**2018 WSSA Summer Board Meeting**

**June 25, 2018 – Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 7:32 am by Scott Senseman

Present: Eric Gustafson, John Byrd, Phil Banks, Eric Webster, Mark Bernards, Lee Van Wychen, Sarah Ward, Marty Schraer, Bill Curran, Dawn Refsell, Darrin Dodds, Greg Elmore, Rakesh Chandran, Rob Richardson, Larry Steckel, Janis McFarland, Scott Senseman, Bryan Young

Agenda approved unanimously.

Spring board meeting minutes amended.

Larry Steckel moved to approve amended minutes. Seconded by John Byrd. Passed unanimously.

**Local Arrangements** – Eric Webster – hotel has been very accommodating. Meeting room space is plentiful. A few meeting rooms are small and should be used for breakout sessions. WSSA annual meeting will take place just prior to Mardi Gras. There will be lots of activity in the area at that time. Several potential tour options as part of WSSA annual meeting.

Discussion: WSSA usually coordinates two tours as part of annual meeting. Tours need to be secured before registration in order to determine fee.

Keynote speaker – Dr. Mike Strain will be keynote speaker. Very knowledgeable about agriculture and very dynamic speaker.

**NIFA Fellow Search** – Scott Senseman – three candidates applied and two will be interviewed. Sharon Clay from South Dakota State University and Jim Kells from Michigan State will participate in phone interview. Goal is to have phone interviews on same day in July/August and subsequently make a decision.

**WSSA Research Workshop on Dicamba** – Scott Senseman – Workshop held this spring with 45 in attendance. A report has been drafted and reviewed by participants. Report has been sent to FAT committee and environmental committee. Writing committee convening on 6/27 after which time letter will be sent to herbicide registrants.

Discussion – Lee Van Wychen reported that several people have approached him about WSSA taking a position on auxin technology. Reported that off-target movement is not helping the position of agriculture in D.C.

Extensive discussion on auxin usage on crops and benefits/pitfalls. Scott Senseman stated that WSSA should use current issues with auxin herbicides to support need for funding at the federal level to scientifically address issues.

Greg Elmore – cautioned about not letting individual opinions outweigh the science surrounding auxin technology. Key is to draft a position that the totality of the society supports.

**2019 WSSA Annual Meeting Symposium** – Larry Steckel – Emailed rankings out to BOD. Six proposals submitted for symposia. $20,360 in funding requested for symposium - $20,000 available. Larry stated that we should continue to focus on teaching symposium as WSSA as a group under addresses this issue. In 2018, WSSA conducted two symposia per day for three days for a total of six symposium.

Discussion on symposium topics and potential impact on agriculture as a whole. Larry Steckel recommended accepting all six symposia. **Motion to accept all six symposia proposals by Phil Banks and seconded by Janis McFarland.** Discussion on reducing length of time for some symposia in order to fit into program. Larry will modify IWM symposium to fit into four hour timeslot. Further discussion on Shaw herbicide resistance symposium proposal. **Dawn Refsell amended motion to not go forward with Shaw proposal which was seconded by Greg Elmore.** Discussion on adjusting symposium message and target audience. Bill Curran suggested approaching organizers about re-focusing topics. Phil Banks stated that current Shaw proposal is focused on furthering education on policy. Lee Van Wychen suggested getting speaker from USDA-RMA to strengthen program. **Vote to accept Refsell amendment – amendment failed to pass by a vote of 5 to accept amendment and 8 to reject amendment. Friendly amendment to clarify objective – no vote required. Phil Banks called for vote on original motion – passed unanimously.**

**Committee Meetings/Time** – Lee Van Wychen – Start committee meetings on Monday morning which would require arrival on Sunday and continue throughout the week. Several committees that should not overlap on time as there are several WSSA members that are on numerous committees. Darrin Dodds suggested committee meeting on 2019 Weed Olympics. It was also suggested to include 2019 Weed Olympics as part of the general session at 2019 annual meeting.

**Plans for 2020 WSSA Annual Meeting** – Eric Gustafson – Maui, HI at Hyatt Regency. Plan to start promoting meeting at 2019 WSSA Annual Meeting.

**IMI Update** – Eric Gustafson – Tara Steinke left IMI. Kelly Mazur now handles SWSS and NCWSS. Membership update – 228 Emeritus members; 12 lifetime/complimentary members; 715 regular members; 124 student members. 17 sustaining members paid – down from 28. Six to eight additional have committed but not paid. Regular membership is on track with previous years.

