WSSA Board of Directors Meeting

February 29, 2020

Present: Bryan Young, Mark Bernards, John Byrd, Marty Schraer, Kelly Mazur, Eric Gustafson, Larry Steckel, Darrin Dodds, Phil Banks, Bill Curran, Greg Elmore, Dawn Refsell, Francois Tardiff, Anita Dille, Scott Senseman, Rakesh Chandran, and Sarah Ward

Meeting called to order at 7:40 am by Larry Steckel.

**Additions or changes to agenda – Larry Steckel**  - Deleted treasurer’s report on 2/29 at 2 pm. Double entry. Motion to approve corrected agenda made by John Byrd. Seconded by Phil Banks. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of previous meeting minutes (Summer and Fall) – Darrin Dodds** – Motion to accept corrected (editorial corrections provided by John Byrd) minutes made by Darrin Dodds. Seconded by John Byrd. Motion passed unanimously.

**2020 program committee and local arrangements – Bill Curran/Eric Gustafson** – Bill Curran indicated Apex system was somewhat challenging to work with from a program chair standpoint. Printed program has several errors due to issues with submission system related to submissions/retractions, etc. Program app is correct. Several folks have indicated positive interactions with David Kruger related to new title submission program. Extensive discussion on future of printed programs versus moving solely to an app based program. Moving to an app only would allow for the most accurate program which would allow for changes up to and during the annual meeting itself.

Eric Gustafson provided comments on the Luau. BASF provided a buyout for the Luau. There is seating for 600 folks; 750 name badges have been printed necessitating a need for some folks to attend the luau on a different night.

Bill Curran provided comments on the symposia. Bill indicated that $5,000 does not cover all costs of these symposia. In addition, some speakers are not affiliated with WSSA but costs to attend this annual meeting are substantial, particularly when considering most guests speak for only 30 minutes. Extensive discussion regarding publication of symposia papers. Publication of open access manuscripts far exceeds cost allocated for symposia if all papers from a given symposia are published. Further discussion was held regarding room nights and allocation of these nights to symposia speakers, etc. Typically, WSSA is allocated comp nights at a 1:40 or 1:50 rate for those booked for the annual meeting. Mark Bernards will present MOP updates with regard to symposia.

Bill Curran referenced MOP which states that authors may only present one first author oral or poster presentation. Several authors submitted more than one first author presentation oral or poster presentation. Informally, Bill enforced a limit of 3 presentations of one type or another from authors in 2020. It was indicated that Apex could build in a restriction on one oral and poster presentation as part of the title submission process.

**Executive secretary’s report and future meeting update – Eric Gustafson** – 2021 annual meeting – Feb 15 – 18, San Antonio, TX; 2022 annual meeting – Feb 21-24, Vancouver, BC; 2023 annual meeting – Jan. 30 – Feb. 2 – Arlington, VA.

**Code of conduct – Eric Gustafson/Anita Dille** – Code of conduct developed to allow for report of harassment by anyone attending WSSA annual meeting. Staff members serve as resources in the event of harassment. A phone number is available for anonymous reporting of harassment. If harassment occurs, person accused will be asked to remain in hotel room until situation is resolved. If someone is approached and harassment is reported, do not try to solve the issue – report the issue to the HR professional on staff. The executive secretary serves as ultimate point of contact in the event of harassment. **Mark Bernards motioned to adopt the proposed harassment policy. Seconded by Anita Dille. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Treasurers/Finance report – Phil Banks** – Phil Banks reviews invoices billing us for IMI’s services and other areas of financial activity. Roger Gast is internal auditor for WSSA. Two members are rotating off the finance committee and need to be replaced. New members should come from underrepresented regional societies. Professional development committee will take over responsibilities of evaluating Travel Enrichment Experience. Phil Banks provided guidelines for funding projects from WSSA when assets in our investment accounts exceed $1.5 million. Phil Banks and Eric Gustafson determined that proper time to evaluate assets would be at conclusion of the annual meeting and when all bills have been paid for the annual meeting. **Phil Banks motioned to establish an innovative project proposal process for which the WSSA Executive committee would establish final details on process. When total assests exceeds $1.5 million at the conclusion of the annual meeting and when all bills have been paid, the WSSA board of directors will issue a call for proposals to be posted to WSSA membership.**

