

**WSSA Board Meeting
Hilton Baltimore
February 2, 2013
Final Approved Minutes**

ATTENDING:

Board Members and Ex Officio: James Anderson, Jacob Barney, Mike Barrett, Hugh Beckie, Mark Bernards, Ian Burke, Joe DiTomaso, Les Glasgow, Cody Gray, Jim Kells, Dan Kunkel, Joyce Lancaster, Anne Legere, Rod Lym, John Madsen, Peter Porpiglia, Lee van Wychen, Kurt Vollmer, Sarah Ward, Kai Umeda (WWSS sub for Pat Clay)

Non-Board Members:

Kate Counter, Dallas Peterson (Incoming Vice President), David Krueger (afternoon).

CALL TO ORDER

President Rod Lym gaveled us to order at 7:58. New members and substitutes were introduced.

Request for additions and changes to the agenda.

Motion to accept by Anne Légère, Peter Porpiglia seconded. Unanimously accepted.

Committee reports and regional society reports introduced

Motion to approve regional and committee reports by Joe DiTomaso, James Anderson seconded. Unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Summer board meeting minutes approval moved by John Madsen, seconded by Mike Barrett. Unanimously approved.

John Madsen moved that the e-vote summary be accepted, seconded by Joe DiTomaso. Unanimously approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Contracts for Association Management and Meeting Management were renewed for 3 years. An individual has been identified as a back-up person for association management.

Publication contract proposals are still under review and consideration. Publication committee is reviewing this contract.

Meeting locations for 2015, 2016 and 2017 at Lexington, San Juan, and Tucson were visited by meeting planning coordinator.

Penton media reports that more than 1,000 individuals have registered and completed the resistance management modules.

Spanish edition of Penton media herbicide resistance module is being produced.

A special award was approved for Carol Somody, to be presented at the WSSA awards ceremony.

Herbicide Handbook revision is well underway. Dale Shaner is chairing the committee for content.

A web content manager was hired. Muthu Bagavathiannan was hired and will be present at the board meeting on Sunday.

Jill will be stepping down as US EPA Subject Matter Expert Liaison, and search has been concluded. The candidates will be discussed this coming week; an ad hoc committee will be formed to identify the new liaison. New liaison should be in place by April.

Executive Secretary Report

Membership has remained stable over the past few years.

Staffing at Allen Press has had turnover, for various reasons. ES backup had left, but a new backup has been identified – Linda Hardwick.

Customer service person has left, a new hire for that position will be hired. Renewal manager has also left.

Allen Press sends a draft of their press releases to the public awareness committee, for review.

Joyce mentions that this society works smoothly because of the large number of volunteers and work of the board.

Allen Press is going through a database conversion process, which may involve some “transient bugs.” This will include for online journal access. Login will be e-mail address rather than membership number.

Final membership number is 1354 members.

Treasurer's Report

Ian Burke reports that two conference calls were held since the August board meeting. Conference calls held to review investments and expenditures. No new requests for new initiative expenditures received.

Operating account at \$120,000

Investments received 8.3%, \$832,000 in investments and endowment is at \$338,000.

Overall investment strategy, committee is seeing a lot of uncertainty and considering more conservative approach in the endowment fund.

Received about \$70,000 in interest revenue in the past year.

WSSA is operating at a deficit without the investment income. With the investment income, expenditures equal to revenue.

Rod is concerned that we are spending a lot more now than 20 years ago, yet we have fewer members.

However, Mike Barrett pointed out that sustaining members do assist in paying for a number of initiatives, aside from other sources of funds.

DSP funding currently has \$5,000 more income than expenditure. However, that may change in the near future. We revisit the DSP funding scheme every 3 years.

More discussion on why we have such a large reserve of funds, and what we do with the investment income.

The sense of the board is that we are doing a good job of balancing expenditures with revenues, but still need to be cognizant of the potential effects of even "one bad event."

Discussion regarding a lack of revenue from the conference.

Discussion regarding revenue sharing with regional chapters for joint meetings.

Discussion of room rates, registration fees, and other related revenue issues associated with the conference.

Meeting Management Report – Kate Counter

We have reached 73% of our room block. A lot of students have been registered, 93 students registered.

