WSSA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Saturday and Sunday February 4-5, 2017

El Conquistador Hilton, Tucson, AZ

**Saturday February 4, 2017**

16 voting members present at start of meeting and 8 of 8 executive board members so quorum met; 1 additional at 1 pm.

**Call to order and Introductions** by Kevin Bradley. Commenced: 8 AM.

**Changes to Agenda**. Add Summer BOD dates. Motion to approve Dallas Petersen, second by Andrew Kniss; unanimous approval.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**. Prasanta Bhowmik motioned, Rob Richardson second. Mark Bernards mentioned how we should deal with certain action items. Anything with money/budget items will be discussed Thursday. Unanimous approval.

Reports included in the Consent Agenda

Affiliated Society Reports: APMS Report

CWSS Report

NCWSS Report

NEWSS Report

SWSS Report

WSWS Report

Committee Reports: E3 - CAST

E4 – Federal Noxious and Invasive Weed

E6 - Research and Competitive Grants

E8 - Environmental Aspects of Weed Management

E11 – Weed Loss

E12 – Herbicide Resistant Plants

E12b – Herbicide Resistance Education

E13 - Public Awareness

E14 - Website

P22b - Standardized Plant Names

W3 – Awards

W6 – Nominating

W10 – Constitution and Operating Procedures

W16 – Biological Control

**Approval of Summer Board Meeting Minutes and actions taken between meetings**. Add electronic votes as separate doc (Actions between meetings; see web site). Mark Bernards motioned, Janis McFarland second; unanimous approval.

(Janis) Point from minutes re: Public Awareness committee, did it go anywhere? Maybe deal with today.

**President’s Report (Kevin Bradley)**. Appreciation of comments that Director of Science Policy deals with on a consistent basis. Essence: Change, change, change.

**Program Committee and Local Arrangements Report (Janis McFarland)**. Program notes: Adjustments are being made to accommodate speakers’ schedules. Joyce Lancaster: Meeting attendance at 442 without on-site registrations. High accolades for Integrity Transportation. Janis mentioned use of app for Awards ceremony and not spending $5K on awards brochure. Dallas Petersen suggested poster with awardees on it? We could then give a copy to awardees for take-home. Chairs need to download to their own computers for the session talks.

Get feedback from members after the meeting? Haven’t done one in a while.

Presidents’ Breakfast: Wednesday morning

Committee meeting breakfast: Monday morning

**Graduate Student Organization (Nick Basinger)**. Phenomenally successful to get financial support for the workshop, ca. $8K (industry support). Workshop will be on creating on-line portfolio for students as they enter job market. Nick proposed a line budget item for graduate student enrichment support: pick experience in academia/industry and shadow for a week. Nick’s experience (small fruit) with Dr. Dodds in cotton/remote sensing was very positive. 13 out of 14 past president GSO from Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS).

Nick proposed 3 scholarships per year. This effort would nationalize what SWSS is doing. No problem finding mentors (ca. 20 with Southern). Students get one week experience and SWSS provides $1500 for the student (through their Endowment Enrichment Scholarship). Perhaps WSSA could do $2K per student? The pool would be any student member of WSSA. For SWSS, it’s a competitive process; may be 12 applicants/year for 3 slots. Other discussion included: Has WSSA been overly narrow in its interpretation of endowment use? 4% of growth of funds now? $450K now yields $18K to support UG travel scholarship. SWSS Students give a presentation about their experience at the meeting as part of the scholarship.

Western did similar but mostly with industry, who provided financial support.

Need to confer with Finance Committee; what is the viability of pursuing this? Competing with other requests, so may be tough. Choose a student from each region to go to another region, perhaps.

There is some interest in doing a Regional exchange program. Northeast yes; Western, interested in discussing; North Central hasn’t formally discussed but Reid offered to discuss at July 26-27, 2017 weed contest/board meeting.

Action: Kevin to bring up at Regional Society President’s Breakfast and get guidance from Financial Committee about feasibility and we will re-visit on Thursday.

**Executive Secretary Report (Joyce Lancaster)**. We have had 69% renewal since last electronic request. Trend is downward and she expects that to continue. Membership helps the bottom line but is not the primary money stream. Currently membership is $175 for everyone and $50 for students. Management transition going well with Eric Gustafson, from IMI Group.

Marty Schaerer suggested that perhaps folks could pay membership/registration at same time but some Federal agencies have issues. It has always been separate in the past due to journals/print, etc. Easier to pay as registration for some; membership sometimes harder to justify to administration.