**Seconded by Anita Dille. Motion passed unanimously.**

Phil Banks indicated that we may be in violation of the WSSA constitution. An official audit of WSSA finances would cost between $10,000 and $15,000 which has not been done in some time. Discussion ensued on what qualifies someone to be a qualified auditor. **Mark Bernards made the motion to revise MOP to define the qualified auditor for WSSA finances. Seconded by John Byrd. Motion passed unanimously.**

**John Byrd made the motion to initiate a formal review of the WSSA finances in 2020. Seconded by Anita Dille. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Mark Bernards motioned to review WSSA finances every three years and a formal audit every 6 years. Seconded by Scott Senseman. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Phil Banks made a motion to amend constitution to state that all financial decisions directed to committee chairs and board members should be communicated to the Executive Secretary and Treasurer for evaluation and approval. Seconded by Mark Bernards. Motion passed unanimously.**

Phil Banks indicated that the general fund gained 21.9% in 2019 and endowment gained 10.3% in 2019. However, in the 10 days preceding this meeting, the market has dropped substantially and we have lost nearly $200,000. WSSA posted a net income for the year.

**Graduate student organization – Nicholas Steppig** – Inquired about how to further engrain WSSA GSO into the society. Nicholas questioned what is proper method for WSSA GSO to become an active part of the Professional Development committee. It was stated that the WSSA GSO should remain separate from the Professional Development committee but should have representation on the Professional Development committee. 2020 annual meeting graduate student organization meeting - Nicholas had to shift gears on topic for GSO meeting from mental health to social media due to speaker cancellation in the last 10 days. **Bill Curran motioned for finance committee to discuss allocating $10,000 per year to WSSA GSO. Seconded by Nicholas Steppig. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Student contest discussion – Darrin Dodds/Nicholas Steppig** – 97 total students signed up for student contests. 42 students are in the 3MT – 18 are M.S. students and 24 are Ph.D. students. 55 poster entries were submitted. 23 of those are M.S. students and 32 are Ph.D. students. 2020 is first year for 3MT contest. Success or failure in 2020 will determine future course of action on student oral presentation contest.

**Director of science policy/Public awareness committee – Lee Van Wychen** – Lee provided a very detailed report on Executive Director of Science Policy activity. Please see report. Science policy intern program was very successful. Dicamba has been a hot topic over the past year at EPA. **Lee Van Wychen asked for WSSA leadership, dicamba registrants, CropLife America, and EPA to convene meeting to openly discuss dicamba and associated issues.**

**Publications Committee Report – Sarah Ward -** For the most part, WSSA journals are in good shape. IPSM is still struggling to some degree whereas Weed Technology is thriving. Main sources of expenditures for journals includes editor stipend and sponsorship award for outstanding paper awards. 38% royalties of total income from journals – WSSA contract guarantees 75% of projected income from journals. Weed Science acceptance rate – 42.5%; Weed Technology – 50%; IPSM – 38%. **Sarah Ward motioned that Carl Libbey by re-appointed as WSSA newsletter editor for 2nd 3 year term. Seconded by Marty Schraer. Motion passed unanimously.**

Christian Willenborg (University of Saskatchewan) will take over as Director of Publications in March 2020.

