

**WSSA Board of Directors Meeting (Virtual)**

**October 31, 2025**

**In attendance:**

Eric Gustafson, Greg Dahl, Charles Geddes, Andrew Howell, Hilary Sandler, Michael Flessner, Steve Pyle, Lee Van Wychen, Ian Burke, Peter Dotray, Kelly Backscheider, Bill Chism, Dawn Refsell, Jill Schroeder, Todd Baughman, Chris Willenborg, Sarah Ward, John Lindquist, Mark VanGessel, Janis McFarland, Ramon Leon Gonzalez

**Call to Order**

Hilary Sandler at 11:01 AM EST.

**Roll Call**

**Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Agenda**

**Motion to approve the Board meeting agenda by Ian Burke at 11:04 AM EST. Seconded by Greg Dahl. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

**Motion to approve the previous meeting minutes by Sarah Ward at 11:05 AM EST. Seconded by Steve Pyle. Motion passed unanimously.**

**President Update: Hilary Sandler**

The past presidents' meetings have been going well with 10-15 of the past presidents regularly attending (out of 20). We do not yet have any candidates for John Lindquist's position, Chair of Constitution and Operating Procedures. Hilary has asked the past presidents to see if anyone would be interested in this position but has not had anyone interested to date. John Wallace is the candidate for CAST representative.

**Motion to approve the new CAST representative John Wallace by Ian Burke at 11:09 AM EST. Seconded by Sarah Ward. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion to approve Chris Willenborg and Sarah Ward as the Co-Directors of Publications by Greg Dahl at 11:10 AM EST. Seconded by Steve Pyle. Chris and Sarah abstained. Motion passed unanimously.**

We will be seeking nominees for the EPA liaison position and for Chair of the Science Policy Committee as well. Hilary has also asked for feedback and appreciates making sure that we have the descriptions for the Board of Director's appointments correct. Hilary mentioned the idea of getting students or other WSSA members to produce and/or submit short video clips promoting WSSA that can be posted on the website.

*Note: Navdeep Godara joined the meeting at 11:18 AM EST.*

**Past President Update: Greg Dahl**

We have Jacob Barney from Virginia Tech and Harlene Hatterman-Valenti from North Dakota State as the two candidates for vice president. Greg talked with other candidates who expressed interest in the position in the next 1-5 years, but not right now. For members-at-large, our candidates are Mark Renz from the University of Wisconsin and Ryan Rapp from Bayer.

The Targeted and Autonomous Committee has been busy, and Lauren Lazaro has a symposium prepared for the upcoming WSSA meeting in Raleigh. The past presidents panel will have an event at the upcoming annual meeting. Greg had the opportunity to visit the CAST national meeting in Mississippi this past week.

**WSSA Executive Secretary Update: Eric Gustafson**

The 2027 meeting will be held in Denver, Colorado from February 7-11<sup>th</sup> at the Grand Hyatt in downtown Denver. The room rate is \$235. Some of the board members visited the Hyatt in Savannah, GA which SWSS currently has a contract with for 2028. The current room rate is \$213. We are considering having a joint meeting with the SWSS at this location in 2028. We have to add rooms and additional requirements, but this is the lead location for the 2028 meeting at this point in time. A potential 2029 location could be Memphis, TN. California was mentioned as another idea as well. A recommendation was to potentially pause the decision on a 2029 location until we have a clearer idea on the future environment (spending and travel permissions).

For the 2026 meeting, we want to get the new WSSA logo out to the society membership. Swag to distribute includes WSSA stickers, WSSA charging cables and lapel pins. The proposal is that we could get each of these items and folks could pick and choose the item(s) they wanted. We would probably get 1,000 stickers and 500 of the charge cords and 500 of the lapel pins.

Amy Gionatti is willing and able to attend the WSSA meeting in Raleigh, NC. Our contract covers her flight and hotel room at the annual meeting. The board was supportive of her attending the meeting.

**2026 Annual Meeting Update: Ian Burke, Navdeep Godara**

Navdeep mentioned that there will be three main events for the graduate students at the annual meeting. The first event will be sponsored by Bayer and is at Drive Shack on Sunday evening from 6-10pm. The event is currently only open to students. There was discussion if others should be invited to the event. The consensus was to keep it a student only event with Hilary Sandler invited as president and a handful of Bayer colleagues. The second event will be the

graduate student luncheon and meeting on Tuesday at the annual meeting. A panel discussion will be held on “Careers for Weed Scientists in Emerging Ag-Tech and Startups”. There are 3 proposed panel speakers. Navdeep asked if we could wave registration for the panel speakers. The board agreed that we could do this. The GSO will be holding elections to elect new representatives (elections to be held online in January) and new officers will be announced during the business meeting. The third event would be a scientific writing workshop for Tuesday or Wednesday during the annual meeting. Jason Norsworthy has agreed to speak at this event. The workshop will cover tips on writing a thesis or dissertation, common writing and formatting mistakes, and importance of publishing in WSSA journals. This will require a room that can support projector/screen, two microphones, and seating capacity for ~100 members.