We will still have to administrate people who don’t come to the meeting to get their membership. Only 30% attend meeting. Eric Paige emphasized that we need to have clarity to membership if combining fees. Canadians doing similar; Eric to send documentation if/when drafted. We also discussed the possibility of a tier for non-membership if needed; just trying to simplify.

We have 50-75 nonmembers per meeting; they pay $100 more than members. Students would not be affected. Actually members pay $75 more than nonmembers, so we’d make a bit more. We must decide on how to proceed NO later than July BOD meeting. Renewals are sent to students AFTER the meeting, so we could do something similar for regular memberships. Any change for the DC meeting? Joyce mentioned those who might want to pay 1-day rate.

**Motion**: Meeting registration will now include annual member dues while maintaining the option to pay membership dues only for members who are not attending the meeting. Andrew Kniss motioned and Janis McFarland second. Unanimous approval.

**New Executive Secretary, Eric Gustafson, IMI**. Works for WSSA plus one other minor client. Work on transfer from Allen Press to MemberClicks. He lived east of Fort Collins, CO. Westminster, CO is HQ for IMI. His background is Hort/Business from Colorado State U.

Database, Banking, and Scheduling transfer is on-going. He will make sure we get reminded of what needs to happen when to keep us on track.

Letterhead (Lee Van Wychen): Simplify listing of officers perhaps like other societies; logo + slogan? Our letterhead is very busy right now. Maybe we should ask Public Awareness committee to work on tag line or competition from membership? Linda Egerton to spearhead these efforts.

Web Site moving forward? As of 3/31, Allen Press site is done. He is working on member interface functional logistics so one can log in, etc. IMI could do our web site for us, if needed. It would be great to streamline at some point: membership, abstracts, archive, etc.

**Treasurer Report** **(Rick Boydston).** Please see report! Discussion: IMI is NOT our investment advisor. Our current fee with Wells Fargo is $7-8K/yr. Ramon James asset based fee? We can rollover 3-yr of investment. Should we go with Jeff Halloway? FinCom will bring recommendation on Thursday. Is increasing membership a realistic goal? Maybe we should just acknowledge where we are and adjust accordingly.

Dallas Petersen: our expenses are out-doing our income ($140K) but our account improving, so our investments are doing very well.

Joyce Lancaster: Dec 1-Nov 30 is our fiscal year. She pulled $60K from general fund. Should we do July 1-June 30? If we did, we’d have meeting revenue numbers in April. Rick to discuss at FinCom.

New/Special Initiatives. Some are 15-yr old!! NIFA fellow, Continuing Education HR efforts, EPA liaison are examples of these initiatives. Should we change Special Publications to Inventory/Storage?

Weed Science Foundation Spending Policy. FinCom recommends adoption of stated intent. It is now about $18K. The principle is about $194K.

**Motion**. Move to accept as written. Andrew Kniss motioned, Janis McFarland second. Unanimous approval.

Externally Managed Investment Policy. Not changed since 2010. Jeff Holloway updated. Page 3 has descriptions of equities. Endowment funding wording changed a little. Change to “Student” awards, not just undergraduate. Front page Background: individual include companies? Strike individual?

**Motion**. Move to accept revised EMIP with change to student text. Reid Smeda motioned and Mark Bernards second. Unanimous approval.

**Global Herbicide Resistance Challenge Sponsor Request** **(Kevin Bradley)**. Frank Dayan is organizing. Does WSSA want to support? May14-19, 2017 in Denver? Australian group did similar in 2013, published in Pest Management Science. Comments were mostly not in favor. Should we offer defraying pub costs? Kevin will see what a “friend” level contribution will get us.

**Proposed constitutional changes** **(Mark Bernards).** See his report and constitution document. Delete Associate member? Need membership vote; do electronically. We are down to 6 classes of membership.

Adjourned for lunch and recommenced at 1 pm. John Byrd from Southern joined.

**Motion**. Board to adopt non-substantive editorial changes as proposed. Mark Bernards motioned and Prasanta Bhowmik second. Unanimous approval.

**Motion.** Present to membership of society amendments to Constitution regarding deletion of Associate member, addition of IPMS to all mentions of journals, clarifying language with election relating to Members at large. Mark Bernards motioned and Andrew Kniss second. Unanimous approval.

**Motion**. Change language to MOP for honorary member to receive complimentary life-time membership. Mark Bernards motioned and Janis McFarland second. Unanimous approval.