Site visits made for properties for meetings in 2015, 2016, and 2017.

2013 Program Committee and Local arrangements – Jim Kells

Conference is prepared, program published and sent out.

Joint meeting with NEWSS. Meeting co-chaired with them.

One tour, to Camden Yards.

Committee meetings on Monday, general session at Monday at 4:00 pm.

Society awards for both NEWSS and WSSA.

Special introduction Ed Kee, Secretary of Agriculture, Delaware Department of Agriculture, will give an unannounced welcome address.

Society reception after general session.

Tuesday and Wednesday morning poster sessions.

Concurrent sessions have 15 minute talks.

NEWSS graduate student oral paper contest.

Business meetings WSSA at Tuesday 5-6 pm, NEWSS on Wednesday 5-6 pm.

Dessert Social Wednesday 9-11 pm.

Meeting will end at noon on Thursday.

Jim thanked Joyce and Kate for all their work on the program; between the two the work of program chair was a smooth process and less stressful than he imagined would be the case.

Board will meet 1 pm on Thursday, should be done by 3 pm.

Considered testing a recording system for one or more symposia, to capture the audio presentation and the Powerpoint; allowing people to view the presentations who might not attend the meeting. The board should consider our objectives in possibly recording some sessions.

Jacob Barney asked if there is demand for viewing presentations; this is a possible topic for a survey.

Discussed a system of accessing the program by smartphone; but this is tabled until Thursday am.

Puff run Tuesday at 6 am.

WSSA / CWSS 2014 Joint Meeting – Joe DiTomaso

Joint meeting between WSSA and CWSS with a joint program.

Victoria Brooks is the local arrangements chair for the meeting.

They have two field trips planned.

Call for symposia will go out in the next newsletter.

Graduate Student Organization

95 students have registered

Special graduate student workshop scheduled.

Graduate student luncheon sponsored by Monsanto.

Elections for GSO will be held at the GSO meeting during the conference.

New GSO representative will be Alexandra Knight

Publications – Jim Anderson

Impact factor trend shows an upward movement.

Editors are doing a better job of sifting through papers for better quality.

Quality of papers is improving, though there has been some pushback from some individuals.
Acceptance rate is 60-65%.

One publication comes out each month.

IPSM impact factor will come out in June 2013.

Allen Press has provided some very extensive reports on the journals.

Contract discussions –

Jim proposed that the board will review a full proposal from Allen Press.

A subcommittee asked Allen Press to provide a proposal, and a contract for Allen Press has been sent out for discussion by the board. We will open discussion on this proposal after the P1 report is completed.

Spanish translations of abstracts in Weed Technology are now proceeding smoothly with a new contractor.

Dale Shaner has been appointed the new P6 handbook editor.

Nilda Burgos has put in a book proposal, but Jim has suggested that this be a special issue of the journal rather than a book.

Jim Anderson is interested in changing the citation format for articles, and speeding up the publication time.

Jim will be requesting \$5,000 for his expenses, since the federal government is now greatly restricting travel and waiting until the last minute to approve travel.

Jim will be stepping down at the Vancouver meeting as Director of Publications.

Les Glasgow asked why Weed Research has a higher impact factor than Weed Science? Jim says that they have a more rigorous review process than Weed Science. They get more papers submitted. They also use a different citation organization. Weed Research also have more pages, more papers.

In the proposal from Allen, they have responded to the request for professionally-prepared ahead of print article in the format of the journal (uncorrected proof), not in the manuscript format.

Proposal from Allen: The current contract does not end until the end of 2013. The proposal raised member fees substantially. A revised proposal was reduced. The original proposal had a profit of a few thousand dollars. The revised proposal has increased the profit share back to WSSA. The projected revenue is up to \$31,000 projected revenue per year. All journals will be in the new format, so \$31,000 revenue projected includes the past losses on IPSM we have covered.

Joyce is recommending that the motion be contingent on a satisfactory negotiation of the contract. Jim will be negotiating the contract at the meeting, and will bring a motion back at the Thursday post-conference meeting. Joyce pointed out that there are a couple of issues with the contract, including the definition of a breach of contract on the side of Allen Press (not just definition of WSSA breach), and she also suggested that a legal counsel might be desired to review the contract before signature.

