

WSSA Board of Directors Meeting

February 12, 2021

Bill Curran called meeting to order at 8:06 am CST.

Attendees: Bill Curran, Anita Dille, Larry Steckel, Darrin Dodds, Chris Willenborg, John Lindquist, Lee Van Wychen, Wykle Greene, John Byrd, Marty Schraer, Lynn Sosnoskie, Dawn Refsell, Rob Richardson, Te Ming Tseng, Greg Elmore, Francois Tardif, Phil Banks, Janis McFarland, Stanley Culpepper, Rakesh Chandran

John Byrd motioned to approve minutes from October meeting. Seconded by Larry Steckel. Motion passed unanimously.

Anita Dille motioned to accept electronic voting minutes. Seconded by Marty Schraer. Motion passed unanimously.

2021 Program – Anita Dille/Eric Gustafson – Getting meeting presentations together has been an enormous struggle. 303 total presentations including posters, 3MT, oral presentations, and symposia. Anita gave an overview of the webpage that will house the 2021 WSSA virtual annual meeting. Sustaining members had opportunity to create a virtual booth that is housed under “Exhibit Hall” tab on the webpage. Sustaining member participation was low – it was indicated that this was due to need to be in the virtual exhibit hall for a large amount of time as opposed to having the ability to move freely between the sessions. Bill Curran and Anita Dille expressed potential need for additional assistance in managing the WSSA program. The 2021 virtual meeting presented a monumental challenge for Anita Dille.

2021 Student Contest – Contest has gone as smoothly as possible. There were 35 M.S. poster submissions, 32 Ph.D. poster submissions, 16 M.S. 3MT presentations, and 29 Ph.D. 3MT presentations for a total of 112 presentations. A total of 60 judges were needed to judge and approximately half of those have been returned to Marty Schraer and Darrin Dodds as of this board meeting. A need exists to formalize contest rules/MOP into the WSSA MOP. Darrin Dodds is rotating off as contest chair and Marty Schraer will move into contest chair position. Marty Schraer will also recruit a new co-chair and other committee members.

GSO – Wykle Greene – Elected a new secretary, social media chair, and VP. There was a tie for VP which necessitated a runoff. Approximately 48 students voted in the election. Wykle Greene has set up a quiz bowl for the graduate students. The WSSA GSO is allocated ~\$2,000 from the WSSA for operational expenses. Wykle Greene also discussed travel enrichment experience and some uncertainty for 2021 due to the pandemic.

Executive Secretary Report – Eric Gustafson – 527 folks are currently registered for the 2021 WSSA virtual annual meeting. WSSA membership renewal rate is currently down. Eric Gustafson has sent a number of renewal notices but plans and will send additional reminders prior to restart of spring field season. Given the virtual nature of the 2021 WSSA annual meeting, the 2024 annual meeting will be a joint meeting held in San Antonio, TX. The format for the summer 2022 BOD meeting in Vancouver is in limbo. A number of questions in regard to the pandemic need to be resolved before a format for the 2021 summer BOD is decided upon.

2022 – Sheraton Wall Centre in Vancouver, BC Canada – joint meeting with CWSS

2023 – Arlington, VA – joint meeting with NEWSS

2024 – San Antonio, TX – joint meeting with SWSS

Treasurer Report – Phil Banks – Phil Banks provided a finance committee report outlining a number of activities of the treasurer and finance committee. Overall, the WSSA is doing well financially. Phil Banks discussed WSSA investments. Discussion was also held regarding utilizing funds in excess of the \$1.5M figure set by the WSSA BOD. Although WSSA is approaching this milestone, given the pandemic, the decision was made to not allocate funding above \$1.5M until the global financial and pandemic situation are stable. Eric Gustafson indicated ease of working with Phil Banks and expressed gratitude for all of his efforts.