**Pest Week** – Dawn Refsell – Goal is single unified message to public about pest management that is supported by WSSA. Supported by numerous disciplines including APS. No monetary support required. Plans in place to update resistance app – cost to be split between US HRAC, TakeAction group, and potentially WSSA. Janis McFarland suggested working through resistance education committee to accomplish update. Dawn Refsell questioned overlap between public awareness committee and resistance education committee in this case. Scott Seneseman – resistance education committee will review Dawn Refsell proposal and provide feedback.

**Graduate Student Report** – Jess Buncheck – Working on getting Enrichment Experience up and running. Also working on initiating WSSA GSO presence on social media. Mission for later part of 2018 is to increase activity of the WSSA GSO on social media. Planning for 2019 WSSA annual meeting – a workshop being planned. Focus on graduate student interaction through mixers, workshops, etc. Students would like to have a graduate student centered social event; however, there are concerns about when to fit into schedule. Still awaiting funding from 2018 meeting from various companies. Discussion regarding student use of social media to network. Students very much in favor of doing this; however, increased participation is needed.

**Graduate Enrichment Experience** – Phil Banks – Scott Senseman appointed four member panel to evaluate applications. WSSA GSO produced public information sheet. 18 applications were received. June 20 was deadline to inform students the results. No applicants from CWSS, 1 from NEWSS, 4 from NCWSS, 5 from SWSS, 8 from WSWS. Winners included: Cara McCauley – will visit Brad Hansen at UC-Davis; Debalina Saha – will visit Joe Armstrong; Steve Haring – will visit Frank Carey; Jesaelen Gizotti de Moraes – will visit University of Georgia at Tifton; Jessie Puka-Beals – will visit Syngenta in Greensboro, NC. Students will provide a 10 minute oral presentation on their experience at the 2019 annual meeting. Extensive discussion regarding having a winner from each region versus ranking strictly on merit. Graduate students should dictate the direction of the program.

**Update on EPA Tour/EPA Liaison Report** – Greg Kruger – Made three trips to Washington D.C. Heavily involved in organizing plot tour for 10 folks from EPA during summer of 2018. Plan to bring those folks to North Platte, NE and tour field drift studies during last week of July/first week of August. Will then travel to western Iowa and group will depart from Omaha on Friday of that week. Have partnered with NE, IA, KS, and MO corn boards and will look at dicamba and atrazine issues. Greg attended PPDC meeting in May – discussion on resistance labeling. Concerns about reporting resistance prior to resistance being confirmed. There is a link for re-classication process on global HRAC website.

**NIFA Fellow Report –** Donn Schilling – will step down as chairman of science policy committee. Science policy will likely not require extensive transition. However, NIFA Fellow position will require more transition. Donn will work with incoming person to allow for smooth transition. Mike Fitzner is on search and screen committee – they have laid out five part action plan. Networking with a number of entities is paramount particularly with NPL’s. Developed and hosted WSSA workshop on NIFA announcements and RFA’s. Potential for impact assessment – including how many weed scientists applied for funding, success rate, etc. NIFA/NSF partnership – NIFA built to fund applied research – a partnership between NIFA/NSF would allow for fundamental weed science research. Andrew Clark has been assisting with weed science funding to determine what areas are/are not being funded, success rates, demographic impacts, commodities, focus areas, etc. The objective of analysis is to increase successful funding by determining where emphasis is being placed. Donn stressed the importance of relationships and how misconception was in place that funding was coming from private industry.

The new head of NIFA is currently under FBI review as is the undersecretary position. Donn stated that stakeholder identification is a moving target and that identifying these stakeholders is important. Donn felt that data will show there are ebbs and flows in funding as well as proposals.

**Director of Science Policy Report –** Lee Van Wychen – has sent correspondence to WSSA board regarding updating his title and position description. Lee has proposed Executive Policy Director – this was amended to Executive Director of Science Policy by the BOD. Lee has submitted revised DSP MOP.

**DSP Intern Proposal** – six month intern working 10 hours per week. Would be in D.C. for one week at a time and communicate via phone. Activities would include assisting coordination of most common and most troublesome weeds; state and federal noxious weed list; assist with science policy statements; attend various meetings as needed. Phil Banks inquired about what period during the year that Lee would have intern present. Lee will incorporate revisions and send back to BOD.

Extensive discussion regarding use of USDA plants database versus WSSA composite list of weeds. Lee suggested adopting USDA plants database as official source of nomenclature. Sarah Ward indicated that *Weed Science* and *IPSM* has gone exclusively to binomial names and do not use common names. *Weed Technology* is only WSSA journal that still utilizes common names.

