

WSSA Board of Directors Meeting

November 17, 2023

In attendance:

Carroll Moseley, Eric Gustafson, Greg Dahl, Bret Miller, Peter Dotray, Steve Pyle, Michael Flessner, Lauren Lazaro, Stanley Culpepper, Greg Elmore, John Lindquist, Lynn Sosnoskie, Sarah Ward, Pamela Carvalho-Moore, Sarah Lancaster (guest), Mark VanGessel (guest), Alan Helm

Call to Order

Carroll Moseley at 10:02AM EST.

Roll Call.

Approval of Previous BOD Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve previous BOD meeting minutes by Greg Dahl at 10:03AM EST.
Seconded by Brett Miller. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of BOD Agenda

Motion to approve made by Sarah Ward at 10:04AM EST. Seconded by Lynn Sosnoskie.
Motion passed unanimously.

WSSA Website Update: Sarah Lancaster

The website is still on track to launch mid-December. The BOD gave feedback to Sarah and those comments are being considered right now. Sarah thanks the team involved in the website design. Sarah does note that a website is a living document and will continue to be updated after the website is launched. Eric notes that some of the new website may include old information and send any notes to Sarah or Eric. Carroll asks how we are going to let the broader membership know about the update to the website. Sarah notes that an email may be sent out the week of the launch. Greg Elmore asks that we add on the Innovative Grants information somewhere, possibly under Awards. Kudos to Sarah and the website committee on this huge lift!

Note: Sarah Lancaster left the meeting at 10:13AM EST.

Joint Meeting Update: Greg Dahl

Greg has been working with the planning committee and local arrangements committees for both WSSA and SWSS. There have been recurring monthly meetings. Four symposia have been approved. The three tours have been selected. The keynote speaker is Wyman Meinzer, who is the official state photographer of Texas. Abstracts are due January 9, 2024. There are currently a total of 507 presentations and posters, of these there are 61 SWSS graduate oral presentations, 34

WSSA graduate SST presentations, and 89 WSSA/SWSS graduate posters. Sheriff badges will be given out to everyone who has registered.

Greg will be at the Canadian Weed Science Society and to NCWSS to promote the WSSA/SWSS meeting. Greg and Jill attended the CAST meeting recently as well.

Publishing Update: Sarah Ward

Open Access

Weed Technology will be 100% open access in January 2024. The website has a prominent banner and emails have been sent out. Most manuscripts (about 80%) are already choosing open access, however there will likely be a temporary dip in submissions once the switch occurs. Most authors already are eligible to not pay the APC charges due to their institutions. Weed Technology has the highest open access manuscripts. The other two journals will switch to 100% open access January 2025. The submission process will stay the same. The payment model will change. Sarah recognizes that there will be questions and concerns once this change occurs. Carroll asks about communication to the larger WSSA membership. Sarah said emails will be sent to the membership and the journal website will be used for non-members. Eric will facilitate by sending the notifications to the regional societies as well. Pamela will help notify graduate students through social media.

Trip to Cambridge University Press

Chris and Sarah are going to spend three days at the Cambridge University Press headquarters during the first week of December. Katherine Hill will be the host. She manages the WSSA journals. Chris and Sarah will have meetings with several groups including senior leadership, marketing, publishing, etc.

Review Editor

There have been regular monthly virtual meetings. Over the summer those meetings were extended to discuss larger issues. One of the action items was to reformat the editorial boards, which could include a dedicated review editor who would identify topics of interest and gather people to write the reviews. Please send Sarah and names. Eric asks if this position would have any compensation. Sarah notes this is a good question and would like feedback from the BOD. The editors have problems with invited reviewers following through. Michael asks if other journals compensate their review editor. Sarah notes that there would be only one review editor to cover all three journals to start out with. The individual would need to be well rounded to cover the range of potential topics across the journals. The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, November 21, 2023.

Predatory Journals

An email was sent to the BOD several months ago expressing concern for predatory journals. Sarah notes that this is an area of great concern. She would like to put together a webinar to discuss this topic further. Eric notes that the WSSA would record, edit, and archive the live webinar. Eric asks if this webinar will be held before or after the annual meeting. Carroll notes

that after the annual meeting would be best for people's schedules. Sarah will send Eric a date and title to circulate with the membership.

Innovative Grants: Greg Elmore

The innovative grants committee reviewed 15 proposals and chose two for funding. The funding total would be \$82,080. Criteria for proposal ranking included: was the work innovative, funding explanations, clearly written, collaboration, outreach component. Feedback will be given to each PI on their proposal. The proposal topics were very diverse.

Motion to approve funding for the two Innovative Grants proposals made by the Innovative Grants Committee via Greg Elmore at 11:04AM EST. Motion passed unanimously.

Complimentary Registration Discussion: Mark VanGessel

Mark would like to propose complimentary registration for government officials, especially the EPA, to attend the annual meeting. There is currently no policy surrounding this. The EPA does not have the funds to travel to meetings on their own. Carroll notes that there are travel funds for symposia speakers if they are not WSSA members. He also notes how many people from how many agencies would we be able to support. Greg notes that the value needs to be determined to answer those questions. Several ideas were discussed. The BOD asked Mark to come up with a proposal to bring forward. Carroll also suggests forming a subcommittee (Carroll, Greg E., Mark, Greg D., Lauren, Eric) to discuss this topic and Greg or Stanley will do some background information on government restrictions. Sarah Ward notes that we should not single out EPA. Greg notes that the scope may be too large. The subcommittee will hold off on meeting until Stanley speaks with Rick on this topic.

Note: Mark left the meeting at 11:39AM EST.

Old Business

Officer Elections

Elections are still going on.

IWSS

No proposal has been put forth for the WSSA to host the IWSS meeting as of today.

New Business

Symposia

Carroll asks if any other symposia that were not funded would like to host a webinar in 2024. Greg Dahl is in talks with these groups on this topic. More information to come. There is a possibility of recording the symposia at the meeting. Greg notes that this decision needs to be made quickly for the 2024 meeting. Michael asks if we know how many other societies record their symposia and if so, how many people view the recordings. Greg Dahl notes that we have limited information. Eric adds that very few people went back to view a recorded

webinar/symposia in the past. Greg Elmore would like to know the cost before the decision is made.

Motion to adjourn made by Greg Elmore at 11:58AM EST. Seconded by Michael Flessner.
Motion passed unanimously.