permanent ponds with and without fish. She is looking at the role of vernal pools, fishless ponds and permanent ponds with fish in shaping amphibian community dynamics with a focus on the relationship between vernal pool amphibians and neighboring wetlands. For the study, she is focusing on 24 previously studied fish and fishless ponds and vernal pools (not yet surveyed). With the recent focus on vernal pools due to Significant Vernal Pool legislation, this should make for a very enlightening presentation!

Spring Vernal Pool Workshop
by Lauren Stockwell

MAWS and the Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society held a joint workshop on the afternoon of May 5, 2006 at the Alonzo H. Garcelon Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Augusta, Maine. The Garcelon WMA is managed by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and includes 4,342 acres of preserved open space on three parcels in Augusta, Windsor and Vassalboro.

The purpose of the workshop was two-fold. First, to look at pools in spring in order to calibrate what these particular pools look like during the amphibian breeding season. Second, to look at the pools again in the fall, this time well past the breeding season. The overall goal of both parts of the workshop was to discuss vernal pool regulations. In particular, we talked about vernal pool regulations as presented in

Chapter 335 Significant Wildlife Habitat of the Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers' Maine Programmatic General Permit.

The workshop had a good mix of attendees from the student, regulatory and consulting communities. Those well-versed in vernal pools ecology and issues shared their expertise and experience with others. In all, approximately 25 MAWS members gathered to look at these vernal pools, which had been previously scouted by volunteers (Dana Valteau and Gary Emond). Gary and Dana visited the site in late April 2006. They located potential vernal pools and to counted egg masses to determine which pools would be considered 'significant' under the revised NRPA rules.

In a few of the pools, we observed spotted salamander egg masses and wood frog tadpoles. The wood frogs had hatched, which is in keeping with the expected dates given in Chapter 335 (Augusta is in the Southern Maine geographic

area and the optimal time for counting wood frog egg masses in this region is April 7 to 21). All the pools were in a relatively small area in a forested landscape. In some of the pools, counting egg masses seemed relatively easy, as they were discreet pools with vegetation mostly restricted to the edges. In others, features such as dense vegetation or large pools within wetland complexes, made this task seem daunting. What was clear was that there was no obvious (at least to us) difference between pools with significant numbers of egg masses and those without. One

pool seemed a perfect habitat, similar to other significant vernal pools in the preserve. It had a nesting mallard duck, but no egg masses. Is this coincidence or a causal relationship? Perhaps a variation of the age-old question: What came first, the chicken (duck?) or the egg (mass)? All kidding aside, by the end of the day, we had more questions than answers, both about the biology of vernal pools species but mostly about how the regulations would apply. Nine participants generated questions for regulators, to be discussed at the fall workshop.

Fall Vernal Pool Workshop
by Dana Valleau and Rich Jordan

Approximately 50 members of MAWS and the Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS) met at the Augusta Civic Center on October 19 to discuss the current and upcoming state and federal regulations regarding vernal, or ephemeral pools. The attendees traveled by carpool to the Garcelon Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Augusta (Delorme map 13, grid 1-B). The group reviewed several known vernal pool locations and a lively discussion ensued. A group of MAWS members who had visited the pools during the breeding season discussed the abundance and species of breeding amphibians that were found at each of the observed pools. Several issues were raised regarding vernal pool identification and the potential problems associated with identification during the non-breeding season. Other topics discussed included interpretations of the definitions included in state and federal guidelines that pertain to identification of jurisdictional vernal pools. Philip deMaynadier, a biologist with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's Endangered Species Group, provided an overview of pool biota and ecology in context with the pools reviewed at Garcelon WMA. Mark Kern, of the US Environmental Protection Agency, and Wende Mahaney, of the US Fish and Wildlife Service were also on hand to provide comment and expertise in vernal pool

identification, and the potential permit implications associated therewith.