**Mark Bernards motioned to adopt USDA Plants Database as the official database for plant nomenclature for WSSA. Motion seconded by Dawn Refsell.**

Discussion: Phil Banks suggested reaching out to USDA Plants Database team and develop interaction with those folks. **Marty Schraer offered friendly amendment that WSSA BOD approach terminology committee about adopting USDA Plants Database as official database. Seconded by Bill Curran. Friendly amendment passed unanimously.**

Adjourned for lunch at 12:01 pm.

**Journalism Award** – Revamped the award after the 2018 WSSA Annual Meeting. Waiting on approval from public awareness committee prior to proceeding. Will also need to appoint awards sub-committee and chairperson. **Lee Van Wychen motioned to approve WSSA Journalism Award as presented which was seconded by John Byrd.**  Discussion – Greg Elmore suggested minor editorial change to award. **Motion passed unanimously.** President Senseman will appoint sub-committee and sub-committee chair. Budget allows for $1,000 for travel to receive award if necessary as well as plaque.

**FY 2019 Budget** – moving along faster than expected. IR-4 funding appears to be level although increase was needed. Hatch and Smith-Lever funding up slightly. One million ear mark for flowering rush control included in budget. Support needed for ARS weed science positions. Status of USDA Undersecretary for Research, Education, and Economics as well as NIFA Director position in question. Areawide IPM program needs support will likely push for funding in fall of 2018.

**Farm Bill** – House passed Farm Bill by two votes on 6/22/2018. Senate has different version of Farm Bill than House of Representatives. Will have to be a bi-partisan bill to get votes needed.

Foundation for Food and Ag Research (FFAR) Gene Drive Funding Proposal – asking for a total of $10 million - $4 million from FFAR and $6 million from registrants. Proposal to use male sterile weeds to outcross with weeds in field and produce sterile seeds thus driving down viable seeds in a field over time. Foundation asked Lee to provide a proposal on this topic. Janis McFarland indicated this has been identified as an area of importance for funding.

**Agricultural Research and Delivery System Summit** – May 31 – June 1, 2018 in Washington D.C. Scott Senseman, Janis McFarland, and Lee Van Wychen attended.

**Uniform Pesticide Label Initiative with EPA** – One of key recommendations from dicamba report. Dawn Refsell indicated that a primary issue is difference in labeling between basic manufacturers and generic manufacturers. BOD discussed broad disparity amongst herbicide labels from different suppliers.

**Clean Bean Team** – U.S. and China have a two year agreement for phytosanitary standards. Several national groups working to develop a plan to address systems approach to address weed seeds in grain shipments to China. Use this initiative to work with growers to produce clean crops.

**Website** – Mark Bernards – Dicamba research report and presentations will be uploaded once finalized.

**WSSA Slogans** – not at the forefront of issues

**Finance Report –** Phil Banks – Finance committee has quarterly conference calls. Jeff Holloway typically gives update on investments and Eric Gustafson receives monthly statements. Jeff Holloway also gives prospectus on investments during these conference calls. It was suggested to change upper level sustaining membership dues from $6,000 to $8,000. Change was due in part to company mergers and reduction in number of overall companies. Need to update current funding schedule from regional weed science groups and APMS so they are in line when DSP costs are due.

As of May 31, 2018 - $206,618.22 in bank account; General fund - $1,146,852.04; Endowment Fund - $454,173.34. Total Investments - $1,807,643.60. Investments are managed by Jeff Holloway with Raymond James Wealth Management. Overall, WSSA is in sound financial shape.

Sustaining members supply $55,000 per year toward budget out of total income of $700,000+.

Phil Banks presented proposal for 2019 Funding for DSP by regional societies. Beginning in 2019, the affiliated societies are proposed to provide 30% and WSSA provide 70% of funding for DSP position. Dues from each society, with the exception of NEWSS will increase to support this position. Each fiscal year the Executive Secretary and Treasurer will notify affiliated organizations on new level of support. Anticipated increase per year is 3% from each affiliated organization. Phil Banks recommended letting each affiliated organization know about fee change and give them a chance to provide comments.

**Publication Report –** Sarah Ward – Total journal income from 2017 was $455,522 of which WSSA receives 38% royalty equating to $173,098. Expenses including $6,000 for Best Paper awards, editor stipend support of $52,500 and hosting charge of $16,458 make the total paid to WSSA $215,140. As of June 15, $10,189 was still outstanding for payment.

Total from 2018 year to date: income - $415,548 with forecasted royalties to WSSA (38%) of $157,908. Expenses include $6,000 for Best Paper, $52,500 editorial stipend support and $17,117 hosting charges for total cost of $149,469. The total payment received from Cambridge University Press to WSSA year to date is $207,969. Weed Science is the leading money producer of the WSSA journals. IPSM has not rebounded from reduction in submissions observed in 2015.