Herbicide Handbook 11th Edition – Discussions underway about feasibility of new edition of Herbicide Handbook. Discussion centered on database or an app based delivery versus paper copy. Emphasis was placed on someone heading up database management in order to remain current. **Sarah Ward made motion to proceed with development of databased version of Herbicide Handbook – 11th Edition. Seconded by Mark Bernards. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Mark Bernards motioned to authorize $7,500 per year stipend for service as Herbicide Handbook editor. Seconded by Phil Banks. Motion passed unanimously.**

**The board thanked Dr. Sarah Ward for her years of service and quality of work as Director of Publications.**

**MOP Considerations – Mark Bernards –** Proposed changes provided by Mark Bernards in constitution and operating procedures officer report. **Mark Bernards motioned to accept first two amendments to constitution and operating procedures outlined in his report. Seconded by Anita Dille. Motion passed unanimously.**

Numerous changes noted throughout MOP document by Mark Bernards. **Motion to accept changes proposed by Mark Bernards made by Mark Bernards. Seconded by Sarah Ward. Motion passed unanimously.**

**The board wholeheartedly thanked Dr. Mark Bernards for his years of service on the WSSA Board of Directors.**

**New Website Re-design – Muthu –**  Total page views increased 4.4% in 2019 compared to 2018 and the total number of users increased 12.2%. Average time spent on each page decreased 7.03%. 43% of users accessed website from a mobile device and 61% of users were 18-34 years old. Our current webpage is not mobile friendly.

The website committee has considered re-designing website. Current website was launched in 2012. Proposed changes include less text, more photos of events, interactive maps, social media, refinement of drop down menus, removing columns, and making site more mobile friendly. A budget estimate of $10,000 +/- 20% was proposed. **Mark Bernards made a motion to authorize the website committee to pursue a re-design of the website. Seconded by Sarah Ward. Motion passed unanimously.**

**ASTA Update – Dawn Refsell** – ASTA working on a state risk model for weed seed in crop seed. Anyone involved in seed industry is involved in ASTA and development of seed risk model.

**Motion to adjourn made by Phil Banks. Seconded by Sarah Ward. Motion passed unanimously.**

**March 1, 2020**

**Present: Scott Senseman, Lee Van Wychen, Jim Kells, Greg Kruger, Bill Curran, Greg Elmore, Phil Banks, Larry Steckel, Eric Gustafson, Marty Schraer, Nicholas Steppig, Sarah Ward, John Byrd, Bryan Young, John Schramsky, Haleigh Summers, Francois Tardiff, Mark Bernards, Dawn Refsell, Anita Dille, Rakesh Chandran**

**Meeting called to order at 7:32 am by Larry Steckel**

**Science Policy Fellows Report – Haleigh Summers/John Schramsky –** Attended USDA-ARS NP 304 Stakeholder Workshop, Federal Agency Visits, Capitol Hill Visits. Attended presentation from Dr. Jim Brosnan to Capitol Hill staffers. Assisted Lee Van Wychen with Weed Bingo. Also got to work with different lobbying groups including CropLife America, American Seed Trade Association, AFRI Coalition, and NASDA. Science Policy Fellows also assisted with most common and most troublesome weeds survey. Sending comments regarding various requested topics to EPA was challenging. Science Policy Fellows were very grateful for the experience.

**EPA Liaison Report – Greg Kruger –** Greg made 4 trips to Washington D.C. in 2019 – efforts were hindered by government shutdown. Greg felt that month long shutdown may have impacts that last year(s). He made a semi unscheduled visit in April and assisted on a drone workshop. Science policy tour was August 5-7, 2019 beginning in Omaha, NE. Greg indicated that future WSSA meeting locations should be considered with respect to government employee attendance. Science policy potential tour topics include specialty crops, forestry, aquatics, hemp, etc. Topics of interest at EPA: dicamba – Greg and others put together a workshop this past January to address dicamba; glyphosate – re-confirmed it is non-carcinogenic; atrazine – comments provided are critical, EPA gets an enormous volume of comments, critical to provide factual documentation of results/data; EPA interested in distribution of glyphosate-resistant weeds within each state; EPA has a shortage on positions but continues to fill positions; Cameron Douglas has backfilled Jill Schroeder’s position at OPMP; Greg indicated a higher budget for his position is needed – EPA location is changing and will necessitate increased cost.

