

WSSA BOD Meeting

April 24, 2023

In attendance:

Carroll Moseley, Eric Gustafson, Greg Dahl, Pamela Carvalho-Moore, John Lindquist, Steven Pyle, Jim Kells, Lauren Lazaro, Stanley Culpepper, Jill Schroeder, Brett Miller, Peter Dotray, Lee Van Wychen, Bill Chism, Sarah Ward, Greg Elmore, Michael Flessner, Hilary Sandler, Alan Helm

Call to Order

Carroll Moseley at 10:01AM EST.

Roll Call.

Approval of BOD Agenda

Motion to approve made by Greg Dahl at 10:07AM EST. Seconded by Hilary Sandler. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Previous BOD Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve previous BOD meeting minutes by Greg Dahl at 10:11AM EST. Seconded by Hilary Sandler. Motion passed unanimously.

Annual Meeting Program Update: Greg Dahl

Joint meeting with SWSS to be held in January 2024. A call for symposia has been released with a June 12, 2023, deadline. On April 14, 2023, the first planning meeting was held. Todd Baughman will be the SWSS program chair. Some concerns involve making sure that SWSS is highlighted, and the events are preserved during the joint meeting. Local arrangements will be relied on for the upcoming summer tour/meeting September 6-7, 2023, in San Antonio and to find the keynote speaker.

Update from 2023 Meeting: Hilary Sandler

Committees are in good standing, but there are still a few vacancies that need to be filled (chairs for Early Career Scientist and Invasive Management Paper). The Program Committee is having discussions on what to do with sections that had very few papers submitted – should sections be combined, removed completely, or remain as is. Greg Dahl notes that we cannot predict the future of the society and how sections will fluctuate in popularity. Carroll mentioned that section chairs can reach out to people to invite them to speak in that section.

Grad Student Organization: Pamela Carvalho Moore

The GSO has been circulating ideas on the GSO Business Meeting theme, but no decisions have been made. The Endowment scholarship is open, and Pamela encourages people to apply. Carroll

asks where students can apply and Pamela notes that an email was circulated but also that there is a link on the WSSA website.

Regional Updates

Southern Weed Science Society (Peter Dotray)

Peter has been in contact with Todd already about joining the planning meetings. The call for symposia has been sent out. SWSS has a TEE program and Greg McDonald will circulate the announcement next week.

North Central Weed Science Society (Brett Miller)

The spring meeting was held last week, and discussions surrounded revising paper student contest rules and the summer contest rules.

Northeast Weed Science Society (Steve Pyle)

The NEWSS BOD met on April 13, 2023, and voted on future IMI involvement. The vote was no due to the cost and size of the society at this time. The 2024 meeting will be held in Boston, MA instead of Gettysburg, PA. Meeting details will be released as soon as the contract has been signed. The NEWSS executive committee has been selected and will be circulated soon.

Western Society of Weed Science (Alan Helm)

The annual meeting was held at the end of February in Boise, ID with 277 attendees. Denver, CO is the 2024 annual meeting location. Carroll notes that a joint meeting with WSSA is in the works for the future.

Canadian Weed Science Society (Darren Robinson)

None.

APMS (Benjamin Sperry)

None.

WSSA Nominations and Strategic Plan Discussion: Stanley Culpepper

WSSA Nominations

The nomination committee needs to fill the treasure, secretary, member at large, and vice president roles. Stanley will begin reaching out to the committee and the nominees in the next few weeks. Stanley thanks those who have recommended people for the roles. Voting should open in October/November 2023.

Strategic Plan

The 2022-2027 Strategic Plan was approved and voted on in a previous BOD meeting. A strategic plan committee was suggested during the January 2023 BOD meeting. Anita Dille was

going to form the committee. Stanley will reach out to Anita to determine the status of the committee.

Finance Committee: Greg Elmore

Current Financial Status

Financial status as of March 31, 2023: Total assets: \$2.4 million, compared to \$2.5 million at the end of December 2022.

FY23 Proposed Budget

Continued revenue expected from the 10th Herbicide Handbook. Anticipating about \$110,000 and \$7,000 in membership revenue for standard memberships and student memberships, respectively. Registration numbers for the annual meeting are determined from previous meetings (2023 meeting: 550 attendees, with about 50 comped registrations for government officials). \$125,000 has been estimated for annual journal revenue. CAST, Innovative Grants, Honoraria, Editor stipend, annual meeting costs, GSO TEE, and website etc. have been included in the estimate. Total expenditures are estimated at \$847,707.13 which would be \$202,757.13 over the net operating revenue. Some expenditures are a one-time payment that is not typically seen in the budget.

A motion has been made to approve the FY23 Budget by Greg Elmore at 10:50AM EST. Seconded by Alan Helm. Motion passed unanimously.

Innovative Grants

Greg added language to the call for proposal document on if the awardee plans to publish, the publication must be submitted to a WSSA journal – which is reflected in the MOP language.

Funding should be available for another round of proposals; the budget must be over \$1.5 million, and we are currently at \$1.4 million. The call for proposals will go out soon once the budget is achieved. One or more projects could be funded up to \$100,000.