Following the field visit, the attendees reconvened back at the Civic Center. A panel discussion ensued, and included Jay Clement of the US Army Corps of Engineers, Mike Mullen and Jim Cassida of the Maine DEP, and Mr. deMaynadier, Mrs. Mahaney, and Mr. Kern. Most of the discussion focused on the MDEP Natural Resource Protection Act changes that will go into effect in September 2007 (Chapter 335 - Significant Wildlife Habitat). The new regulations provide protection for all significant vernal pools and their buffers, not just those previously mapped by MDIFW. The rule changes also provide a definition of significant vernal pools that requires permittees to seek and define significant vernal pools based on the presence of vernal pool indicator species (wood frogs, mole salamanders and/or fairy shrimp). The panel also discussed and answered questions on regulation of vernal pools under the Corps New England District's programmatic general permit for Maine. In general, both state and federal laws may require permitting for impacts to vernal pools and/or within 250-foot buffers. However, different setbacks, thresholds, development percentages within the buffers, pool definitions, significance criteria, impact mitigation sequencing, and permit procedures will dictate how each authority regulates impacts in regards to vernal pools.

The high attendance at the workshop and the exuberant discussions that occurred both during the field visit and the panel discussion provide

evidence that vernal pool regulations are a hot topic among consultants and regulators. The panel discussion highlighted many concerns felt by consultants and biologists in regards to vernal pool regulations and identification. The agency representatives on hand, however, provided helpful responses and an assurance that open communication between the regulatory agencies and the regulated community provides the best way to wade through the complex vernal pool regulations.

For detailed meeting notes by Rod Kelshaw, please see www.mainewetlands.org and click on *workshops/meetings*.

Developing a ‘Regionalized Version of the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual’
by Dave Rocque

In 1995, the National Research Council (NRC) issued a report supporting the basic logic and structure of the Corps Manual, but concluded that “regional variations among wetlands across the U.S. can affect the validity and usefulness of any national delineation manual”. The NRC strongly recommended that delineation procedures be revised to increase their “regional specificity”. The NRC further suggested the best way to accomplish this task was the formation of a National Technical Committee for Wetland Delineation (NTCWD). The committee was to be co-chaired by the Corps and EPA, and include NRCS, FWS, as well as important contributors of wetland delineation expertise and cooperating MOA agencies. That committee never materialized, but a National Advisory Team (NAT) headed up by the Corps was formed.

In most respects, the NAT is similar to the proposed NTCWD, with the exception of not being co-chaired by EPA. The NAT operates by forming regional committees of federal and state government staff, as well as academicians (for fairness, private sector groups are not allowed to participate on the committee but are allowed to participate via the peer review process). A few regional committees have already been formed,

starting in the West and moving east, which have overseen the development of what ACOE calls Regional Supplements to the 1987 Corps Wetland Manual for several geographic regions. Starting this year a regional team will begin the process of developing a regional supplement that is to include Maine. The supplement is scheduled for completion sometime next year.

One of the problems with the regional approach is the extent of the region that we find ourselves in. It includes all of New England and New York, as well as parts of Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Minnesota and Michigan. I am not sure what this means in regard to our MAPSS Drainage Key or the Field Indicators for Identifying Hydric Soils In New England, but I hope their continued use will be allowed.

In talking with Paul Minkin of the ACOE, we in New England are way ahead of the curve, at least for hydric soils. The regional supplements will include revised and regional guidance on all three primary wetland parameters: soils, hydrology and vegetation. Paul told me that three members of our New England Field Indicators committee are likely to be invited to participate in the process. So far, the Natural Resources Conservation Service “Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States” has been used as a base for regional hydric soils indicators, but that is primarily because of the lack of any other reliable regional indicators. Paul did say that some of the regional committees decided it was necessary to expand a region, or create sub-regions to develop a truly effective regionalized version of the 1987 Corps Wetland Delineation manual. So, perhaps the New England area can be broken off as a sub-region because we have an established set of hydric soil field indicators.

Major conclusions and recommendations of interest in the report included:

- For **hydric soils**, the focus should be on field indicators rather than a hydric soils definition and/or criteria. The report listed one shortcoming of the current definition, its exclusion of oxygenated wet soils, which may exclude some areas that otherwise

satisfy the Corps/EPA and NRC wetland definitions (this could have major implications in the western mountains and north country in Maine where the percentage of wetlands would greatly increase). An interesting suggestion was the development of “facultative” indicators of hydric soils similar to facultative wetland plant status. These soils would often, but not always, be an indicator of a wetland.

