

Science Policy Committee Meeting

Monday, January 22, 2024

12:30 - 2 p.m. (Central)

(Followed by Endangered Species Committee at 2 pm.)

Live Oak Room, Hyatt Regency Riverwalk, San Antonio, TX

AGENDA

- Introductions and members rotating on/off the committee. **Lee**
- Science Policy Fellows- **Annu Kumari** and **Cynthia Sias** recap of their year. Next class of Science Policy Fellows -Application deadline of **April 1, 2024**.
- USDA-OPMP priorities and update: **Cameron Douglass**
- USDA NIFA Fellow update: **Jim Kells**
- WSSA Herbicide Resistance Education & CAST updates: **Jill Schroeder**
- WSSA Strategic Plan – 3 of the 5 strategies directly linked to science policy: **Janis & Lee**
 - **STRATEGY 1** - Establish WSSA as the trusted resource of information for weed science stakeholders (including policy makers)
 - Tactic - Evaluate the need to the expand WSSA Liaison model or other linkages to certain stakeholder groups
 - Tactic - Charge appropriate WSSA Standing Committees to review key issues important to the mission of WSSA.
 - Tactic - Develop methodology to better communicate relevant WSSA information to stakeholders.
 - **STRATEGY 2** - Advance relationship between WSSA and affiliated organizations
 - Tactic - Host joint or co-sponsored meetings on a regular basis.
 - Tactic - Co-host symposia or other types of meetings outside of WSSA annual conference that includes regionals and affiliates.
 - Tactic - Strengthen communication opportunities between the WSSA and the Regional/Affiliates.
 - Tactic - Share financial resources that benefit all groups.
 - Tactic - Actively seek leadership from Regional/Affiliates to help govern WSSA and serve on committees.
 - **STRATEGY 3** - Develop communication partnerships with key influencers
 - Tactic - Formalize partnerships with key organizations or groups.

- Discussion on resources needed for part time Science Policy work: **Janis & Lee**
 - Topics and tasks- job scope: Science Policy assistance. Membership outreach & recruitment, Grant applications (i.e. NAISMA received \$200,000 from APHIS for their Play Clean Go campaign and expansion)
 - IT Support for EDSP: initial discussion with <https://dcncinc.com/> who also provide IT support for IMI Inc.
- FY 2024 Appropriations priorities: **Lee**
 - IR-4 Project funding at \$25M: Currently \$15M in FY 24
 - Crop Protection and Pest Management (CPPM) at \$21M in FY 24
 - Army Corps Aquatic Plant Control Research Program: maintain at \$8M in FY 24
 - Work to secure CT River Hydrilla control & research funding at \$6M for FY 24; the House has currently zeroed out funding for FY 2024.
 - DOT Invasive Plant Elimination Program – Discussion on how to improve outreach and lobbying. Need for more support from the states and industry. Will repeat last summer’s effort where we got 49 organizations to support an ask of \$10 million for a pilot program. How many hours should WSSA invest in FY 2025?

- NISAW is February 26 – March 3, 2024. **Lee**

The 25th anniversary of [National Invasive Species Awareness Week](#) (NISAW) will occur from Feb. 26 – Mar. 3, 2024. The 2024 NISAW webinar series is listed below. NISAW will be virtual this year because the House decided to take recess that week. The Senate will be in session.

- February 26, 2024 – [Annual USGS Invasive Species Research Forum](#)
- February 27, 2024 – [The Invasive Species Language Workshop in partnership with the National Sea Grant Law Center](#)
- **February 28, 2024** – [The Federal Interagency Committee on the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds \(FICMNEW\)](#)
- **February 29, 2024** – [Opportunities and Challenges for Preventing the Next Plant Invasion](#) (NOTE: this is a Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) white paper that was developed by the following representatives from WSSA and NIASMA: **Jacob Barney, David Coyle, Erik Lehnhoff, Daniel Tekiela, and Paul Tseng.**)
- March 1, 2024 – [Protecting North American Biodiversity from Invasive Species](#)

OTHER BUSINESS

- New WSSA representatives for federal advisory panels:
 - **Sarah Ward** is our new USDA Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for Biological Control Agents of Weeds rep, taking over from Paul Tseng.

- **Jill Schroeder** is our new EPA Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) rep, taking over for Amy Asmus.
- 2024 Weed Science Society Presidents & APMS Congressional Visits.
 - Weed Science Society presidents: **Greg Dahl** (WSSA); **Dawn Refsell** (NCWSS); **Erin Hitchner** (NEWSS); **Todd Baumann** (SWSS); **Tim Prather** (WSWS). I'm looking at **the week of May 6-10**, which coincides with National Ag Day on the DC Mall and the NCFAR annual board meeting. Focus on ag research funding and Farm Bill.
 - APMS: **Jay Ferrell** & other APMS leaders. Date: TBD. Focus on FY 2025 ACOE budget and draft 2024 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).
- 2024 National Weed Survey is on **weeds in aquatic and non-crop areas**.
 - When is the best time to send out the survey? How long should it be available?
 - Need support to summarize and write a manuscript for the weed survey data from 2015 – 2023. <https://wssa.net/weed/surveys/>
- **Endangered Species Act (ESA)** issues: **Bill Chism** has done an outstanding job as chair of WSSA's ESA committee. Since there is a lot of overlap with Science Policy, we **will discuss ESA related issues at 2 pm**, immediately following this committee in the same location.

2024 - 2025 meeting dates (tentative): 4 - 5 pm, E.S.T.

March 20, 2024 (Wed.)

April 24, 2024 (Wed.)

June 19, 2024 (Wed.)

Sep. 11, 2024 (Wed.)

Nov. 13, 2024 (Wed.)

Feb. 24, 2025 (Mon. 1-3 pm PST in-person, Vancouver, BC)