The current innovative grant awardees will write a short update on their project at the six-month mark to be added to the newsletter.

Director(s) of Publications: Sarah Ward

Open Access Journals

Background: WSSA journals are currently hybrid: authors can choose either to pay page charges (\$65 per composed page) and publish their article behind the subscription paywall, or to pay an author processing charge (APC) of \$2,500 (\$2,000 for WSSA members) and publish their article gold open access, freely available to all. The proportion of open access articles in each WSSA journal issue has grown steadily, exceeding 80% for recent issues of Weed Technology and Weed Science. This reflects the author's preference, and mandates from an increasing number of funding agencies. The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy now requires that no later than 2025, all U.S. federal agencies will make publications from federally funded research immediately and fully publicly accessible.

Timing: Weed Technology will flip to 100% OA starting January 1, 2024, assuming the WSSA BOD agrees, and we can give Cambridge University Press a final decision to proceed no later than April 30. Weed Science and IPSM will flip in January 2025. This spreads out the anticipated initial reduction in income for both WSSA and CUP. It also allows any problems to be identified and addressed before flipping all WSSA journals.

Journal income: Assuming the above timeline for flipping WSSA journals, CUP projects a decline in total journal revenue from \$389,675 in 2023 to \$303,403 in 2026. This reflects the loss of traditional institutional subscription revenue and non-subscription revenue (BioOne income, page charges, licensing etc.) This loss will be offset by increases in negotiated sales revenue and APCs. Actual payments from CUP to WSSA are projected to decline from \$191,180 in 2023 to \$155,819 in 2026. However, if journal article output recovers as expected after the projected initial dip (see below) journal income and payments to WSSA will stabilize and then improve. Flipping Weed Technology to 100% open access in 2024 is projected to reduce total revenue for that journal from \$147,543 (anticipated revenue for 2023) to \$135,090. Royalty payments from CUP to WSSA for Weed Technology are anticipated to decline from \$64,773 in 2023 to \$59,340 in 2024.

Assumptions:

1. Author processing charges for OA publication increase from current \$2500 (\$2000 for WSSA members) to the standard CUP rate of \$3450 (20% discount for WSSA members = \$2760). Many university-based North American authors are covered by institutional transformative agreements allowing them to publish open access in CUP journals at no cost.
2. Based on CUP's experience with flipping other journals to fully open access, approximately a 10% reduction in submissions is anticipated in the year of the flip, followed by 5% growth each subsequent year. Forecast article output (i.e., total published articles) across all 3 WSSA journals is 196 for 2023, 184 for 2024, 180 for 2025, 189 for 2026.

Note: CUP is typically quite conservative in its financial projections. WSSA journals may not experience the anticipated decline in submissions and revenue from 2024 onwards, especially given the number of authors already opting for open access publication in our journals.

Carroll asks what happens if we do not move to OA. Sarah responds that WSSA journals would get left behind as this is the movement of academic journals. Hilary mentions that many 'predatory' journals are OA. There is some concern about the increased cost of publishing and the potential decline in submissions. Weed Technology's recent journal had an 88% rate of OA articles, so the concern is decreased some. Eric asks how this may affect membership, since membership has access to all journal articles. Sarah notes that members will have access to all achieved articles and a reduced publishing cost still, although it will be increased. Sarah notes that for one journal there should be about a \$5,000 decline in revenue. Carroll notes that the new edition of the Herbicide Handbook could potentially offset this decline.

Chris and Sarah have support from the three journal editors and the Publications Committee.

A motion has been made, by the Directors of Publications, to approve the transition of the WSSA journals (Weed Technology January 1, 2024, and Weed Science and IPSM January 2025 to 100% open access by Sarah Ward at 11:27PM EST. Seconded by Steven Pyle. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion surrounded if the BOD should only vote on Weed Technology moving to 100% OA and the other two journals after Weed Technology make the transition. Sarah noted that we can, but Cambridge needs as much time as possible to make this transition. Carroll asks if there would be enough time to gather data from Weed Technology to make a timely decision on the other two journals and Sarah says no. Further discussion surrounded moving the other two journals back a year to have enough time to gather data on Weed Technology's move to OA.

BREAK (11:40 to 11:55AM EST)

Note: Sarah Lancaster joined the meeting at 12:02PM EST.

Science Policy Update: Lee Van Wychen

Weed Science Presidents Congressional Visits

Occurred April 18-20, 2023, and was attended by Drs. Rainbolt, Moseley, Smeda, Everman and Caster. Fifteen congressional offices were visited. Highlights include the Agriculture Research Title in the 2023 Farm Bill (mandatory research funding), USDA NIFA FY24 appropriations (IR-4 and support of CPPM), EPA regulatory issues (Endangered Species Act complaints), and creating an invasive species management fund (important inspection and quarantine fee). In addition, two Congressional Hearings were attended, parts of the CLA/RISE spring conference, and the NCFAR annual meeting, and had a meeting with Kyle Kunkler from the American Soybean Association. Lee will follow up with virtual meetings with eight Congress offices that could not be scheduled or had to cancel in the next couple of weeks.