- For **hydrology**, the report recommended dropping the requirement that inundation or saturation occur during an arbitrary growing season (though no regional committee has done so yet). It should instead focus on when reducing conditions are present in the soil in the zone where the seasonal water table must be present to develop hydric soils. The report concluded that the minimum duration of inundation or saturation should vary seasonally, with longer duration required during colder portions of the year and shorter durations required during warmer periods. Another recommendation is for the development of regionalized lists of wetland hydrology field indicators.
- For **hydrophytic vegetation**, the report recommended that the regionalized criterion be based on a wet-season, plot-based prevalence index rather than on dominant species. Also, regionalization of hydrophytic vegetation determinations should focus on assigning a technically correct wetland indicator status to each plant species in a region or sub-region, independent of social and political considerations. Another recommendation was that the regional supplements include updated lists of problem wetland types and guidance on how to identify/delineate them.

If you would like to see a copy of the full report, go to the ACOE website then click on: “EPA, Corps moves to improve wetlands, restoration, conservation”. At the bottom of the page, click on the website for additional information about Corps regulatory programs, then click on: “Regional supplements to the Corps’ delineation manual”.

Summary of Report from the Subcommittee on Credentialing Wetland Scientists in Maine

Don Philips, Chair

The Subcommittee explored the need for the credentialing of wetland scientists in Maine; identified the current attitude of practitioners and stakeholders about establishing wetland certification or licensing; and prepared a report stating the advantages and disadvantages of credentialing wetland scientists. If credentialing is pursued, the Subcommittee identified two options: (1) licensing through the State of Maine; or (2) a certification program through MAWS. Alternatively, MAWS could decide to take no action. The report does not recommend a course of action, but provides documentation to assist with the decision-making process when this issue comes up to vote at a future meeting. The findings of the Subcommittee are as follows:

The need for wetland credentialing can be placed into four general categories: to protect wetlands; to improve the consistency of wetland delineations; to encourage a high level of professional standards of practice; and to protect both the environment and land developers.

A questionnaire distributed in 2005 found that 67% of respondents support credentialing of some kind, while 17% indicated they would not support it.

Several pros and cons of pursuing *State recognized licensing* were identified. Advantages include: (1) wetlands and their functions and values would be better protected; (2) land developers would have a higher level of confidence; and (3) increased efficiency during permitting. Disadvantages include: (1) higher economic cost of establishing licensing; (2) no guarantee that the public and/or environment would be better protected; (3) the cost of legal and lobbyist help, which would be borne by MAWS; and (4) greater cost borne by land developers to hire licensed versus unlicensed wetland scientists.

Several pros and cons of pursuing *MAWS certification* were identified. Advantages include (1) wetlands and their functions and

values would receive a greater level of protection; (2) a greater degree of control by MAWS, as opposed to control by the legislature who must approve licensing; and (3) MAWS already knows most of the elements required for in-house certification, similar to other professional groups such as the Society of Wetland Scientists, Soil Science Society of America, and The Wildlife Society. Disadvantages include: (1) no guarantee that the public and/or environment would be better protected; and (2) a greater cost to be borne by land developers to hire certified versus uncertified wetland scientists.

Several pros and cons of **Taking No Action** were identified. Advantages include: (1) maintaining the status quo with respect to current MAWS membership fees; and (2) a faster

response to future areas of weakness by utilizing the existing framework of MAWS. Disadvantages include: (1) current rates of wetland loss and/or degradation due to inadequate wetland delineations and assessments may continue; and (2) the topic of credentialing may remain inadequately addressed.

The Subcommittee recommends continuing to pursue research into credentialing procedures, costs, and logistics, and to present a summary at a future MAWS meeting. The second draft of the *“Exploratory Report on the Issue of Credentialing Wetland Scientists in Maine”* will be placed on the MAWS website prior to the 2007 Annual Meeting.