Since January 2016, any article published in a WSSA journal has a shareable link that provides a read-only pdf. Cambridge University Press has revised author copyright forms. In addition, WSSA journals will start requiring ORCID ID numbers for corresponding authors submitting new manuscripts. ORCID numbers are unique identifiers that are required by selected journals.

Sarah Ward indicated the publication board has considered making all publications open access. However, each published manuscript would cost the authors $2,000 - $3,000 which may negatively affect submissions.

Toni DiTommaso and Sarah Ward have had discussions with Jay Ferrell on merging the *Journal of Aquatic Plant Management* and *Invasive Plant Science and Management*. It has been proposed that there would be a dedicated aquatic plant management section in IPSM.

**Herbicide Handbook** – Approximately 10 copies per month of the Herbicide Handbook are sold. 457 copies remain in inventory. Extensive discussion on new edition of Herbicide Handbook and going to a total digital format. General sentiment was not to sell the Herbicide Handbook as a printable pdf. Further discussion on increasing membership fees and providing all paid members with access to the electronic copy; however, a question was raised on how to sell to those who are not members of WSSA. General consensus was that an electronic format is preferred.

Sarah Ward’s second term as Director of Publications will expire in February 2020 and does not intend to seek re-appointment to this position. A succession plan should be enacted now as it will likely take a year to learn the process. Sarah would be willing to remain in place for an additional year but only if absolutely necessary. Mark Bernards asked if a replacement could be found through an open search. It was also suggested to have a co-director of publications as part of a succession plan.

**Policy for Reimbursement and Transparency –** WSSA will reimburse board members for travel as well as speakers for travel. However, there is no oversight on what is an acceptable level of reimbursement. Eric Gustafson indicated some form of rules are needed in regard to what is reimbursable and what is not. Eric has drafted a WSSA travel reimbursement policy for the board to consider. Scott Senseman suggested a subcommittee comprised of WSSA board members to evaluate the proposed policy. Scott Senseman suggested Phil Banks, Mark Bernards, and Janis McFarland to evaluate the policy. Deadline to return suggested edits is July 3, 2018. Board vote will take place via email after which time the guidelines will become part of the WSSA MOP.

**Terminology Committee – Herbicide Reclassification –** Bill Curran – Letter submitted to reclassify cynmethalin from a Group 30 to a new herbicide classification. Scott Senseman would like to see a protocol to properly reclassify an herbicide. Submit reclassification to terminology committee and allow registrant to provide update – if accepted then submit to HRAC committee.

**Collaboration with ASA –**  Janis McFarland - Crop Science Society of America has liaisons with other societies and want to strengthen those relationships with other societies. Interested in collaborating on scientific research exchange including common issues across disciplines. Also interested in having a joint meeting at some point in the future. Shawn Conley is liaison for Crop Science Society of America for weed science. They have had a Congressional Science Fellow (1 year term?). Do we have ACS connection with WSSA? WSSA has had four recent (last 10 years) co-meetings with other societies. Typically meetings with smaller or similar size societies to WSSA.

**Liaison Committee Discussion** – Lee Van Wychen – Liaison committee disbanded in 2012 because it didn’t function as a committee. John Madsen has been selected as the technical advisor or the Biological Control Agents of Weeds. Lee Van Wychen suggested re-establishing liaisons with several key societies that function in a role similar to WSSA albeit in different areas/disciplines. Scott Senseman suggested working members of WSSA Science Policy committee to serve in the role of liaison to selected organizations.

**Motion to adjourn by Janis McFarland seconded by Greg Elmore. Passed Unanimously.**

**Re-convened June 26, 2018 at 7:30 am – called to order by Scott Senseman**

**Board went into Executive Session at 7:40 am.**

**Janis McFarland moved to move out of Executive Session – seconded by Sarah Ward. Board closed Executive Session at 8:17 am.**

**Discussion on location of future annual meeting** – Eric Gustafson – Washington D.C. will likely be in the meeting rotation cycle every 5 years. Also, looking at Florida and San Antonio as potential meeting sites for 2021 and 2022.