Joyce clarified that WSSA has a lawyer for other contractual issues, which ranges around \$300 per hour.

Mike Barrett suggested that having a lawyer review the contract would be due diligence.

We have the option to go online only and save funds.

Allen Press has a range of options for publishing, including print on demand.

Currently, Allen Press is paying WSSA for editorial stipends for each journal. Revenue share is above and beyond the guaranteed payment for editorial stipend.

The current proposal is for Allen Press a break-even proposal.

Karen Ridgway will be here tomorrow (Sunday) to meet with the board.

Jim moved that board approve up to \$2,500 to have contract reviewed by legal counsel; Mike Barrett seconded. Approved unanimously.

Newsletter – Joyce discussed using an Allen Press format for an interactive newsletter, but newsletter committee did not want to pursue that. Trey Koger has announced, through his report, a plan to step down as newsletter editor.

MOP and Constitutional Changes – Peter Porpiglia

MOP recommended changes have been discussed, but two areas had extra discussion.

Symposia funding instructions need to be included in MOP. The main topic was that one symposium, paid by WSSA funds for symposia expenses, was then published in a competing journal rather than in a WSSA journal. One MOP suggestion was discussed and approved, to require publication in a WSSA journal if WSSA funds were used to hold a symposium. This motion was made, approved, revised, and passed by e-vote.

Herbicide Resistance Education Committee – Mike Barrett discussed the Herbicide Resistance Education Committee, a special committee that has made great strides in this area. Mike has proposed that they become a standing committee. Herbicide Resistant Plants committee did not want another committee. Mike has proposed having separate Herbicide Resistance Research committee and Herbicide Resistance Education committee.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Constitution changes

The constitutional change was approved by membership that reduced the number of members-at-large from four to two.

The motion to remove the requirement that one Member-at-Large be from industry, was approved by the membership.

The membership also approved making the Director of Science Policy an ex officio member of the board.

The new Member-at-Large is Andrew Kniss of University of Wyoming.

(Return to Publication Topic with David Krueger in attendance after lunch)

Herbicide Handbook Delivery – Anne Légère and David Krueger

A special committee was formed to consider the future delivery method for delivery of new versions of the Herbicide Handbook.

They first evaluated the pros and cons of different delivery methods, which are included in the committee report.

David suggested that the first step would be to develop a relational database.

Committee recommended that 1) a book be published of the next iteration (2013) and 2) a relational database be constructed with the content, which could be delivered in a number of different formats.

Much discussion of clarification ensued concerning the database construction and various delivery methods.

Rod Lym suggests that David work with Dale to use information and format for the current issue, which will be printed this coming year.

Near-unanimous “unofficial” interest in pursuing developing a relational database (“step 1”).

How does WSSA generate revenue from this approach?

- 1) subscription for online web-based version
- 2) print a book periodically
- 3) advertising?

Jim Anderson suggested that there is no conflict of interest for having advertising on the Herbicide Handbook (HH) webpage or even in printed book.

- 4) have different levels of access based on subscription levels.
- 5) sponsorship of production steps (database construction, delivery methods)

Sold approximately 3,000 copies, paid for the book printing just from pre-sales.

Sense of the board was an interest in printed, web-page and smartphone-compatible webpage access of the Herbicide Handbook information.

David suggests having capability for individuals to add their own “notes” for each chemical at a higher subscription rate.

Step 1 – developing database, cost is estimated at \$25,000
Initial cost of making categories and laying out database
Develop parsing utility
Parsing sections of the handbook into database
Develop user interface
\$750 per quarter to maintain the database on a server

For Step 2 – a web-based smartphone-ready internet access cost is approximately \$10,000

Jim Anderson recommends a test of feasibility of advertising to generate revenue on a HH webpage.

David Krueger mentioned that estimate \$10,000 does not include the cost of setting up a login feature.

Jim Anderson moves to accept database program proposal from David Krueger to develop software that belongs to WSSA, and develop webpage access of the database for a cost of \$35,000, seconded by Dan Kunkel.

Discussion –

Approved by all but one board member.

Jim Kells asked for individuals interested in this delivery committee to contact him.