MAWS Financial Statement -- F.Y. 2006-2007

(For period of February 7, 2006 to January 26, 2007)

Respectfully submitted to MAWS Membership 27 January 2007 – Dale Knapp, Treasurer

	Balance 02/06/2006	\$4,335.66	
	Balance 01/26/2007	\$4,481.75	
Income		Projected	Actual
	2006 Membership	\$2,365.00	\$1,812.00
	2007 Membership	\$0.00	\$40.00
	Annual Meeting Attendance (2006)	\$1,800.00	\$1,825.00
	Other Workshops	\$1,400.00	\$624.00
	Other Sources of Income	\$500.00	\$24.00
	Total Income	\$6,065.00	\$4,325.00
Expenditures			
	2006 Annual Meeting	-\$1,000.00	-\$961.06
	Postage and Copying	-\$200.00	-\$287.11
	P.O. Box Rental	-\$60.00	\$0.00
	2005 Workshops (not including mailing)	-\$1,000.00	-\$1,054.96
	Non-Profit Registration	-\$25.00	-\$25.00
	Student Research Grant(s)	-\$1,000.00	-\$1,000.00
	Web Hosting	-\$130.62	\$0.00
	Bank Fees (incl. balance discrepancies)	-\$120.00	\$0.00
	Other (Envirothon)	-\$500.00	-\$500.00
	Total Expenditures	-\$4,035.62	-\$3,828.13
	Total Projected Income 2006-2007	\$2,029.38	
	Projected Balance, January 2007	\$6,511.13	
	Actual Balance, January 26, 2007		\$4,481.75
	Difference between Projected and Actual	-\$2,029.38	
	Total Net Gain 2006	\$496.87	

Business Meeting Agenda

Executive Committee Reports

- Secretary's Report – Eugenie Francine
Reading and Acceptance of the Minutes
of the 2006 Annual Meeting
- Treasurer's Report – Dale Knapp
- Ethics – Lauren Leclerc
- Legislative – Karol Worden
- Membership – Rich Jordan
- Program – Jennifer West: 2006 Program
recap and discussion of possible 2007
programs

Floor Discussions

- 2007 Stipends
- Suggested topics for 2007 workshops
- Envirothon Support

Election of Executive Committee Officers

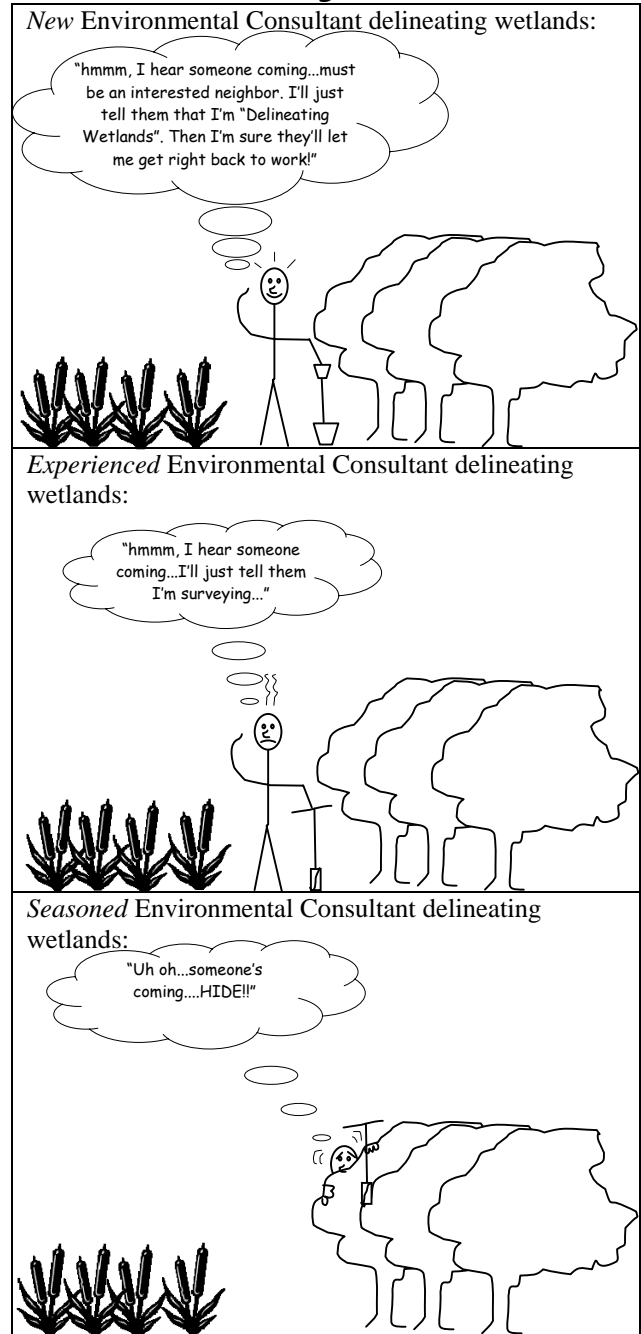
2007 Executive Committee Members

- President: Lauren Stockwell
- Treasurer: Dale Knapp
- Membership: Rich Jordan
- Ethics: Lauren Leclerc