**MOP/Constitution Update –** Mark Bernards – Altered MOP document number system to a chapter style format. Asked BOD to read description before next BOD meeting and suggest and changes. He has marked changes with highlighted text. Also added language for the EPA and NIFA liaison positions. In section 5.1.2 – need language defining executive session. Section 5.1.3 language on electronic voting – made changes requiring BOD approval. Mark suggested voting at BOD following annual meeting. Section 5.2.4 – gratuitous registration section needs additional wording to clarify. Section 5.3.3 sustaining member benefits – need language defining what sustaining member benefits are. Eric Gustafson stated that a sustaining member gets one complimentary meeting registration/membership as well as a display table at the annual meeting. Section 5.4 need student presentation contest rules. Discussion regarding same person receiving Fellow Award and one of the other achievement awards presented by WSSA. BOD suggested keeping nomination packets for all WSSA awards for two years in order to relieve burden on those who nominate as well as increase number of candidates for awards. **Mark Bernards motioned to set a standard size for all committees with a minimum of five members and a standard time commitment of 3 years renewable term (renewable term was a friendly amendment by Dawn Refsell). Regional representation on committees is encouraged. Seconded by Janis McFarland. Motion passed unanimously.** Discussion regarding total number of people on a committee as well as how people are placed onto a given committee. Bryan Young clarified that only members of a given committee have voting privileges on matters requiring a vote.

**Discussion on need for communications director.**

**Committee Issues –** Bill Curran – several committees need guidance/members. Not much activity from Federal Noxious Weed Committee since Al Tasker retired. Bill Curran suggested adding Lee Van Wychen as ex-officio member of Federal Noxious Weed Committee. Merging Weed Alert committee with Federal Noxious Weed Committee. Discussion on activity/future of the following committees: Biological Control of Weeds Committee, Resolutions Committee suspended in 2017 – BOD voted to abolish at previous meeting; Herbicides for Minor Uses Committee – reach out to committee to determine level of activity/interest in continuing with committee or abolish; Website Committee – committee feels website is in need of major overhaul. Bill Curran suggested email society as a whole to find people with keen interest in developing a redesigned website; Newsletter Committee – dissolved; Herbicide Handbook – committee is ad hoc. MOP needs adjusted; Past President’s Corner Committee – previously suggested to be disbanded; Professional Development and Membership Committee – work on graduate student travel award. Committee proposed that three awards go to first time attendees and three go to students who may have attended meeting previously. Flexibility is recommended with priority being given to first time students; Undergraduate Award Subcommittee – would like to develop more explicit guidelines for this award. Committee chair can decide how to handle this on a year to year basis. Budget for this award is determined by incremental yield from Endowment Fund investment. Necrology Committee – committee of one active member.

**Mark Bernards motioned to revisit the invasive plants committee charge and abolish weed alert committee. Seconded by Sarah Ward. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Lee Van Wychen motioned to merge biological control of weeds committee with invasive plants committee. Seconded by Sarah Ward. Motion passed unanimously.**

Extensive discussion on committees including HRAC, sustainable ag committee (which appears to have been disbanded but is still listed on website). Follow up with Muthu Bagavathiannan and Bill Chisholm regarding committee activity and charge of committee.

**WSSA Strategic Plan –** Janis McFarland – Midway through the current strategic plan.

Strategic plan section 1: Sections A, B, C, and F should be relatively easy to capture metrics.

Strategic plan section 2: Some areas WSSA is doing well whereas in others we are deficient.

Strategic plan section 3: Most areas being addressed and metrics can be provided.

Strategic plan section 4: This area would benefit from a communications director. APS has modules that may be used as an example of electronic resources that WSSA could work to develop.

Strategic plan section 5: Several activities fulfill this areas including EPA tour, activities that Lee Van Wychen participates in, NIFA Fellow, amongst other positions and activities. Need to improve upon efficiently providing science based information to legislators, regulators, and policy makers. Section H recommended for deletion as it is very vague.

Volunteered to assist with metrics: Lee Van Wychen, Dawn Refsell, Janis McFarland, Darrin Dodds, Scott Senseman.

**Lee Van Wychen made a motion to explore developing a new name for the Weed Science Society of America. Seconded by Janis McFarland. Approve: 3; Nay – 6; Abstention – 3. Motion fails.**

**WSSA needs to consider stance on dicamba issue –** Scott Senseman – would need to determine audience, outlet for stance, what our stance is, and where do we stop?

Bryan Young questioned is it normal for WSSA to develop a stance on a herbicide? General consensus is no WSSA does not typically adopt a stance on herbicides but rather diverts to the science driven positions.

Scott Senseman – it is difficult to go further with WSSA’s position than has already been reached. WSSA is working to complete a 28 page document regarding the science that has been validated regarding auxin technology. However, Sarah Ward stated that the public perception is that WSSA is avoiding from the issue at hand.

Have other professional organizations set the precedent for not taking an outward position such as ESA on neonicitinoids.

It was discussed to develop an executive summary from the document in progress that highlights the proven science.

New business: none

Old business: none

**Motion to adjourn made by Bryan Young. Seconded by Dawn Refsell. Motion passed unanimously.**