



2024-2025 WSSA Standing Committee Report

Committee Name and Code: Local Arrangements - W2

Committee Chair: Hilary Sandler / Robert Nurse

Committee Members: Name, Affiliation, Term ending

Hilary Sandler*	WSSA	2025
Robert Nurse*	CWSS	2025
Victoria Brookes	CWSS	2025
Ian Burke	WSSA	2025
Dave Clements	CWSS	2025
Will Cramer	WSWS	2025
Greg Dahl	WSSA	2025
Alida Janmaat	CWSS	2025
Virginia Jones	CWSS	2025
Virgina Oeggerli	CWSS	2025
Isabel Werle	WSSA	2025
Eric Gustafson, Ex-Officio	WSSA	

* Chair

WSSA MOP Requirements

Section 4.19 Local Arrangements Committee (W2)

1. A local arrangements committee chair is selected by the Vice-President at least one year before the meeting. The Board Liaison is the WSSA President-Elect.
2. Activities of the committee will be guided by the President, President-elect (Program Chair), and Executive Secretary.
3. The local arrangements committee will assist the Program Chair in obtaining projection equipment, inviting special guests (if needed), arranging local tours (if desired), and assisting with on-site meeting coordination.

Committee goals:

The W2 committee satisfied the requirements of the Weed Science Society of America Manual of Operating procedures.

Committee members rotating off and recommended replacements:

All members of committee will be replaced for the 2026 annual meeting. Ian Burke will become Chair for 2026 meeting.

Committee accomplishments:

The 2025 joint Weed Science Society of American (WSSA) and Canadian Weed Science Society (CWSS) annual meeting was held at the Sheraton Wall Centre in Vancouver, British Columbia. Our Pre-Conference tour was a



2024-2025 WSSA Standing Committee Report

walking tour to Granville Market, Monday 9 am-Noon. Two Post-Conference tours were 1) a bus trip to several craft breweries including the agricultural highlights of the Fraser Valley and 2) a harbor boat tour that ends with a comedy show featuring weed science; both were Thursday 12:30-5 pm.

The General Session began at 4:15 pm Monday February 24, 2025. Our Keynote Speaker was to be Dr. Jennifer Grenz. She is an Indigenous Scholar (Niaka'pamux, mixed ancestry) in the Department of Forest Resources Management at the University of British Columbia. She planned to discuss her research and her newly published book, "Medicine Wheel for the Planet: A Journey Toward personal and Ecological Healing", a book based on her doctoral work. She took sick prior to the meeting and could not attend; Dr. Dave Clements pinch-hit in her place and did a fantastic job.

Presidents Greg Dahl (WSSA) and Robert Nurse (CWSS) gave their Presidential Addresses followed by the presentation of our annual awards. A food-and-drink reception followed. Tuesday night dinner options featured a CWSS tradition called "Dine Arounds". A general reception for both CWSS and WSSA members was held Wednesday night.

Students enjoyed a night of bowling on Sunday from 6 to 9 pm. On Monday from Noon to 2 pm, we hosted a Student Lunch followed by a Business Meeting. The second hour featured a presentation on "Stand Out in the Crowd: Job Search and Interview Strategies". Over 50 students have entered to compete in either the Single Slide Talk (SST) contest, offered by WSSA, or the 15-minute oral contest offered by CWSS. The contests were held on Tuesday morning with the SST finals held on Wednesday afternoon. A special workshop on "Exploring Bioinformatics in Weed Science" was held on Tuesday late afternoon. Announcements of the contest winners were made at the Student Awards Ceremony late Wednesday afternoon.

The Women in Weed Science Networking Event was held on Monday from 2-3:30 pm. We offered (as per CWSS tradition) an early Tuesday morning 5K Puff Run/Walk through downtown Vancouver and local parks. Poster Sessions were held on Tuesday (odd numbers) or Wednesday (even numbers) morning. We offered four symposia during the annual meeting: Tuesday afternoon (1-5 pm) with "Contribution of Genomics to Nontarget Site Resistance Knowledge and Management" organized by Roland Beffa and Caio Brunharo; Wednesday morning "Not your Old Professor's Journals: Rapid Change in Academic Publishing", organized by Sarah Ward and Chris Willenborg; Wednesday afternoon (1-5 pm) "Endangered Species Act: Description of the EPA's Herbicide Strategy, Communication Resources, and Scientific Information Useful to Regulators", organized by Bill Chism and a team of colleagues; and lastly, Thursday morning (8-10 am) with "Experiences and Insights from Recently Funded Weed Scientists in NIFA's Competitive Grant Programs", organized by Jim Kells and Vijay Nandula.

Poster boards were rented and will be delivered for the Poster contest. Boards will be taken down following the poster contest.



2024-2025 WSSA Standing Committee Report

Impact of committee activities/accomplishments on membership, publications, policy, education, other, etc.:

It is important for this committee to communicate with the Program Chair and other members of the Board of Directors to ensure that the needs of the meeting are met.

WSSA funds requested if any?

Payment of poster boards, tour tickets, and transportation for the tours.

Current state of the committee's projects or activities?

All activities are up to date for 2025 joint meeting.

Any new information posted the WSSA website?

None

Summary of plans for next year (changes in goals, key initiatives, plan of action, etc.):

Appoint new Local Arrangement Co-Chair for 2026 meeting.

Recommendations for Board or Membership action (funds or other requests):

None