Jim Kells or Rod Lym will have to appoint a committee to address the delivery method and revenue generation issues related to the Herbicide Handbook database.

Website Redesign Project – Sarah Ward and David Krueger

Website is coming along; the design has been finished but we need new and updated content. That precipitated the hiring of a website content manager. Content manager has been hired to cleanup content and add new content.

Muthu has been through the new website to change content, delete obsolete content, and add new content. New webpage will be online fairly soon after the meeting. Website content manager will have to come up with a plan to keep the website current, particularly on the homepage. Muthu will have to work with committee chairs to develop and renew website.

New look of website will be up by March 1 2013.

New look available at www.wssa.net/wp

Rod Lym argues that the new journal issues should update automatically onto the WSSA webpage.

Muthu will meet with the Board on Sunday.

Need to add a link for contacting Muthu for content, or a procedure.

Assembly Times for Future Board Meetings

Rod has a goal of reducing the length of board meetings.

Requesting input on the time to start or hold meetings.

Start at 1 pm on Saturday will allow some to come Saturday morning.

Next year, suggested that we start Saturday meeting at 10am

Adjourned for February 2, 2013

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2013

Attendees:

Board Members and Ex Officio: James Anderson, Jacob Barney, Mike Barrett, Hugh Beckie, Mark Bernards, Ian Burke, Joe DiTomaso, Les Glasgow, Cody Gray, Jim Kells, Dan Kunkel, Joyce Lancaster, Anne Legere, Rod Lym, John Madsen, Peter Porpiglia, Lee van Wychen, Kurt Vollmer, Sarah Ward, Kai Umeda (WWSS sub for Pat Clay)

Non-Board Members:

Dallas Peterson (Incoming Vice President), David Krueger, Jill Schroeder (SME), Andrew Kniss (In-coming Member-at-Large), Melanie Dolechek (Allen Press), Karen Ridgway (Allen Press), Muthu Bagavathiannan (Website Content Manager).

President Rod Lym called us to order at 8:00 am

Introductions of attendees

EPA Subject Matter Update – Jill Schroeder

In May, participated in planning the Herbicide Resistance Management summit and ensured that US EPA employees involved with pesticides were informed of the symposium and several attended.

Led brown bag seminars using the herbicide resistance modules of WSSA.

US EPA tour focused on herbicide resistance management in Maryland. 27 EPA employees attended the tour.

Bill Chism of US EPA will be participating in the Herbicide Resistance symposium at WSSA this week, relating the status of US EPA policy.

Jill will be in DC the week of February 18 for interactions at US EPA.

Entomology Society of America has selected Mark Whalon to be their subject matter expert to the US EPA.

The high turnover rate and movement of employees between offices means that continued interaction and involvement will be both useful and important.

Both agriculture and invasive plant issues come up regularly. Aquatic weed issues are directed to the APMS subject matter expert, Kurt Getsinger.

Jill refers questions to individuals within WSSA who can best answer their questions.

Jill emphasized that herbicide resistance management is not the only issue, but drift reduction, endangered species, NPDES, and other items are being discussed.

The volunteer aspect of this role is critical to the credibility of interactions at EPA.

Time commitment for the SME is variable. Jill said her allocation of effort is 10-20% of her time. About 6 visits of one week per year. Calls in between visits. Tour preparations and other efforts take up time.

Much of the impact is very subtle, hard to point to specific issues or policies that have been shaped by the interaction.

US EPA has responded that the SME in general and Jill in particular have been very helpful to them.

The BOD (literally) applauded Jill for her efforts as US EPA SME.

Jill appreciates the opportunity to be the SME to US EPA. This position is hard for her to give up, but it is time to let someone else have this opportunity.

Allen Press – Karen Ridgway and Melanie Dolechek

Karen hopes that WSSA will approve the current contract offer, with some negotiation.

Allen Press has streamlined the review process, so that review times are shorter.

IPSM will get an impact factor this year, which will be used in their marketing plan. This should help to increase subscriptions.

Allen has reduced the back end time for articles by about a week, further reducing time to publication.

Preprints will be posted after they are paged, so the posted article will look more like the final published version.

Allen will be signing up with Cross-Check. Two journals have dealt with plagiarism in the past year. Cross-check will check for plagiarism in selected articles, to see if there may be a problem.

