



WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY of AMERICA

RESEARCH - EDUCATION - INNOVATION
FOUNDED 1956

WSSA Committee Report

COMMITTEE: P1 Publications Board

Date: January 22, 2026

BOARD LIASON: Chris Willenborg/ Sarah Ward

Include in Consent Agenda: Yes (no discussion needed, just informational update)

No (items in report require discussion or action)

Name	Term Ending	Region/ Affiliation		Name	Term Ending	Region/ Affiliation
Co-Chair: Chris Willenborg	2028	CDN		Nathan Boyd	2027	S
Co-Chair: Sarah Ward	2028	CDN		William Vencill, ex-off	2026	P2
Lynn Sosnoskie	2029	NE		Carl Libbey, ex-off	2026	
Antonio DiTommaso, ex-off	2026	P4		David Clements	2029	CDN
Jason Norsworthy, ex-off	2026	P3				

Reviewed MOP for updates: YES

NO

Comments re: MOP:

Committee Actions/Impacts/Activities:

Financial Reports

Cambridge University Press has been invoiced (Dec. 14, 2025) for the following amounts for 2026 as per our contract:

Support for journal editor stipends: \$52,500

Sponsorship Fee (for support of Outstanding Paper awards): \$6,000

2026 Revenue Forecast from CUP

The forecast total income for WSSA journals in 2025 is **\$166,851** (\$139,851 in 2025), with forecast royalties to WSSA (39%) of **\$130,003** (\$103,003 in 2025). Guaranteed payment to WSSA (75% of forecast royalties excluding BioOne) for 2026 is **\$97,501** plus **\$6,000** award sponsorship fee and **\$52,500** editorial stipend support less the **\$21,652** hosting charge.

WSSA Newsletter

Carl Libbey continued to do an excellent job as Newsletter Editor in 2025, with quarterly issues published on time. The newsletter continues to receive timely information for members, and has started to publish short summaries of manuscripts submitted by members.

WSSA Herbicide Handbook

Work continued on the 11th edition of the Herbicide Handbook. All files have been updated and are now in a PDF format and ready for final formatting before release. We anticipate release will occur in 2026. The document will be a searchable, PDF document in electronic format.

WSSA journals in 2025

2025 was the ninth year with Cambridge University Press (CUP) as our WSSA publishing partner. This has been a positive partnership that has been excellent for our journals and our society. Over the course of 2025, we continued working with CUP editorial and production staff to update WSSA journals based on current publishing practices. This now includes inclusion of the

journals in the Plan S process (initiative for open-access publishing and more transparent publishing/data procedures) and as such, all WSSA journals are now open access with continuous publication (articles published as soon as copyediting and formatting are complete, without waiting for assignment to a numbered journal issue). Given this, 2025 was a year of change for the journals and ushers in a new era of publication format for the journals. The publishing agreement with Cambridge expires in 2026, and work is underway to finalize a new contract.

WSSA journal metrics in 2025 (2024 figures in parentheses)

Clarivate Analytics impact factors released in 2025 (for the publication year 2024) increased for all three journals, with a notable increase for Weed Technology. This may reflect the switch to open access. For Weed Technology, 2025 was the second year as a 100% open access journal, and Cambridge University Press reported a significant uptick in accessed and downloaded articles for the journal in 2025 that we anticipate will continue to translate into higher citation rates. For all three journals, numbers of submitted and accepted articles decreased in 2025 compared to 2024. It is unclear whether this reflects reduced activity in weed research, and/or author concerns about increased publication costs for open access. We will continue to work with Cambridge University Press to monitor this trend and support CUP's efforts in removing financial barriers to open access publishing.

Our journals remain well-positioned and highly regarded in all areas of weed science despite the competitive environment that exists in scientific publishing. We remain mindful of the fact that authors have more choice than ever when submitting manuscripts in the discipline of weed science, but the WSSA journals continue to offer high quality reviews in a timely manner.

Weed Science Manuscripts submitted: 188 (227)
Acceptance rate: 47% (45%)
Number accepted articles: 84 (96)
Mean time from submission to first decision: 41 days (43 days)
Impact factor 2.5 (2.2)
a. 31/129 Agronomy Journals
b. 95/273 Plant Sciences Journals

Weed Technology Manuscripts submitted: 147 (189)
Acceptance rate: 64% (64%)
Number accepted articles: 99 (110)
Mean time from submission to first decision: 41 days (47 days)
Impact factor: 1.7 (1.3)
a. 62/129 Agronomy Journals
b. 132/273 Plant Sciences Journals

IPSM Manuscripts submitted: 64 (72)
Acceptance rate: 50 (52%)
Number accepted articles: 31 (36)
Mean time from submission to first decision: 49 days (41 days)
Impact factor 1.2 (1.1)
a. 189/273 Plant Sciences Journals

Information Posted to WSSA Website:

Links to journal activity, press releases on the new featured journal article each issue, and WSSA Newsletters are posted on the WSSA website. Press releases are now sent, via email, to all society members to ensure membership is kept abreast of important scientific findings. Press releases are also posted to our social media pages to provide greater visibility. Cambridge University Press also posts them, as well as a blog post.

Funds spent in 2025 :

Editorial stipends: \$52,500
Outstanding Paper and Outstanding Reviewer awards: \$6,000
Payment to John Pocock for writing featured article press and blog releases: \$3,132.50 (\$6,000 budgeted).

Committee Meeting Schedule*: (Include all planned meeting dates and times):

Committee met Jan. 12, 2026. The committee usually meets once per year but may meet more often if needed.

Budget needs: None

Areas for improvement/concerns:

None, but it should be noted our agreement with Cambridge University Press expires at the end of 2026 and is currently being renegotiated.

Opportunities for future (symposia, speakers, communication, general): None.

*This will be visible to all members for engagement.