

**Mid-Atlantic Soil Testing and Plant Analysis Work Group (MASTPAWG)**  
**Minutes of the 2014 Meeting**  
**Hampton Inn-Richmond Glenside, Richmond, VA**  
**February 18-19, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. on February 18, 2014 by the chair, Tim Hoerner of Agri Analysis, Inc. Introductions were made and Tim informed the group of the status of those members unable to attend. The chair browsed through the program and acknowledged the participants and the various sponsors. Complete program of activities is shown on page 3.

The following were in attendance:

Doug Beegle – Penn State Univ.  
Karen Gartley – Univ. of Delaware  
David Hardy – NC Dept. of Agriculture  
Steve Heckendorn – Virginia Tech  
Tim Hoerner- Agri Analysis  
Phil Howard – Southern States  
Mark Larsen - Elementar  
Josh McGrath – Univ of Maryland  
Suhas Narkhede - Questron  
Vernon Pabst – Spectrum Analytic  
Amy Shober – Univ. of Delaware  
Leticia Sonon – Univ. of Georgia  
John Spargo – Penn State Univ.  
Byron Vaughn - ALP  
Dennis Warrenfeltz - LabFit



Phil Howard, Crops Marketing Manager for the Southern States, welcomed the 20 participants from various laboratories and agencies. He shared some updates from Southern States and indicated that the agricultural side of the company is behind, but 2014 is a good year for the petroleum division. He mentioned that the agronomy division is reorganized and the current setup is a direct down flow to the growers. There are also many activities in the agronomy side. Southern States bill client farmers for sampling, testing, data management, and the coop keeps the data and farmers information with confidentiality. Phil also introduced his replacement New Manager of Precision Ag and Ag Technology for Southern States, Mr. David Swaine.

A series of research papers covering a wide array of topics were presented. Papers presented included topics on Near Infrared Spectroscopy for predicting nitrogen in loblolly and slash pine biomass by Leticia Sonon, manure summaries and data sharing with private laboratories by Doug Beegle, North Carolina's grain cop P and K recommendations and yield goals by David Hardy, agricultural laboratory proficiency update by Byron Vaughn, agricultural sample preparation

solutions by Suhas Narkhede, and Maryland P index by Josh McGrath. Steve Heckendorn led the discussion on surviving (and thriving?) in today's agricultural laboratory environment.

In addition to Southern States as the main sponsor of the meeting, vendor co-sponsors included Spectro, LabFit, Thermo Fisher and Questron. Each vendor presented new developments in their respective instrument companies.

After a 2-year rotation, Tim Hoerner's leadership assignment expired in 2014. John Spargo of Penn State University was selected to chair the MASTPAWG in the next 2 years beginning in 2015.

The group also discussed plans for the 2015 meeting including dates and possible topics.

**Meeting Date:** February 10-11, 2015; Snow date: April 14-15, 2015.

**Suggested Topics:**

- Sulfur Testing
- Organic Production Recommendation
- Sustainability of Practices – Definition of Sustainability
- Testing Methods and Interpretation – Mehlich 3
- Horticulture Topics
- Tissue Testing
- How can a lab give reports with organic or inorganic recommendations

The group expressed their appreciation to the sponsors especially to Southern States for free use of the meeting venue, snacks, and lunches.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am, February 19, 2014.

Minutes prepared by:

Leticia S. Sonon  
Univ of Georgia

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February 18-19, 2014**

***Tuesday, February 18, 2014***

***Morning Session***

8:15 - 8:20	Call to order, establish meeting historian
8:20 - 8:35	Welcome from Southern States – Phil Howard, Manager, Precision Ag and Ag Technologies
8:35 - 8:45	Introductions, update member list, review agenda, dinner plans
8:45 - 9:15	Programs on Soil Restoration Standard for New Jersey – Stephanie Murphy
9:15 - 9:45	Near Infrared Spectroscopy: Prediction of Nitrogen in Loblolly and Slash Pine Biomass – Leticia Sonon
9:45 - 10:15	Manure Summaries <i>and</i> discussion on Data Sharing with private laboratories - Doug Beegle
10:15 - 10:30	Break - Provided by Southern States
10:30 - 11:00	Presentation of North Carolina's Grain Crop P & K Recommendations and Yield Goals across a wide range of soils <i>and</i> group discussion of other state's recommendations – David Hardy
11:00- 11:30	Agricultural Laboratory Proficiency (ALP) program update and technical presentation – Byron Vaughan
11:30 - 12:00	Discussion Topic to be announced - Karen Gartley
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch - Sponsored by Southern States

***Afternoon Session, February 18***

1:00 - 2:00	The Mid-Atlantic Soil Testing and Plant Analysis Work Group – discussion to identify needs of our laboratories, researchers, and extension specialists, determine how this group can work together to meet those needs, begin listing resources to pull solutions from, and establish themes for the next two Mid-Atlantic meetings – facilitator Tim Hoerner
2:00 - 2:30	Agricultural Sample Preparation Solutions – Suhas Narkhede, Questron Technology Corp.
2:30 - 3:00	Reducing Matrix Effects in an Axial Viewed Plasma – Mike Rutzke
3:00 - 3:15	Break - Provided by Southern States
3:15 - 3:45	Soil Health – Dan Clune
3:45 - 4:15	Discussion on Surviving (and Thriving?) in Today's Agricultural Laboratory Environment – moderator Steve Heckendorn
4:15 - 4:45	Maryland Update: P-Index, sensor based variable rate nitrogen application-how's it working? – Josh McGrath
4:45 - 5:15	NAPT Update
5:15 - 6:00	Break
6:00 - ???	Dinner - Compliments of our sponsors

***Wednesday, February 19, 2013***

***Morning Session***

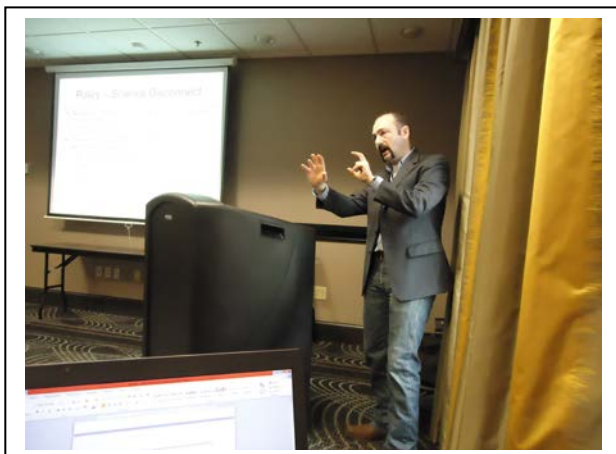
8:15 - 8:45	Virtual Lab Tour
8:45 - 9:15	Analyzing Sulfur in Fertilizer using Combustion Method – Jean Bernius, Elementar Americas
9:15 - 9:45	< Open >
9:45 - 11:00	State reports, dates and final plans for 2015 meeting

# The MASTPAWG meeting in pictures...

Presentation of North Carolina's Grain Crop P & K Recommendations and Yield Goals across a wide range of soils and group discussion of other state's recommendations – **David Hardy**



Maryland Update: P-Index, sensor based variable rate nitrogen application-how's it working? – **Josh McGrath**



The animated Josh...

Agricultural Laboratory Proficiency (ALP) program update and technical presentation – **Byron Vaughan**



Agricultural Sample Preparation Solutions – **Suhas Narkhede**, Questron Technology



Meeting of the minds...