Allen is examining social media, to see how this may help societies and their journals.

Allen has set up a new listing for table of content (TOC) alerts. Anyone interested can sign up.

Allen has set up mobile optimization to enable or optimize reading of journals on mobile devices.

ORCID system for digital identification of authors is being implemented, but authors have to sign up for this service.

Online color figures will be free.

Jim Anderson asked about going online-only for some of the journals. What effect would this have?

Melanie Dolecheck responded that some of the costs of production are reduced if the journal is not printed. Online only subscriptions are increasingly frequent among some individual and institutional subscriptions. Some of these savings would be passed on to the society. Most of the cost of printing is in setup, so large numbers are relatively inexpensive and few copies are much more expensive per copy. Digital print on demand is an option for printing a few copies. There is a graduate shift towards online only. Commercial publishers have gone largely online, society journals have tended to stay with print copies.

Joe DiTomaso asked when the time to switch to online should occur. Melanie responded that it is best to ask the membership.

Michael Barrett mentioned that the print versions are not that big of a cost.

Melanie Dolechek indicated that some societies have pushed the issue by increasing the difference between print and online subscriptions.

Jim Anderson asked about Pinnacle.

Pinnacle is the Allen platform to post the content of the journals on social media. Pinnacle links out to social media sites. For instance, making sure press releases make it onto Facebook, management summaries on IPSM, invasion alerts, etc.

Recession has hit library budgets, and they have cut many subscriptions using usage data in their collection. New journals are starting that are open access, and these compete with other journals for authors and subscriptions.

Some federal agencies are mandating publication of results in open access journals only.

The challenge with open access journals is finding a mechanism to pay for the journal. In most, the authors pay a fee for publication or membership. Single paper fees for open access are anywhere from \$1,500 (PLOSOne) to \$3,500 or more. Other journals use advertising to pay for publication to reduce author costs.

Allen Press representatives will be on site on Monday.

Web Content Manager – Muthu

Muthu thanks the board for hiring him as web content manager and for assistance in getting him started in this position.

Muthu provided his background in weed science, with degrees in Canada and a postdoctoral position at University of Arkansas.

He started work in this position over the Christmas break, after a telecom in the late fall. He has gone over the website line by line, made an inventory of items to be fixed and individuals to be contacted for content. He echoed the two key objectives of the webpage as 1) informing the membership and 2) engaging the public to provide the general public with a window into WSSA and weed science.

Muthu will work with David Krueger to identify the interface of their respective jobs and how best to work together.

Les asked how Muthu will identify materials that should go on the website. Muthu said that anything from a committee chair should be properly vetted. Anything not from a committee chair will be sent to the website committee for vetting.

Joe DiTomaso asked how Muthu prefers material to be sent to him. Muthu prefers that primarily materials be sent through the appropriate committees, or sent to the website committee.

Cody asked about materials from regional society representatives. Muthu said he would use his judgment in that case.

Muthu indicated he would refer any areas he needs direction to David Krueger and the website committee.

Muthu said he would also ask committee chairs and members for content directly, rather than just waiting for content to be sent to him.

President Lym asked Muthu to attend the breakfast for all committee chairs.

Sarah Ward reminded the board that the drop dead date for launching the new look is March 1.

Director of Science Policy – Lee Van Wychen

E2 science policy report has been sent out to the board.

Committee has gotten bigger with addition of representatives and presidents of regional societies.

PCAST report (page 2) indicated that agriculture is a critical issue. PCAST recommended \$700M in new funding for agricultural science.

The most promising part of the report highlighted managing pests and invasive plants as a primary issue in agriculture.

Science policy committee has started a discussion on whether WSSA should have a position on “changing climate.” WSSA tends to be on the more conservative side of other societies. The SPC felt we should be supportive of the funding of science on environmental variation on weeds and weed management; and not tackle the issue of mitigation.

Climate change is controversial within the society, with members on both ends of the spectrum. Lee would like something to say when asked about this particular issue. He is looking for direction on this particular issue.

The sense of the board was to request the Science Policy Committee to consider the positions of other pest disciplines, and draft a short statement on climate change issues.

PCAST skirted the issue of extension programmatic formula funding versus competitive research funding. WSSA continues to be opposed to reducing formula and capacity funding to extension and research stations.

WSSA supports expanding research funding, but not at expense of formula funding.

On invasive plants used for biofuel crops, new invasive grasses have been approved for use in biofuels without external comment and review (*Miscanthus* and switchgrass). The rule first came through air quality standards, so it avoided scrutiny. There is pressure from US EPA side to move through with new species (*Arundo donax* and Napier grass [*Pennisetum purpureum*]) to be able to meet federal mandates from biofuels. Several environmental groups have opposed this rule. Jacob Barney will be speaking at NISAW on the pros and cons of using invasive species for biofuel production.

Joe DiTomaso said that WSSA should be pushing non-voluntary best management practices to mitigate the possible deleterious effects from planting biofuel crops.

Other priorities for this year:

- 1) Federal agency travel restrictions are impacting meeting attendance; we need to be more proactive in supporting the attendance of federal employees at annual conferences and meetings.
- 2) Position formerly held by John Lydon will be difficult to fill given the financial situation, but it is critical for visibility of weed science in ARS. The USDA needs a national program leader in weed science.

Science Policy Committee will be dealing with several other issues.

Executive Session

The board went into executive session to discuss performance reviews.

The board left executive session.

Anne Légère moved that we end executive session, seconded by Cody Gray. Unanimous vote.

New Business

Education committee – Joe DiTomaso

Joe cannot find a chair for the education committee, or membership. Joe suggests that we may just terminate the education committee.

Mike Barrett is concerned that there are so many opportunities for the education committee to pursue, and they just need a purpose.

Joe replies that only two people left on the committee, so we would have to completely reappoint the committee. Joe suggests we terminate the standing committee, and instead appoint special ad hoc committees to address specific tasks or projects.

The sense of the board is to leave Education committee vacant for now, and try to repopulate by challenging the membership for ideas and champions.

Website Committee –

The website committee chair needs to be appointed and help to manage and collaborate with Muthu to post content.

Webpage committee needs to be more active and proactive in interacting with Muthu.

President Lym asked Sarah Ward to come back on Thursday with a recommendation for someone to chair the website committee who will move the website along.

Southern Weed Science Society Report – Darrin Dodds

SWSS would like to do a joint meeting with WSSA in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Kate would have to check with the hotel to see if it is possible for SWSS to meet with WSSA at that time. Kate will need to get meeting requirements as soon as possible from SWSS. The guarantee income to SWSS last time was very large, and was a drain on WSSA revenue from the meeting.

Jim Kells asked what benefits SWSS sees from meeting with WSSA. Darrin said that the main factor was a few former board members that were strongly opposed, and the remaining members are positive. SWSS really liked the Puerto Rico venue, and the last time they met with WSSA, SWSS had the best turnout of students.

Motion: Proposed that WSSA consider having a joint meeting with SWSS in Puerto Rico in 2015. Darrin Dodds moved, seconded by Mike Barrett.

Is there a formula for cost sharing with regional chapters, rather than block request?

The points to consider are 1) hotel space availability and sleeping rooms, 2) requested funds from SWSS for revenue, 3) designation of a SWSS co-chair.

Yes – 13

No - 3

Abstain – 0

President Lym asked Dallas to head-up the exploratory committee, working with Joyce and Kate, and negotiate with SWSS on their needs. He should ask Phil Banks from SWSS to determine what they will need. We will follow up with a recommendation and e-vote as soon as possible.

WSSA – NIFA Shared Faculty – Mike Barrett

Mike wants WSSA to put a weed scientist into the NIFA office, working with Michael Bowers, to help increase funding opportunities for weed science.

Michael Bowers said the higher administration in NIFA was very interested in this possibility.

Cost is estimated at \$25,000 per year.

The position could be either part-time, like the SME, to full-time for a year.

Mike Barrett will work through the full proposal process to bring an official proposal.

Board thinks this is an idea to pursue, and individuals should take with Mike Barrett about it.

President Lym recognized two departing members for their hard work, Anne Légère (member-at-large) and Mike Barrett (Past President).

Reminder about business meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Anne Légère, seconded by Mike Barrett.

Unanimous vote to adjourn.