



Science & Policy Committee Conference Call, Thursday, February 12th, 2015

Call to Order at 2:00 (CST) by Committee Chair, Andrew N. Sharpley sharpley@uark.edu

Five Committee members were able to be on this month's call.

A recent article in the American Societies CSA News on subsurface P losses got the attention of several folks outside the conservation and research community. The idea of these types of articles written by a staff writer in a language directed to the general public would be of interest to SWCS. This is not meant to detract from the already successful and popular *Feature Articles* in the ***Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*** but to add a new direction to that. **Jim Gulliford** will enquire with ASA Headquarters on the mechanics of such a publication if SWCS were to consider this a viable proposition. Such an outlet might be another option for white papers that might be produced by the S&PC and would provide an additional incentive for members to contribute.

David Speidel updated the Committee on his revision of his white paper on the concerns facing agricultural production in many areas of the U.S. due to invasive species. A draft document was circulated to the S&PC and David received several comments and suggestions, which he is now incorporating. When this is finished he will forward it to the committee for the next step in the process of getting this information out to a wide audience.

The S&PC member on the call then spent the rest of the call discussing the important issue of legacy effects on water quality, ecosystem resilience, and conservation measures in general. Several felt that the Government has not done enough to promote this issue or to estimate what legacies had done or are currently doing to influence the effectiveness of current conservation practices.

How can we use conservation measures and efforts in general to address legacy issues? For instance, **Andy Manale** gave the example of wetlands that were established many decades ago, and raised the question of whether they are still functionally effective as denitrifiers. Apparently, USGS is attempting to answer this on the Eastern Shores of the Delmarva Peninsula. Another example was given as being mill ponds. Those on the call agreed that a new way of looking at the legacy issue and such historic practices is needed that should be a systems and watershed-scale approach, rather than being narrowly focused on the functioning of a particular practice.

The Committee will continue this discussion on next month's conference call and will define some clear goals and outcomes for the Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm (CST).

The next meeting of the S&P Committee will be March 12th, 2015 at 3:00 pm EST.