BLM Releases Draft Programmatic EIS

The BLM proposes to approve several herbicide active ingredients, including aminocyclopyrachlor, clethodim, fluozifop-p-butyl, flumioxazin, imazamox, indaziflam, and oryzalin, (trifluralin not on the list) for use in vegetation treatments on public lands. These active ingredients are registered by the EPA. To approve any of these active ingredients, the BLM will adopt and rely on Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments prepared by the U.S. Forest Service. Comments are due June 5, 2023.

USDA Announces New National Institute of Food and Agriculture Director

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the appointment of Manjit K. Misra as the new Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The NIFA Director leads the agency's work in advancing agricultural research, education, and extension to solve societal challenges. Dr. Misra will start his new role on Monday, May 8, 2023.

Requests for Nominations: Ad Hoc Expert Reviewers; FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel; Examination of Microcosm/Mesocosm Studies for Evaluating the Effects of Atrazine on Aquatic Plant Communities

After discussions with Janis and Stanley, and considering conflicts of interest, we have nominated Dr. Aaron Hager, University of Illinois. Nomination is due April 24, 2023. FIFRA-SAP will convene on August 22-24, 2023.

NCFAR Lunch-N-Learn Presentation

Stanley Culpepper and Bill Chism Will give an NCFAR Lunch-N-Learn Presentation to Capitol Hill staffers regarding FIFRA compliance with ESA on July 11 at noon EST in the House Agriculture Committee, Room 1302 Longworth House Office Building (in person event only). WSSA is collaborating with NASDA, ECOP, CLA, Syngenta, ASA, and NCGA. Five of the collaborators, including WSSA, will provide \$500 each to sponsor the Lunch-N-Learn.

APMS Visits to Capitol Hill

The original visits, during the last week of March, were canceled due to the overlap of ACOE authorizing and appropriations committee meetings occurring at the same time. Lee could only confirm 7 of 31 meeting requests. He did meet virtually with the Chief Budget Director at ACOE, Stacey Brown, to discuss the Aquatic Plant Control Program.

Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC)

PPDC is May 31-June 1, 2023. Register by May 23, 2023.

Science Policy Fellows

The application deadline was April 3, 2023. Eight applications were received, and the two candidates will be selected in the coming weeks.

CAST: Jill Schroeder

WSSA CAST representatives are maintaining contact with each other surrounding common concerns. Discussions have surrounded how to bring awareness of CAST to the membership. Lee suggested inviting the CAST vice president to the annual meetings and Greg Dahl will extend the invite as the program chair. An ongoing discussion surrounded adding the SWSS rejoining CAST so that all regions are represented. New issue topic ideas for publications are being circulated. Student involvement/engagement is a primary concern. Jill will reach out to Pamela to move this forward. Greg Dahl thanks Jill for her leadership and hard work.

Note: Mark VanGessel joined the meeting at 12:20PM EST.

Website Committee: Sarah Lancaster

The website committee meets weekly with the website designers. Sarah sent out a mockup of the website for the Executive Committee to review last week. Sarah notes that the finer details, such as photos and specific texts, are still underway. The specific content elements of each website page are being meticulously looked at currently. Hilary asked for a button to donate to the Endowment Fund to be added on the main page. Bill asks if the pictures used in the Photo Contest could be used on the website. Eric will ask Angela Post to add a disclaimer be added to the photo contest submissions that photos may be used on the website.

Note: Sarah Lancaster left the meeting.

EPA: Mark VanGessel

Mark has coordinated two webinars with Biological and Economic Analysis Division (BEAD): sugarbeet production and cotton weed production. He has also coordinated a discussion surrounding plastic culture in crop production for weed management and how state agencies regulate pesticide laws. Two field tours will be held in the summer: IR-4 field day on June 21, 2023, in Delaware and an Agronomic 101 tour held on September 13, 2023, in Maryland.

ESA Committee: Bill Chism

About 170 people attended the workshop at the 2023 WSSA annual meeting. The committee is trying to work with federal agencies on the list of/location of species in the Endangered Species Act. Four subcommittees (label reform, communication, mitigation information, and phytotoxicity) are being formed. Sarah Lancaster and Bill are working on a webpage for the new website as well.

Old Business

National Weed Contest (Greg Elmore)

A regular meeting has been established with the host and the regional leads as well as general plans are in progress. Currently about 225 contestants have registered. Greg is still looking for volunteers. The contest is held on July 26, 2023. The team/student deadline has passed (March 25, 2023).

New Business

Michael Flessner noted that the E4 Noxious and Invasive Weeds Biocontrol Committee is working on a proposal, for the summer BOD meeting, for a name change and update to the MOP language.

Note: Mark, Jill, Bill, Lee, Eric, and Sarah Ward left the meeting.

Motion to enter executive session made by Greg Dahl at 1:22PM EST. Seconded by Alan Helm. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to leave executive session made by Greg Elmore at 1:44PM EST. Seconded by Alan Helm. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn made by Hilary Sandler at 1:46PM EST. Seconded by Alan Helm. Motion passed unanimously.