Elections will be held for the following Executive Committee members. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

- President elect
- Program
- Secretary: nominee Alex Finamore
- Legislative

The Cantankerous Auger



Maine Association of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting

Friday, March 23, 2007

Maple Hill Farm Bed & Breakfast Inn and Conference Center, Hallowell

This year, the annual meeting is being held at the Maple Hill Farm Inn, off Outlet Road in Hallowell (directions appear below). We hope to see you there! To cover the cost of the facility and food, registration for MAWS members is \$30.00 (not including the annual dues); for non-members is \$40.00, and for students is \$20.00. Please check your membership status online (www.mainewetlands.org). Members, continue your support of MAWS by paying your membership dues at the Annual Meeting (Active: \$25; Affiliate \$15; Student: \$10).

- 8:00 – 8:30 **Registration (coffee and snacks)**
- 8:30 – 8:45 **Welcome, Introduction of Speakers** – Kathleen Miller, President
- 8:45 – 10:00 **Significant Wildlife Habitats as They Relate to Wetlands of Special Significance.** Mike Mullen, MDEP
- 10:00 – 10:15 **Break**
- 10:15 – 11:00 **Chapter 335 - A Review of the Regulations Governing Significant Waterfowl and Shorebird Habitats.** Mark Stadler, MDIFW
- 11:00 – 11:30 **Amphibian Species Composition and Movement Between Vernal Pools and Permanent Ponds With and Without Fish** - Amanda Shearin, University of Maine Orono, MAWS 2006 Stipend
- 11:30 – 12:00 **Update of the Certification Sub-Committee.** Don Phillips, Certification Sub-Committee Chair
- 12:15 – 1:00 **Lunch** (provided)
- 1:00 – 1:45 **Measuring Changes in Eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) Distribution** – Tara Mae Goodrich, University of Maine Orono, MAWS 2006; Stipend Winner
- 1:45 – 2:00 **Break:** Hand out ballots and vote on new Executive Committee chairs
- 2:00 – 3:30 **MAWS Business Meeting** (all members are welcome and encouraged to attend)

If you have any questions, contact MAWS President Kathleen Miller @ (207) 879-9496, or by e-mail at kmiller@neamaine.com; or check in at www.mainewetlands.org.

DIRECTIONS TO MAPLE HILL FARM BED & BREAKFAST INN (www.MapleBB.com/map.jpg)

From the South: Take I-95 to Exit 109, the first Augusta exit (The first exit after I-95 and I-295 merge)

From the North: Take I-95 to Exit 109A, the last Augusta exit (Don't take Exit 109B!)

Then, from either direction: Stay in the left lane on the exit ramp, Route 202 west toward Winthrop, get immediately into the left turn lane at the first light, take a left onto Whitten Road. Watch for the blue and white signs directing you through a series of turns during the next 4 miles to Maple Hill Farm Bed and Breakfast on the Inn Road (the driveway), off the Outlet Road in Hallowell.

Alternate Directions:

From downtown Augusta, take Route 201 south 1½ miles; or from downtown Gardiner, take Route 201 north 4 miles. In Hallowell, turn onto Central Street, and follow the blue and white signs 3 miles to the Maple Hill Farm Bed and Breakfast.

REGISTRATION FOR MAWS 2007 ANNUAL MEETING

Please mail registration form and payment to: MAWS c/o Dale Knapp P.O. Box 361, Augusta, ME 04330. **Registration and check should be received no later than March 10, 2007.** Make checks payable to MAWS (please indicate that the payment is for the 2007 annual meeting, membership, or both; and for whom it is paying).

Name: _____ Membership Level: _____ Affiliation: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

E-mail address: _____ Phone: _____

RETURN TO: Maine Association of Wetland Scientists

P.O. Box 361

Augusta, ME 04330

TO:

