



Science & Policy Committee Conference Call, Thursday, April 9th, 2015

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

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

Craig Derickson raised the topic of soil health for debate by the committee in the coming months. This is planned to add to the initial effort by Michelle Wander and Susan Andrews. This would include a broad assessment of soil health programs and current research needs as possible end products. **Craig Derickson** mentioned that there is an ongoing debate among researchers who are investigating the various benefits of improving overall "soil health" and how it might be quantified. However, those outside the scientific community are happy to use the anecdotal benefits proffered by soil health.

We then revisited the question of how can we use conservation measures and efforts in general to address legacy issues? **Andy Manale** gave the example of Conowingo Dam along with many other small impoundments, wetlands, and millponds that were established many decades ago and raised the challenge of looking at how agriculture can be a part of the solution for such legacy issues. 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. Part of the upcoming discussion would be to identify some of the opportunities for future research.

A more clearly define agenda for these two topics and any future topic will be developed prior to conference calls and some email exchanges should help make for a more focused and productive discussion.

Craig and **Andy** agreed to prepare some initial thoughts for the committee. Also, the idea of asking people not on the committee to present on specific topics was raised. We will pursue this as appropriate but this should help maintain interest and productivity.

Wendi Goldsmith has prepared a white paper entitled "*Green Infrastructure: Tapping Solar Energy Inputs for Enhanced Sustainability and Climate Resilience.*" A copy will be circulated to the Committee for comment, with the goal of submitting it to JSWC as a feature article.

Finally, it was agreed that we should look into the possibility of having a face-to-face meeting at the July SWCS Meetings in Greensboro, NC in July. The S&PC had a very well attended and successful meeting in Lombard last year. A poll will be sent out to determine who would be willing and able to attend and a convenient time during the meeting determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm (CST).

The next meeting of the S&P Committee will be May 14th, 2015 at 2:00 pm CDT.