**Resolutions Committee (Anita Dill)**. No activity for years! Dissolve this committee.

**Motion**. (honorary) Discharge the Resolutions Committee. Sarah Ward motioned and Dallas Petersen second. Unanimous approval. Andrew was disappointed that this wasn’t brought forth as a resolution. ☺

**New issue!! Dallas Petersen:** US HRAC is interested having representation on WSSA board. Maybe handle through committee? Should we try to get more HRAC folks on our committees? Response: we are not interested in adding a Board member at this point. Support improved communication would be good. Kevin or Dallas to talk to HRAC folks.

Sidetrack: We should put committee sign-up BEHIND the web site so that all committee members are WSSA members!

**Meeting Management Proposals** **(Kevin Bradley).** Three proposals submitted: IMI (Eric), Tony (very high), and Florida group (Bill Torres) with APMS (Rob Richardson).

Joyce: rather than charge society directly, most companies may opt to take commission from hotel. Currently, WSSA gets commission and Allen Press charges a flat fee.

**Motion**. Move to go with IMI. We do have an “out” clause with IMI right now as Exec Sec; can we do that with Meeting Management? Scott Senseman motioned and Dallas Petersen second. Unanimous approval.

**2018 Meeting Update (Scott Senseman)**. Crystal Gateway Marriott. Arlington, VA. Jan 29-Feb 1, 2018. He has good symposia ideas.

**Publications (Sarah Ward)**. Money has been wonderful this year. AP paid us in arrears so we will get one more payment (~$38K), Cambridge University Press (CUP) pays up front based on projections. Institution revenues steady, subscriptions, etc. Weed Science was first journal issue to be published by CUP. Both Weed Science and Weed Technology have transitioned now. Invasive journal has dipped but Tony has worked hard to bring it back. Last print journal is next month in IPMS after that, no more paper.

We will have some web site overlap (with Allen Press) until end of March 2018, then totally with CUP. October switch happened over a weekend and it went seamlessly. URL is now with Cambridge. CUP hired Tracy Candelaria as our dedicated editor for our 3 journals. Cambridge has set up a portal/hub just for WSSA.

**Spanish Abstracts**. Translations done by Ramon Leon at U of Florida for $2500/yr paid by AP. CUP will not translate. WT is the only journal that does this right now. Intent was to increase readership in Latin countries. Editorial boards to meet Monday…. Earmark monies from CUP to continue supporting Ramon. Is Latin America the appropriate market to be pursuing? CUP is NOT supporting Latin America.

Sarah would like to pay Ramon more if we continue this service; up to $5K. 106 abstracts in 2016 and he did them all. Is abstract in front of the “pay wall” to access the Spanish text? If behind the pay wall, probably not worth our while. Probably a slight increase in page charges due to increase in paper length.

Kevin added that we are experiencing newsletter editor issues. Sarah has had this on Publication Board agenda for a while and is hoping to get some movement.

Press releases. 2 distributions with Allen Press. Who will do that now? IMI? AP has lists and gave us a good price reduction because they have PRWeb, PR Newswire et al. Public Awareness-big issue!! This will likely cost us more money. With AP, we paid about $100/release. AP was able to negotiate a good price that we piggy backed on. Eric G. will check to see what IMI can do/attend Public Awareness Committee meeting.

How should we deal with archived journals-disposal fee? Not as high as storing, shipping. CUP is doing high-quality digitizing of all our journals. Herbicide Handbook is currently with AllenPress in Kansas. Other books go to IMI in Westminster; we will truck them there.

Digitize Reviews of Weed Science (Bryan)? Will CUP do this/cost?

Paul Auster (Lee). Books no one has heard of: Weeds of the West. Article in NYT.

Adjourned 3:30 p.m.

**Sunday February 5, 2017**

17 Board members present, 8 of 8 Executive Board members present. Quorum present.

Plus Eric Gustafson (IMI), Anna Hofvander and Dan Edwards (CUP), Mike Barrett, Donn Shilling

Started at 7:53 A.M.

**Cambridge University Press**. They want to partner with us to achieve our goals: development of quality of journals, recognition of journal, support of society brand, increased financial return. How? Drive international profile, increase submission, access material in format that readers want. Anna reported the transition complete.

Marketing: how to display journals on-line? Looks good so far. Re-design covers at some point. Brand should jump out.

Press Release. Sarah has started a blog post and wants to reach beyond membership and North America.

