

**Project/Activity Number:** NC-174  
**Project/Activity Title:** Minutes of NC-174 Committee Meeting  
**Period Covered:** 17-18 June 2002  
**Date of this Report:** August 14, 2002  
**Annual Meeting Date(s):**

**Participants:** Tom Fenton, Iowa State Univeristy; Rattan Lal, The Ohio State University; Birl Lowery, Univ. of Wisconsin; Kevin McSweeney, Univ. of Wisconsin; Randy Miles, University of Missouri; Del Mokma, Michigan State University; John Moncrief, Univ. of Minnesota; Ken Olson, Univ. of Illinois; Tom Schumacher, South Dakota State University; Gary Steinhardt, Purdue University

**Adopted Agenda:** The agenda was as follows:

1. Adoption of agenda and appointment of Nominating Committee,
2. Introduction of members and guests,
3. Approval of minutes and guests,
4. Comments from Administrative Advisor, and use of National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS),
5. Status of manuscripts,
6. Revisionof projects,
7. Date and location of next meeting,
8. Election of future chair and seecretary,
9. Miscellaneous items,
10. Adjournment

**Brief Summary of Minutes of Annual Meeting:** The meeting was opened at 1:00 pm on 17 July 2002 by Tom Fenton. All members introduced themselves and briefly explained the program opportunities and constraints at their respective campuses. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved with a motion from Ken Olson and second by Randy Miles. Station reports were distributed but were not discussed.

**Key Discussions:**

Comments from Kevin McSweeney: The Administrative Adviser, Kevin McSweeney, made a few comments about the Farm Bill, and specifically mentioned that there are appropriations with regard to biosecurity. These comments were followed with a general discussion with regards to the following:

- (i) Funding for CASMGS (which involves Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Iowa amongst the NC-174 members) has been appropriated and may be followed in subsequent years through the Farm Bill.
- (ii) Birl Lowery explained the China Initiative in which Ken Shapiro (Director, International Programs of Wisconsin) and others are involved. About \$1 million have been appropriated for competitive grant proposal of up to \$50,000. The program may involve a meeting in China in November 2002 with MUCIA. The RFP for the competitive grant will be administered through CSREES.
- (iii) There are several vacancies in NRCS for the coming FY, but there is a lack of trained soil scientists. In this context the Third Party Vender issue was discussed.

- (iv) The cooperative programs with NRCS are dwindling and need to be watched. National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS): Kevin McSweeney explained that the project proposal and reports are to be submitted and filed under NIMSS. He cautioned that the password is “case-sensitive” and only lowercase letters are used. With time, NIMSS will be a very useful tool. It is managed through the University of Maryland.
- (v) There is an opportunity to invite additional members to NC-174 Committee. Dr. Mohammad Golabi from Guam is officially a member of the Committee. Any colleague interested in the program, including those from Canada and NRCS/ARS or industry (Monsanto, John Deere), can be invited to the membership.
- (vi) The need to link NC-174 Committee meetings with the annual meeting of SWCS was discussed. This linkage is beneficial and efforts need to be made to organize NC-174 meetings in conjunction with that of the SWCS.
- (vii) Kevin McSweeney mentioned that the review process for project renewal is getting tough. Several new projects have not been approved. It is important, therefore, that all members discuss the importance of getting the project renewed with their respective Heads of the Department. All Department Heads vote on the renewal, and the next meeting is scheduled in January 2003 in Chicago.
- (viii) While revising the project, it is important that the Committee take into consideration the national priorities of CSREES including the environmental issues and production agriculture. The introductory paragraph must address the national priorities.
- (ix) The final draft of the proposal must be submitted by September 16, 2002 by 4:30 p.m. The project can be submitted and reviewed electronically. All members can access the proposal electronically and review it.
- (x) Two states (Kansas and Nebraska) are not represented on the Committee. Nebraska always had a strong interest, and yet are not being represented. Fenton will contact potential members from these states.

Manuscripts of the 2001 Symposium: Two of the manuscripts submitted to the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation have been released. While the authors are revising these, Rattan Lal will explore the possibility of publishing all manuscripts with either Soil and Tillage Research or Sustainable Agriculture.

Revision of the Project: Considerable time was spent revising the proposal. The following decisions were made:

- (i) Title: While several titles were debated, the final title chosen was “Carbon, Nitrogen and Phosphorus in Eroded Soil Landscape”.
- (ii) Objectives: Two objectives agreed upon are:
  1. Determine the distribution of C, N, and P in soils of eroded landscapes.
  2. Assess management and erosion effects on soil productivity and quality of soil, air, and water resources.
- (iii) Analyses: Soil samples will be analyzed for bulk density (field moisture content) from the cores as taken in the field, particle size analyses (pipette method), pH (1:1 in H<sub>2</sub>O), moisture retention (optional at 50 cm, 1/3 bar and 15 bar suctions), C and N analyses, and site description by the NRCS Soil Survey Manual. The soil description

will be done on the fourth core, which will then be discarded.

(iv) Writing assignment: Procedural protocols are to be prepared by the following members:

CNP: Larry Cihacek (C,N) and John Moncrief (P)

Field Sampling: Ken Olson and Del Mokma

Standard procedures (Particle size, bulk density, pH, soil description): Tom Fenton and Tom Schumacher

(v) Landscape Positions: The standard landscape positions to be followed are those described by Ruhe. A schematic of Ruhe's landscape positions will be prepared and distributed among all members.

(vi) GPS and Mapping: It is important that sampling sites are identified by a GPS. Tom Schumacher may help in getting topographic maps for all sites.

**Assigned Responsibilities/Deadlines/Target Dates:**

Webpage: Tom Schumacher is helping set up the webpage for NC-174. The site address is <<<http://plantsci.sdstate.edu/nc174/>>> Analytical procedures and other reports (e.g., symposium papers) can be posted on the webpage.

Next Meeting: Members agreed that it will be extremely useful to arrange the 2003 meetings in conjunction with the annual meeting of the SWCS. The next meeting of the SWCS is planned for 26-30 July 2003 at Spokane, Washington.

(xi) Symposium: It was agreed that the Committee hold a symposium at the 2003 SWCS meeting. The symposium can be organized as two 2-hour concurrent sessions on Sunday while the business meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday.

(xii) Title: The symposium will be entitled "Carbon Dynamics in Eroded Landscapes".

(xiii) Contact: Rattan Lal will contact Craig Cox of the SWCS to schedule the Symposium.

(xiv) Speakers: There will be 15-minute presentation by each member of the Committee, followed by a 30-minute discussion for each of the two sessions. It is appropriate to invite a speakers from NRCS, and Canada. Some papers can also be presented as posters.

**Signature:** Recording Secretary  
Rattan Lal  
The Ohio State University  
Columbus, Ohio

Chairman  
Tom Fenton  
Iowa State University  
Ames, Iowa