Regional Reports:

NEWSS – Rakesh Chandran - Meeting was virtual from Jan. 4 – 7, 2021. 124 titles were submitted compared to 2020. Approximately 151 folks were in attendance. 116 attendees were from NEWSS. Virtual format allowed NEWSS to bring in speakers from great distance at minimal cost to society. Presentations will be available to those who registered for one year. The 2021 NEWSS weed contest has been cancelled due to the pandemic. The NEWSS is exploring a virtual format for this event. The 2022 annual meeting format is being discussed – interest exists in a potential hybrid format. Some members were able to attend virtually who may not have otherwise been able to attend. The NEWSS is planning to launch a student writing contest in an effort to nurture writing skills amongst the graduate students.

NCWSS – Greg Elmore – Brett Miller will move into WSSA representative role for the NCWSS. NCWSS has incorporated code of conduct language adapted from WSSA. Reid Smeda is new VP for NCWSS. The 2020 NCWSS meeting was virtual with 334 registered on November 30, 2020.

SWSS – John Byrd – SWSS annual meeting was held virtually on Jan. 24 – 27, 2021. Student contest entries were increased from years past while overall attendance decreased somewhat. The 2022 annual meeting will be held Jan. 23 – 27 which will be the 75th annual meeting. The 2023 annual meeting will be held in Baton Rouge, LA and the 2024 annual meeting will be held in conjunction with WSSA in San Antonio, TX. The direction of the summer weed contest is still under debate.

WSWS – Marty Schraer – WSWS annual meeting will be a joint meeting with Western Aquatic Plant Management Society in March 2021. 2023 WSWS annual meeting will be in Denver, CO and New Mexico is being discussed for 2024.

CWSS – Francois Tardif – No report.

APMS – Rob Richardson – Meeting from July 2020 was postponed. The direction of the July 2021 annual meeting is still under discussion. New Orleans is scheduled to be the host city; however, a virtual or hybrid format for 2021 is under discussion. Ryan Wersal is current president of APMS. Usual APMS conference attendance is 150 – 200 depending on venue and overall membership typically approaches 400.

Strategic Planning – Dawn Refsell

Strategic plan/pillars:

1. Establish WSSA as a trusted weed science resource for stakeholders – Lead – Janis McFarland
2. Advance relationships between WSSA and affiliated organizations – Lead – Bill Curran
3. Develop communication partnerships with key influencers – Lead - Larry Steckel
4. Provide forums for scientific exchange – Lead - Rakesh Chandran
5. Increase WSSA's influence through science communication and engagement – Lead – Dawn Resell
6. Improve WSSA member engagement, experience, and opportunities for leadership. Help build the capabilities and effectiveness of WSSA membership [capacity and success] – Lead - Greg Elmore

Bill Curran indicated that the end of March 2021 is a target to have reports from each lead.

NIFA Fellow Update – Jim Kells – The first year Jim Kells was liaison he focused on developing relationships with NIFA staff. However, the NIFA move to Kansas City resulted in more than half of the NIFA staff departing for other positions – this greatly hindered relationship building efforts. NIFA is making good progress toward rebuilding their staff. Mike Fitzner who is housed in Kansas City, serves as a host for Jim Kells. The pandemic prevented travel to NIFA headquarters and has also prevented NIFA from moving into their newly renovated headquarters. Vijay Nandula has become primary contact for Jim Kells at NIFA. Jim Kells has a goal of making connections/building relationships with new hires at NIFA. A genomics conference has been planned for 2021 and the goal is to meet in Kansas City. Todd Gaines and Mithila Jugulam have served as leads on this effort. The overarching goal of this genomics conference is to develop a white paper that will be delivered to NIFA. Jim Kells' term as NIFA fellow expires this year – he indicated he is willing to continue to serve if re-appointed.

CAST Representative Report – Jill Schroeder – Jill started in the CAST representative role in January 2020. Essentially all activities are virtual due to COVID. While some activities have continued virtually, this has hampered relationship building activities. White paper rollout has been virtual which has been beneficial. Viewership of these documents/presentations has increased compared to when delivered via in-person seminar in Washington D.C.

APHIS TAG Representative Report – Te Ming “Paul” Tseng – Paul has served as the APHIS TAG representative for approximately 2.5 years. He was able to attend the 2019 APHIS TAG meeting in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. The 2020 annual meeting was held virtually due to the pandemic. The APHIS TAG group meets 3-4 times per year to discuss petitions submitted to that group. The group has examined proposals seeking to evaluating biological control on weed species occurring in the western U.S.

