



Minutes of the CSSS Soil Education Committee Meeting, June 12, 2024

2024 CSSS Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC

Meeting Agenda

- 1) Land acknowledgement – Maja Krzic
- 2) Approval of agenda
- 3) Committee report regarding activities since our 2023 meeting in Truro, NS – Amanda Diochon
- 4) Ideas for future activities, including potential theme for the Soil Education session at the 2025 CSSS conference in Winnipeg, MB
- 5) Any other business
- 6) Meeting adjournment

DISCUSSION

Meeting called to order at 12:01 PST.

~33 members in attendance. Circulated a sign-in sheet.

No additions to the agenda. Deepa Filatow moved; Anne Naeth seconded. No objections.

•Maja Krzic reviewed activities from the previous year focusing on the work on assessing the soil health concept in soil science education at the post-secondary level. Summary of this work can be found in the following manuscript - Krzic, M., T. Yates, A. Diochon, L. Van Eerd, and D. MacKenzie (2024). Assessing the Incorporation of the Soil Health Concept in Postsecondary Education in Canada. Canadian Journal of Soil Science <https://doi.org/10.1139/cjss-2024-000>

•Maja presented ideas for potential future projects.

- 1) ***Survey on usage of the Canadian open access textbook.***

Rich Farrell is monitoring the downloads/access of the textbook through Pressbooks. There are still a few edits that need to be completed for the French version; mostly around French translation. Maja reminded membership that we are able to add chapters because it is an OER. Rich has been contacted by folks about a chapter on forest soils. Dan Saurette also mentioned a chapter on soil erosion. Nate brought up the longevity of the committee. This is the tenth year of existence. Nathan Basiliko asked about the possibility of including/developing resources to support the delivery of the content in the textbook. Maja mentioned that this needs a champion. Dan S mentioned that pedology committee is compiling photos using Google Forms. Anne Naeth asked about a French review of the textbook, similar to the English version that could be published in CJSS. Maja will approach Stephanie

Grand (University of Lausanne, Switzerland) about her possibly doing this. Dan Saurette asked if the focus of the survey will only be on teachers/professors or if it might be on other user. Maja said that we should include other users of the textbook. The survey could be posted on the website. Dan Saurette asked about citations of the book but this is not currently known. Nathan offered to develop a draft slide deck for the Digging In chapters that members could add to (i.e., develop a shell slide deck that includes figures from the textbook). Tahmid Huq Easher (Olds) mentioned that he will work/can work with Nate as well. Rich Farrell will connect with Nathan to share the original database of figures. Maja will follow up with membership on interest in leading/joining the survey on the textbook. Sandra Brown offered to co-lead the survey on the textbook.

2) *Follow up survey on the current state of soil science education in Canada*

This would build on the study done back in 2015. Findings of that study were published in the following paper - Diochon, A., N. Basiliko, M. Krzic, T. Yates, E. Olson, J. Masse, B. Amiro, and D. Kumaragamage (2017). Profiling undergraduate soil science education in Canada: Status and projected trends. Canadian J. Soil Sci. 97: 122-132 [doi: 10.1139/CJSS-2016-0058](https://doi.org/10.1139/CJSS-2016-0058).

Maja will follow up with membership on interest in leading/joining this survey.

3) *Any new ideas for the session for next year?*

•Other topics of discussion:

*Deepa Filatow shared info on micro-credential on wetland soils and delineation that she has been involved in. There is an on-line teaching component and then a field component. Great opportunities for photos, data, etc. She suggested that we might want to consider developing a similar micro-credential focused on development of field skills of soil description, identification and classification. This would provide opportunities to increase soil science knowledge, field skills. Also, there is a good timing to consider such micro-credential due to the timing of the updated version of the classification system. Adam Gillespie asked if Deepa could share her experience and modules that have been developed for wetlands.

*Dan Saurette brought up soil judging and possibility of building capacity in this area. Would like to send a team in 2026. Could we do training at nodes?

*Anne Naeth brought up that we should be nominating candidates for the 3M National Teaching Fellowship, awarded by the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. More candidates in the area of soil science are needed (since 1980 just two colleagues received this prestigious award).

*Roland Kroebel mentioned potential for collaborating with post-secondary instructors on the use of HOLOS in their practice. Developing an OE interface for the model and also a wetland component. The model was designed to educate farmers and allow calculations of the greenhouse gas emissions on the basis of the National GHG inventory, but the model brings opportunities to also educate



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students on GHG emissions. Maja encourage Roland to develop a short communication that could be distributed to membership.

*Tebaru Gobezie mentioned AI and role of AI in education. Maja mentioned that Natural Sciences Education (NSE) journal currently has a call for submissions focused on the role of AI in education (see <https://acsess.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/21688281/specialsectioncall>).

*Blake Weiseth asked about knowledge transfer and extension and the role that CSSS has played in this. Are we promoting resources, like the textbook, to farmers and industry. Do we partner with provincial orgs? Deiter Geesing said that there is a need for this but communication strategy might need to be different for these audiences. Opportunity collaborate with the communications committee. Maja has YouTube channel with many soil related videos. Nathan Storey mentioned YouTube channel.

*Derek McKenzie suggested transforming the CSSS website to make it more front facing and that it could be more user friendly. Redesign the website. Budget was approved at the previous meeting. Opportunity for public education and membership. Time is now to redevelop the website. A members-only portal has been in discussion but there have been issues around security. The webmaster is working with Henry Chau (meeting at end of July) to explore this. Derek will reach out to Henry about the re-design and will work towards developing a working group for the redesign. Group is potentially Maja (education), Derek (health), Henry (communications), possibility for others to join in. Can link content from others in the society and beyond.

Meeting adjourned: 12:51 PST