

Minutes of the WSSA Business Meeting

Kansas City, Missouri

February 11, 2004

Call to Order. President Al Hamill called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 p.m.; 96 members were in attendance.

Agenda. *Horace Skipper moved and Tom Mueller seconded that the agenda be accepted as presented; the motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes from 2003 Business Meeting. *It was moved (Charles Bryson), seconded (Mike Chandler), and passed unanimously to accept the minutes from the previous meeting.*

Treasurer's Report. Reid Smeda, treasurer, reported that WSSA had assets of \$1,274,506.08 at the end of fiscal year 2003; this compares favorably with the value at the beginning of the fiscal year, \$1,278,318.93. At fiscal year end, cash on hand was \$196,564.22 and \$795,621.39 was invested in the General Fund; the Endowment Fund was valued at \$280,320.47.

Endowment Fund. Dick Oliver noted that the fund had gained \$26,000 over the last year, including \$2,440 in new contributions. The Endowment was valued at \$283,452 on December 31, 2003.

Sustaining Membership. Wynn John, chair of the Sustaining Membership Committee, reported that the committee has worked to maintain sustaining membership over the past year; this has been a challenge given the residual effects of the US economic recession plus industry consolidation. By the end of the year WSSA did have more sustaining members than in 2002, but even more significantly, more members chose to participate at higher membership levels. The total membership dues received from sustaining members was \$31,500, plus four members who purchased booth space at the annual meeting at \$2800. In addition to dues, sustaining members were invited to help with selected costs associated with the annual meeting. Only Syngenta chose to participate in sponsoring this year's meeting; they are co-sponsoring the social on the final evening, along with WSSA. The Society greatly appreciates this extra support.

Additionally, Donn Thill approached sustaining members to see if they would provide door prizes as incentives to encourage greater participation in the annual business meeting. BASF, Dow Agro Sciences, DuPont, Kumiai and Syngenta graciously provided prizes as requested. Other companies wanting to donate prizes for future business meetings should contact a Board member or member of the Sustaining Membership committee.

Director of Publications. Mike Foley, Director of Publications, reported that by the end of December 2003, *Weed Technology* had received 244 regular submissions, 41 more than in 2002. Submissions are primarily research articles, but a few educational articles, reviews, and other communications have been received. The average time from receipt to acceptance by the editor is 31 weeks, a five week reduction from 2002. Foley and the editors of *Weed Technology* and *Weed Science* are working with the managing editor, Ms. Emily Kemmeter, to reduce the backlog of manuscripts that have been accepted and are awaiting publication.

As of mid-December 2003, 166 manuscripts had been submitted to *Weed Science*; six of the manuscripts were redirected to *Weed Technology* because the content fit more appropriately with that journal's

mission. This number is about 10 fewer manuscripts than were submitted in 2001 or 2002. The 2003 acceptance rate for *Weed Technology* and *Weed Science* was 78 and 70%, respectively.

A special edition of *Weed Technology* is planned for publication in November, 2004; it will contain papers covering about 75 presentations from the November, 2003, Invasive Plants in Natural and Managed Systems (IPINAMS) workshop.

The first year of electronic manuscript submission via AllenTrack has passed, and despite some complications and minor headaches, the process has been well-received by authors, reviewers, associate editors, and editors.

The project "Assessing Economic, Environmental, and Societal Losses from Invasive Plant on Rangeland and Wild Lands," partially supported by WSSA, is at the report stage. The committee working on the project is considering bundling a hard copy and CD version if sufficient funds can be found.

We received nearly \$18,000 in royalty payments, from BioOne, our journal aggregator and online provider, this past year.

Abstracts for the 2004 annual meeting were published in CD format, as directed by the membership survey and the Board of Directors.

The newsletter is planned for electronic delivery via our web site in October 2004. Savings in printing and mailing costs, plus a faster turn-around time for articles, are some of the advantages of moving to an electronic newsletter.

Over the next year, Foley will be exploring the best means to provide electronic access to back issues of *Weeds*, *Weed Science*, and *Weed Technology*.

At its recent meeting, the Publication Board discussed publication issues in the WSSA strategic plan, including outreach to new groups. The appeal of our publications, particularly *Weed Technology*, might be enhanced with a name change to *Weed and Invasive Plant Management*, or something similar. Foley asked that attendees think about this, and provide input to Publication Board members. He noted that the Board of Directors had neither considered nor acted on a journal name change.

CAST. Jill Schroeder, WSSA representative to CAST, reminded the membership of how well weed science is represented in CAST. Jim Martin serves on the CAST Board, and the four regional weed societies plus WSSA have member representatives to CAST. Schroeder noted the benefits of joining CAST on an individual basis, in addition to the benefits gained from having Society representation. CAST offers leadership training and workshops, and issues many scientific reports throughout the year. If members have concerns or ideas for CAST issue papers or other publications, they should contact Schroeder or other weed scientist representatives to CAST.

Director of Science Policy (DSP). This year Rob Hedberg, Director of Science Policy, was hired as a WSSA employee; previously, WSSA contracted for his services. The WSSA and member societies have funded Director of Science Policy activities for the past 5 years. During that time, the budget has held steady, i.e. there has been no increase in the annual contribution from member societies. With external funds currently being generated, it is projected that contributions will remain the same for at least 2 more years. To ensure that costs are kept down, the Washington Liaison Committee will be developing a business management plan to work within the overall WSSA business plan.

