

President's Report

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ARS NP 304

USDA/ARS held its Customer Workshop for National Program 304 – Crop Protection and Quarantine in Miami May 21-23 to develop the next 5 year plan. This national program includes entomology and weed science. Jill Schroeder, Mike Barrett, Lee Van Wychen, and I represented WSSA. Additional attendees at the meeting included Bruce Maxwell, Rakesh Chandran, and Jerry Green, as well as the ARS personnel Dale Shaner, Dave Gealy, Brad Hanson, Lori Wiles, Mike Foley, Bill Bruckart, and Carroll Johnson. ARS scientists are working on the five year plan, using the comments made by the participants at the workshop. We will have an opportunity to comment on the 5 year plan after it is posted on the ARS website.

We stressed the importance of filling the national program leader position for weed science previously held by Del Delfosse. We reiterated our position that the NPL for weed science should be filled by a qualified weed scientist. Dr. Judith St. John told me that the position would be filled and the job should be posted soon.

I followed up a week ago with a note to Dr. St. John, copied to other ARS administrators, asking when the ARS weed science job announcement was going to be posted. I also asked if an interim program leader would be named for weed science, since the new NPL probably will not be on board until after the new 5 year plan has been developed. I asked about the format for the 5 year plan, since it appears that it will be commodity based as opposed to research category based. Kevin Hackett responded that basic research in weed science would be part of the new plan. He did not comment on my other questions and I have not heard back from the other administrators. This may need a follow up note from me.

Call for Executive Secretary and Meeting Management Proposals

The WSSA board posted a call for proposals for Executive Secretary and Meeting Management since our contracts with Allen Press expire in 2009. We had an excellent response to our call for proposals, with 20 companies sending in bids. We will be discussing these during executive session during the summer board meeting.

Strategic Planning

Jill, John, Mike, and I have been working with Thomas Sullivan, who again will be a facilitator for our strategic planning session on Saturday. Thomas modified a business tool for us to use in evaluating our portfolio of projects. Please review our strategic and tactical plans, and our procedures for project review, which can be found under society information on the WSSA homepage.

NIWAW

Lee and I have edited a proposed Charter for the Invasive Weed Awareness Coalition (IWAC), which sponsors the National Invasive Weed Awareness Week (NIWAW). In our revisions, we requested that WSSA have 2 positions on the steering committee, Lee plus the WSSA president. NIWAW occurs in February every year. Mike Ielmini of the US Forest Service developed the draft of the charter. The intent is to develop more structure for IWAC, along with addressing the need to separate out any efforts that could be considered lobbying.

IWAC will be meeting July 30 in DC to discuss plans for NIWAW 10 (2009 NIWAW). We should be voting on the NIWAW coordinator at that meeting, as well as approve the charter. Joyce, Lee, and Nelroy Jackson have been working on final financial summaries for NIWAW 7, 8, and 9 as per my request.

Professional Development

Sarah Ward shared with me some activities of the Professional Development Committee in regards to our website. Here is her report:

Here is some more information on what we are proposing for our web page. Dave Horvath is taking the lead on developing these components.

- 1) Mission statement and list of committee members with contact info
- 2) Links to various resources for professional development
- 3) Mentor matching tool- some place where you can sign up to be a mentor or be mentored.
- 4) Sabbatical matching tool -like above
- 5) Links to pod casts for symposia and workshops sponsored by the Professional Development Committee or pertaining to professional development

We have some other ideas too, but we will start with these. Any suggestions from the Board on other items we might include would be welcome.

Sarah

Website

David Krueger has done a great job maintaining our website. Abstracts from the 2008 meeting are now available on our website, and David is working with Joyce to get the 2007 abstracts on our site. Under press room, there is a place to enter your name and email address to automatically receive WSSA press releases. Janis McFarland and her public awareness committee have been working hard, developing several press releases since our February meeting. David has been working on a redesign on the homepage so that we can highlight both activities for society members as well as information for the general public.

IPSM

See Joe DiTomaso's report contained in James's publication update. Please look at Karen Ridgeway's report posted on the website. See Karen's suggestion for subscription pricing.

JSTOR

JSTOR has about a new program which involves selling subscriptions to their archives to corporation libraries. Karen Ridgeway recommended that WSSA journals should be included and Joyce proofed the rider, which I signed. This may generate additional revenue for WSSA.

Weeds Without Borders

See Ann Legere's report on our website.