Janis: what about Spanish abstracts? It is hard to gauge usage/metrics based on Spanish abstracts. CUP has a few foreign language abstracts, usually borne out of country of origin is French or Spanish or whatever. We can pick “featured articles” on the front page or feature the “award papers”.

**EPA Subject Matter Expert (Mike Barrett).** (please see report). There has been a lot of turnover due to administration change, retirement, and hiring frenzy just before the election. Presentations well received. EPA to have 8-9 people at this meeting, reaching out more to make connections. They like to have our papers to cite when needed. Mike visits EPA frequently, which he attributes to our success at EPA. He is “the source” for the society regarding proposed decisions. Lee was asked to develop guidelines on what we comment on or don’t. This is good as Board can take weeks to bat things around. We want ant to leave these actions to Science Policy Committee. SPC should be education, BMP oriented rather than providing input on regulations.

Dallas Petersen and Mike Barrett to run session around August 14, 2017 (several days) as an educational EPA-focused tour at Kansas State. They are requesting $10K from WSSA for support. Mike going on sabbatical and wants to step down as liaison; 4 years now and recommends we look for replacement. He is targeting May-June 2017 for replacement. Janis asked him to review job announcement to update if needed. Mike recommends to add EPA folks so they have input.

**Director of Science Policy** **(Lee Van Wychen).** (please see report). Sonny Perdue’s nomination seemed positive. Bryan’s literature review on tank mixes: synergy or antagonism, paper on the way; Andrew is doing analysis. They hope to have it in the spring to WS; waive page charges for invited papers.

2 APHIS comment periods: how they regulate biotech crops: Analyze first and then permit. The other is to deal with biocontrol agents. He will talk with Beltsville group to get their input.

**SPC Intern Request (Kevin Bradley/Lee Van Wychen).** P.24 Proposal.

Project component: take the National Weed Survey to the next level; develop an app, searchable database; make tangible products. Political Engagement component: ad hoc activities. Duration would be 6 months with 1 week in DC, do meetings, etc. Assign projects, papers to write from home location. Cost? $8K, 3 $1k trips + $5K for labor. Person could help develop comments, white papers. Should this become a budget line item? Person needs to be a WSSA member!!

**NIFA Fellow update (Donn Shilling, U-GA).** He spends about 3-4 days/month on his tasks. Networking: enhance NIFA funding for weed science. He got a symposium on how to get funding from NIFA (on Tuesday). NIFA has a web page, just for weed science.

**Motion**. Enter Executive Session. Dallas Petersen motion and Mark Bernards second. Unanimous approval. Discussing Executive Secretary and DSP.

Lee’s review (Donn): sends out evaluation survey. Lee does overall better than just a good job! Geometric increase in the demands on weed science issues in recent years. Sheer volume and complexity is overwhelming for SPC! Kevin asked Lee to come up with guidelines on what to comment on and what to ignore. NO: political appointees, food label guidelines, etc.

Recommendation for pay raise: Donn recommended raise/COLA of 3%.

**Motion** for 3% raise Andrew Kniss motioned and Scott Senseman second. Unanimous approval.

**Motion.** Recommendation to engage Eric Gustafson and IMI for Executive Secretary. Reid Smeda motioned, Dallas Petersen seconded. Unanimous approval.

**Motion**. Sarah Ward motioned to leave executive session and Eric Palmer seconded. Unanimous approval.

Mark: will we give Eric a list of expectations?

**Business meeting agenda**? Graduate student contest, not just poster.

**Motion** Reid Smeda motioned to accept agenda, Dallas Petersen seconded. Unanimous approval.

**New Business**. Award ceremony will acknowledge Joyce. Get items for Thursday agenda to Janis as soon as possible.

**Motion** Dallas Peterson motioned to adjourn and Scott Senseman seconded. Unanimous approval.

Adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Electronic Votes taken between July 2016 BOD and February 2017 BOD meetings:

Oct 2016.

Motion: WSSA approve an additional $4,000 to be combined with the $10,000 in the budget for Herbicide Resistance Initiatives to provide a total of $14,000 in support of the regional Herbicide Resistance listening sessions. Dallas Petersen motioned and Scott Senseman second. Unanimous approval (13 votes).

Dec 2016.

**Motion:** Stop printing the WSSA awards bulletin for the Annual meeting and make it available through a phone app. Marty Schraer motioned and Prasanta Bhowmik second. Unanimous approval (13 votes).