Among the notable highlights of the past year:

- Held a very successful Invasive Plants in Natural and Managed Systems conference (see below).
- Received a \$66,000 grant from USDA-APHIS to review weed issues surrounding the approval of glyphosate tolerant bentgrass. Kent Harrison, Ian Heap, and Phil Banks are spearheading the project. Nelroy Jackson provided additional insight on the IPINAMS meeting, which has been hailed as “the conference of the decade.” The meeting fostered interaction between ecologists, government officials, and weed scientists, and enhanced WSSA’s profile. Three hundred thousand dollars to support the meeting came from federal agencies and industry contributed \$50,000. Priority issues for 2004 include
 - Increasing research funding for weed science. Currently, the DSP is spearheading WSSA comments to CSREES on National Research Initiative priorities. Members with input are urged to see Hedberg or Bill Mullin today.
 - Coordinating Endangered Species Act consultation between the USEPA, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Marine Fisheries Service.
 - Creating a federal job classification for weed science and weed management.
 - Running a successful National Invasive Weed Awareness Week, February 23 through 27, in Washington, D.C.

Constitution and Operating Procedures. Horace Skipper, Committee chair, reported that due to increased Society activity, both through members and the Director of Science Policy, the Board has found it needs to conduct business other than at face-to-face meetings. To that end, the Board has adopted a procedure to make motions, discuss, and vote on business electronically between meetings. If members see items in the Constitution or Manual of Operating Procedures that need attention, please contact Skipper or another member of the Board.

Local arrangements, 2004. Bill Bertges reported that 534 registered for the meeting; 81 registrants were graduate students.

Program Committee for 2005. Carol Mallory-Smith encouraged members to present posters at the 2005 meeting at the Waikiki Sheraton in Honolulu, Hawaii. The Asian Pacific Weed Science Society and the Australian Weed Science Society are interested in exploring joint programming for the meeting.

Nominating Committee. Brad Majek announced the newly elected Board members: Don Morishita, secretary; Dale Shaner, vice president; John Jachetta, Member-at-Large.

Site Selection, 2006. Majek reminded members that the 2006 meeting will be held in New York City and urged members **not** to drive to the meeting; public transportation is the best choice. The meeting hotel, the Marriott Marquis, is located on Broadway.

Site Selection, 2007. Rhonda Green of Allen Marketing and Management indicated that Lubbock, Texas; San Diego, California; and New Orleans, Louisiana; are being considered as sites for the 2007 meeting.

XID Project. Alex Ogg, chair of the XID CD special committee, reported that 468 copies of the CD had been sold as of February 6; this generated revenue of about \$5,600. So far, WSSA has spent \$11,000 on the project, and an additional \$4,000 is projected to be spent in 2004. Advertisements for the CD have

appeared in newsletters and magazines which contact an estimated 25,000 individuals. WSSA has also printed a promotional brochure highlighting the CD and has distributed about 2,000 copies. For 2004, the committee will focus on exploring additional marketing avenues for the Phase I CD, such as FFA chapters, crop advisors and consultants, and state extension weed specialists. State specialists can exert a "trickle down" effect by reaching county extension offices, Master Gardeners, and grower groups. Another emphasis for 2004 is continuing work on Phase II of the CD. Phase II involves collecting images of 420 additional weed species, and all members are urged to provide pictures. The committee intends to work with weed science instructors to get weed biographies for all 1400 species in Phase II. Currently, 219 biographies are in preparation. The Phase I CD will be demonstrated at the end of the Teaching and Extension Section of this meeting, on Thursday afternoon about 3:15 p.m.

Graduate Student Committee. Cody Gray reported that the committee has drafted a proposed organization plan, and will bring it to tomorrow's Board meeting for acceptance. If the Board agrees, a graduate student would serve in an ex-officio capacity on the Board. The committee urges that the town hall format be retained for future meetings. Gray also mentioned possibly organizing a graduate student symposium.

Necrology Committee. Eric Prostko, reporting for the Necrology Committee, requested that attendees observe a moment of silence to honor the memory of friends and members of WSSA who had passed away since the 2003 meeting. The list includes Kriton Hatzios, Chester McWhorter, Paul Sand, Charles Scifres, Alan Walker, and Charles Wilson, Jr. Obituaries for these individuals have already been or will be published in a future issue of the newsletter.

Resolutions Committee. Gordon Vail reported that there had been no resolutions for consideration this past year.

Old Business

Hamill expressed thanks to retiring Board members Dale Shaner, Member-at-Large from Industry, and Laura Whatley, Secretary. Whatley was presented with a plaque of appreciation for two terms of service. Hamill also thanked the remaining Board for their hard work through the year.

New Business

Al Hamill officially passed the gavel to the incoming president, Carol Mallory-Smith.

Mallory-Smith presented a plaque to past president Al Hamill as a token of appreciation for his service as president of the Society.

It was moved (Brad Majek), seconded (Cody Gray), and unanimously passed that the meeting be adjourned.

President Mallory-Smith adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:15 p.m.

Laura L. Whatley
WSSA Secretary