**NIFA Fellow Report – Jim Kells –** 2019 was first full year as NIFA Fellow. Jim’s potential impact was greatly hindered by move to Kansas City. Nearly 80% of NIFA staff resigned or retired. NIFA temporarily housed with USDA-ERS, permanent site should be ready by end of 2020. NIFA is in process of rehiring many staff positions. NIFA staff productivity has been hampered by interview process for open positions. NIFA will maintain science liaisons in Washington D.C. in order to maintain connections to other entities. Jim visited NIFA in 2019 in Washington D.C. Mike Fitzner advised Jim not to visit new offices in Kansas City until new offices are ready. Jim indicated that funding is available to support weed genomics and that a proposal was submitted but not reviewed. Jim indicated that proposal will be resubmitted and if funded, event will likely be held near Kansas City in order to attract NIFA staff members. Jim’s goal is to get connected to new NIFA staff as they are hired.

**Status of Minor Use Foundation – Dirk Drost –** Minor use foundation started as a pilot program with USDA-FAS and IR-4. Minor use foundation is incorporated in New Jersey as 503(c). Dirk serves as chairman of the board of the Minor Use Foundation. Minor Use Foundation will establish global priorities with respect to use in minor crops. Dirk’s goal for 2019 was to raise $500,000 and to raise $1,000,000 in 2020. Dirk plans to contact global crop protection companies, government grants, private donors, etc. but has no intention of eroding IR-4 funding. Minor Use Foundation has funded ~$100,000 in work. Currently have trials in Vietnam, Thailand, Costa Rica, Colombia, Senegal, Ghana, Australia.

**WSWS update on joint meeting – Corey Ransom** – Some concern exists on WSWS member’s part regarding being swallowed up by WSSA and not a joint meeting. Corey indicated it was very important for WSWS to protect discussion sections. Student night out appears to be very successful. ~134 students have signed up for student night out and hosts are in place for all. Discussion was held regarding potential future joint meeting sites if both the WSWS and WSSA feel that a joint meeting is appropriate at that time.

**Science policy committee report – Janis McFarland** – Delayed until Thursday due to travel issues.

**Motion to move into executive session at 9:42 am made by Mark Bernards and seconded by Anita Dille. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion to exit executive session made by Larry Steckel at 10:47 am and seconded by Dawn Refsell. Motion passed unanimously.**

**HRAC revised MOA – Rex Liebl** – HRAC working group members include Rex Liebl, Jeff Epp, Hubety Menne, Bernd Laber, James Morris, and Matthias Witschel. Objectives were to review and update list of active ingredients and structures, update/revise MOA, update/revise chemical class names, and recommend changes to codes. Numerous changes were noted with regard to family, MOA, etc. **Motion to accept HRAC classification system made by Mark Bernards. Seconded by Bill Curran. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Old business –** Herbicide resistance portal. **Motion to discontinue the HR Portal project made by Dawn Refsell and seconded by Sarah Ward.** Extensive discussion on funding, implementation, and utility of the HR Portal. **Motion passed.**

**New Business –** Greg Elmore raised question regarding summer EPA tour and a process to determine topics, locations, etc. Extensive discussion held regarding EPA summer tour and how to properly determine topic and execute. Mark Bernards indicated process is covered by MOP.

Dawn Refsell indicated there are 1,001 paid members in the society. She discussed diversity of membership with respect to employer. In addition, discussion was held on how to incentivize industry to attend and participate in WSSA.

**Motion to adjourn made by Phil Banks at 12:06 pm. Seconded by Dawn Refsell. Motion passed unanimously.**

**March 5, 2020**

**Meeting called to order at 3:00 pm by Bill Curran. Motion to approve agenda made by John Byrd. Seconded by Larry Steckel. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Present: Dawn Refsell, Wykle Greene, Greg Elmore, Bill Curran, Phil Banks, Lee Van Wychen, Rakesh Chandran, John Byrd, Janis McFarland, Larry Steckel, Stanley Culpepper, Sarah Ward, Marty Schraer, Christian Willenborg, Lynn Sosnoskie, John Lindquist, Eric Gustafson**

**Quarterly and Summer Board Meeting – Bill Curran/Eric Gustafson –** Bill Curran expressed interest in continuing quarterly conference calls. Others board members were in agreed. Eric Gustafson will check on week of July 13 with property in San Antonio.