EPA Liaison Search Update – Darrin excused from discussion. Applicants are being interviewed.

Publications Committee Report - Chris Willenborg – Cambridge has been invoiced for outstanding fees. This is the fourth year WSSA has worked with Cambridge and they have initiated conversations regarding contract renewal. Most WSSA journals (except Weed Technology) had increased submissions this past year. Time from initial submission to initial decision is 40 days or less for all journals except Weed Technology. Impact factors for WSSA journals are positive. COVID has impacted progress on the

new version of the Herbicide Handbook. Chris Willenborg and Travis Gannon have discussed the situation and progress on the Herbicide Handbook is anticipated in 2021. Concern was also expressed to Chris Willenborg regarding WSSA advertising for the Brazilian Weed Science journal. Some WSSA members felt this was direct competition to WSSA and it was inappropriate to advertise on behalf of a competing journal.

The Herbicide Handbook committee has met and developed pricing guidelines for the Upcoming Herbicide Handbook. Bill Curran felt pricing would be more appropriate to set once we are nearer to a finished Herbicide Handbook.

Executive Director of Science Policy Report – Lee Van Wychen – Highlight of 2020 was the hiring of a National Program Leader at USDA who has a weed science background. A number of biological evaluations of herbicides are underway at the EPA including triazines and glyphosate. Vijay Nandula was hired as a National Program Leader at USDA-NIFA. Stanley Culpepper inquired about endangered species and impact on herbicide use and efforts that need to be made by WSSA moving forward. Lee Van Wychen outlined a number of efforts underway – these are outlined in great detail in his report.

Camp Hand and Vasiliy Lakoba shared their experiences as virtual science policy fellows. Each fellow discussed activities they were involved with during their virtual fellowship including the most common and most troublesome weeds surveys, invasive species, comments on EPA's proposed interim decision on paraquat, National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW), and several other activities. Gratitude was expressed to Camp and Vasiliy for their efforts and the successes the program enjoyed in spite of the pandemic.

Science Policy Committee Report – Janis McFarland – Lee Van Wychen covered a number of activities from the Science Policy Committee in his report. However, the committee has sought out input on how they can increase impact of the Science Policy Committee and will continue to do so moving forward. The Science Policy Committee advisory committee will meet next week and discuss the fellow program in 2021. It is anticipated two science policy fellows will be requested for 2021. If travel is reduced in 2021 due to the pandemic, the stipend will likely be reduced.

Standing Committee Reports:

Approximately 19 standing committee reports were received. Bill Curran indicated a need to improve our process with regard to posting standing committee reports to the general membership. Bill Curran surveyed each board member regarding liaison duties and potential needs.

Research Priorities – last time a research priorities in weed science survey was conducted was in 2007. A goal of this committee is to re-visit research priorities and publish results in Weed Science.

Awards – discussion needs to be held regarding standardizing monetary awards, etc. Bill Curran suggested doing so at the March/April meeting.

Constitution and Operating Procedures Report – John Lindquist –

John Lindquist made a motion to accept revisions to Weed Loss section of constitution and operating procedures as presented. Motion seconded by Phil Banks.

Larry Steckel offered a friendly amendment to the Weed Loss (E11) section point G to read "...every 10 years as needed". Motion passed unanimously.

John Lindquist made a motion to accept revisions to constitution and operating procedures to Terminology Committee as presented. Motion seconded by Larry Steckel. Motion passed unanimously.

Summer Board Meeting Plans – Eric Gustafson – Discussion was held regarding time of summer board meeting due to COVID as well as paperwork that will be required to cross border into and out of Canada. It is recognized that the travel situation is very fluid at the moment and that it will be imperative to stay up to date on international travel requirements.

Motion to enter executive session made by Anita Dille at 3:55 CST and seconded by John Byrd. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to leave executive session made by John Byrd. Seconded by Larry Steckel. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn made by Marty Schraer. Seconded by John Byrd. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting concluded at 4:35 pm CST.