



## **2023-2024 WSSA Standing Committee Report**

**Committee Name and Code: Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) representative: Jill Schroeder**

**Committee Chair: Jill Schroeder**

**Committee Members (includes sub-committee members): N/A**

**Board of Directors Liaison: N/A**

**Committee members rotating off: current appointment ends in 2025**

**Recommended members to replace those rotating off: BOD will need to appoint a new representative to begin their service at or after the CAST annual meeting in 2025.**

### **Summary of past year's activities:**

1. I attended the annual meeting of the CAST Boards (<https://www.cast-science.org/about/>) that was held in College Station, TX November 7-9, 2023. As a Board of Representatives member, I serve on the Plant Agriculture and Environmental Issues Working Group (Plant Working Group) (<https://www.cast-science.org/about/board-of-representatives/>) and attended the general session and workgroup meetings. Those attending the annual meeting had an opportunity to meet Chris Boomsma, the new EVP of CAST, as well as to say thank you to Kent Schescki who attended the conference. Chris made a presentation to the group that outlined his vision for CAST moving forward. The staff indicated that they had been very busy with the transition and were engaged in the next steps for the organization. The members who were present had a good discussion about the agenda for the meetings and ways to engage more effectively across working groups.
2. I regularly attend the (virtual) monthly meetings of the Plant Work Group where we primarily discuss progress on the issue papers. The leadership of the Plant Work Group changed at the meeting. Melissa Johnson has stepped down after chairing the group for several years (she is on the BOD representing industry so will not be leaving the organization). Vara Prasad, Crop Science Society of America representative, was elected to the new PWG chair and Melinda Yerka, will be the new Vice-Chair.
3. I am board liaison for the issue paper "Preventing the next invasive plant: Opportunities and Challenges". The proposal was developed by the following representatives from WSSA and NIASMA: Jacob Barney, David Coyle, Erik Lehnhoff, Daniel Tekiela, Paul Tseng. The paper is in final editing and printing. CAST EVP, Chris Boomsma is working with NIASMA to hold the paper roll out at the 2024 NISAW annual meeting. Final plans and dates for the webinar will be shared when complete.
4. Greg Dahl, WSWS representative, is the liaison for an issue paper "Integrated management of fire-adapted invasive plants responsible for changing wildfire regimes". Lyn Gettys, past APMS representative, is the board liaison for an issue paper on the topic of Harmful Algal Blooms Function

and impact - HAB (Harmful Algal Bloom). Stanley Culpepper is one of the task force chairs and an author on a series of issue papers discussing FIFRA and the Endangered Species Act. WSSA members have been invited to participate in the 2023-24 series of webinars that discuss each paper; the final report (full series of papers) will be released in 2024.

5. I continue to work with my weed science counterparts who represent WSSW, NEWSS, NCWSS, and APMS on the Board of Representatives. Gray Turnage has replaced Lyn Gettys as APMS representative and Tom Peters has replaced John Hinz as NCWSS representative. The SWSS became a member of CAST in late 2023; we are waiting to find out who their representative will be. I will set up a virtual meeting with all once all the new representatives are in place. Lee VanWychen has been part of many of our occasional conversations. I thank him for sharing his insights into issues that might be addressed through a CAST publication. We have also invited Sharon Clay, ASA representative, to join our conversations.
6. The weed science representatives met at the end of 2022 and decided that we all need to work on attracting student members to become individual members of CAST. Student memberships are FREE; we are all presenting posters at our annual meetings and the posters have a QR code where students can get membership information while at the meeting. I met with the GSO as part of their luncheon agenda at the 2023 annual meeting and followed up with the BOD at the summer BOD meeting in San Antonio. As a result, Pamela Carvalho De Lima and I have had more interaction and I have started to inform the GSO of upcoming webinars so she and Annu Kumari can inform their membership through social media of these events.
7. I volunteered to represent the Plant Work Group on the CAST strategic planning workgroup on project implementation agreeing to serve as chair for 2023. The Producing Products committee worked on a concept for updating the publication types, including a special Rapid Response category of the commentary papers, and reducing the long form publication types to one (combine two categories). I presented this to the WSSA BOD at the summer meeting; they were generally supportive of the idea. Pamela Carvalho De Lima indicated that graduate students would find this type of publication of interest. Unfortunately, with the change in leadership at CAST and resulting transition, this concept went no further than the initial discussion. However, Chris Boomsma has shared many ideas on how CAST might evolve under his leadership so I suspect that a review and possible revision of publication categories may be discussed going forward.

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

1. I will continue to attend Plant Work Group meetings and the CAST annual meeting in 2024. In addition, I intend to continue to work with my weed science colleagues to determine how to best represent weed science in CAST publications and activities.
2. I will continue to provide updates and information on publication presentations to the WSSA GSO president.
3. I will continue on the Producing Products committee unless these committees are restructured and need new representation.

### **Recommendations for Board or Membership action:**

1. I would appreciate input from the BOD on potential topics for CAST Issue Papers. In addition, all BOD members need to become individual members of CAST to serve as role models for the rest of the society.
2. Funds requested for 2022: Reimbursement of travel expenses to attend the 2024 annual meeting of the CAST Boards.