**Finance Committee Report and Approval of 2020 Budget – Phil Banks –** Considered three funding requests – 1) WSSA GSO - $10,000 to support student activities at annual meeting; 2) Lee Van Wychen - $2,500 NISAW meeting in May; 3) $10,000 from herbicide resistance action committee to support travel for federal scientists. Herbicide resistance action committee has funds from APHIS to support functions but need a way to assist with travel for federal employees. Finance committee approved.  **Motion to approve 2020 budget made by Larry Steckel and seconded by Phil Banks. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Conference Status Updated Report – Bill Curran/Larry Steckel/Janis McFarland –** Approximately 1,000 total attendance with WSSA, WSWS, and guests present at 2020 annual meeting. Eric Gustafson indicated no expenses appeared to be out of line from what was projected. Speaker rooms and hotel charges will dictate profit/loss from WSSA Annual Meeting. WSWS expressed concern about loss of intimacy from their typical annual meeting. Eric Gustafson also indicated that meeting app had minor issues that were addressed and will continue to be addressed. Student night out and Women in Weed Science functions were well attended. Eric Gustafson indicated as a whole, the meeting was a success. Discussion was held regarding Women in Weed Science event and funding through sponsorship versus being a budgeted item. Bill Curran suggested re-evaluating Women in Weed Science event at summer board meeting and determine path forward with respect to funding. Rakesh Chandran expressed desire to see poster session reformatted in order to save space. See example provided by Rakesh - <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2019/06/24/theres-movement-better-scientific-posters-are-they-really-better>.

**Motion to enter executive session made by Bill Curran. Seconded by Dawn Refsell. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion to exit executive session made by Dawn Refsell. Seconded by Marty Schraer. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Science Policy Committee Discussion –** Discussion on regionalizing herbicide labels. Stanley Culpepper addressed desire for WSSA to be involved in working toward regionalized labels. Primary focus would be to get USEPA and industry partners in same venue to discuss regionalized labels. Dawn Refsell proposed for Stanley Culpepper to address USEPA and start process toward meeting. After initial contact made, return to WSSA BOD to determine appropriate next steps. Bill Curran felt it prudent to discuss this on Science Policy conference call to determine path forward.

**Committee Membership Considerations – Stanley Culpepper –** John Byrd indicated that Mike Netherland has passed and will need to be replaced on WSSA committees. A need was expressed for the WSSA BOD to evaluate committee reports. Dawn Refsell indicated that WSSA board liaison would be appropriate person to review committee reports prior to reports coming to WSSA BOD. Desire was also expressed to post committee reports to WSSA website.

**Graduate Student Update Including Contest – Wykle Greene/Darrin Dodds –** Wykle indicated some issues were present due to switch in times between paper program and meeting app. Travel enrichment applications will go out April 6 with April 20 deadline for submission. Frustration was expressed with missing titles in student contest and how to alleviate issue going forward. WSSA will move forward with abbreviated student contest with rules and oral contest title tailored to WSSA. WSSA GSO would like coordinate a student night out at future annual meetings.

**Upcoming Open Board/WSSA Positions – Bill Curran/Larry Steckel –** Bill Curran indicated desire for new EPA liaison to overlap with current EPA liaison. Indicated need to solicit and advertise position in Fall 2020 to ensure overlap for continuity. Secretary position will also need to be replaced at end of 2021 annual meeting. Treasurer, NCWSS rep, and WSWS rep will need to be replaced for end of 2021 annual meeting.

**Herbicide Handbook Development Discussion – Sarah Ward/Christian Willenborg –** Sarah will work to get Christian up to speed on potential for new herbicide handbook.

**Website – Sarah Ward –** WSSA BOD voted funding for WSSA website redesign. Someone is need to champion website redesign.

**New Business – Bill Curran –** John Lindquist requested minutes to get up to speed on MOP changes.

**Old Business – Bill Curran –** None.

**Motion to adjourn at 5:02 pm made by Larry Steckel. Seconded by Stanley Culpepper. Motion passed unanimously.**