Ian provided an update on Four Waves and thus far the feedback is very good. They have been very responsive. The program is coming together. Syngenta is offering a tour in Greensboro for Monday. This is open to students, professors, and others from academia. There is a BASF tour scheduled for students on Thursday, a Cotton Inc. tour for Thursday, or a North Carolina museum tour for Thursday. The Four Waves abstract and title submission system is open. There are concerns about (lower) attendance at the meeting in Raleigh. Business meeting and awards are scheduled for Thursday morning and then tours throughout the day on Thursday. Ian is somewhat concerned about the potential number of attendees at the annual meeting, and he is open to a hybrid option if we need to consider it for the symposiums. We will monitor the registrations closely over the next couple of months.

The past presidents suggested an in-person facilitated discussion meeting potentially for next summer. There were some questions about the benefit of doing something like this by bringing in someone from outside the society, but others felt it would be beneficial. Hilary mentioned that we would like to identify potential candidates to facilitate this event. David Shaw from Mississippi State was mentioned as a potential candidate.

### **Graduate Student Update: Navdeep Godara**

#### **WSSA GSO Webinars**

The first webinar, titled “Effective Extension Communication & Writing in Weed Science” (October 7, 1–2 p.m. EST) was presented by Dr. Stanley Culpepper. The session covered key aspects of extension work, including the connection between extension and impactful research, translating research into actionable extension materials, and effectively engaging diverse audiences such as farmers, regulators, policymakers, and industry. The webinar drew 27 attendees and generated an excellent discussion on extension.

The second webinar, “How the Peer Review Process Works” (October 30, 12:00 PM EST), was presented by Dr. Sarah Ward. The session covered the WSSA journal pipeline from manuscript submission to final publication, including guidance on how to become an effective reviewer and how to respond to reviewer comments during the publication process. Around 15 members attended the webinar.

### **Other activities**

In 2025, the GSO delivered 10 monthly newsletters and shared updates about scholarship opportunities (WSSA Science Policy Fellowship, Travel Enrichment Experience Award, Travel Award) and other WSSA events across LinkedIn, X, Facebook, and Instagram, and we will continue these efforts moving forward. WSSA's support for Canva has been extremely helpful in creating membership spotlights and promotional flyers.

*Note: Jill Schroeder and Navdeep Godara left the meeting at 11:53 AM EST.*

### **Ramon Leon Gonzalez WSSA Proposal: Hilary Sandler**

Ramon Leon Gonzalez joined the meeting to discuss the proposal that he had submitted via the Innovative Grants program. The BOD suggested that we take this proposal out of the Innovative Grants program and bring it directly to the board since it directly involved the WSSA. The title of the proposal is "Ensuring a successful general change for weed science in the US". Ramon mentioned some of the challenges that we have faced in weed science that could be addressed through these proposals. We have not done a great job of highlighting success stories in weed science so this would be addressed through this project. We are also losing students in weed science. The four objectives are to conduct a survey, to design and implement a system to document success cases, to form a graduate student ad hoc committee, and resources would be created to help WSSA showcase the benefits of weed science. The proposal requested funding of approximately \$85,000. Removing external consultants was a recommendation which would drop the total cost to \$70,000. This would be to cover costs from March 2026 - March 2028 or approximately 2 years. Some board members suggested that we do spend funds from external sources that could help us better survey our membership and maybe cut resources down for travel instead. Another board member suggested that an ag economist be involved to help us understand the feasibility of this proposal. There were also comments on the cost of the travel proposal and some felt that this amount could be reduced or that more virtual meetings could be held to reduce costs. Additional feedback was that there are too many initiatives in the proposal and that instead we should start with a survey first and foremost. There was also concern about graduate students being asked to take time away from their respective programs. There is historical data that we could reference to see what has been done in the past or as a starting point. The conclusion was that Ramon would go back to the E6 committee and provide proposed funding for only the survey as a starting point. Ramon will do so and get back to the BOD so we can keep moving along on this proposal.

### **BREAK (12:45 PM to 1:00 PM EST)**

**Treasurer/Finance Committee: Lauren Lazaro, Ian Burke (presented info in Lauren's absence)**

### **Financial Health**

- 1) Statement of Financial Position as of September 30, 2025:
  - a. U.S. Bank \$76,014.43
  - b. General Fund \$1,649,567.32
  - c. Endowment Fund \$556,908.92
  - d. CD Account \$45,914.34
  - e. Inventory Asset \$596.37
  - f. Total Assets \$2,329,001.38
- 2) Total assets are \$2.3M compared to \$2.4M at the end of May 2025 and \$2.6M at the end of January 2025.
- 3) Based on the Statement of Activity as of October 2, 2025 – Total Revenue was negative \$7,959.05, Total Expenditures were \$57,427.08 and Net Revenue was \$49,468.03.

### **Innovative Grants Program**

- 1) Thirty (30) proposals were received by the October 1, 2025, submission deadline. Twenty-two (22) proposals were received in 2024.
- 2) The proposals and a sheet to rank and indicate whether to fund each proposal or not was sent to WSSA Executive Committee members on October 2, 2025.
- 3) The WSSA Executive Committee met on October 22, 2025, to run through ranking of proposals.
- 4) Three (3) proposals are recommended by the WSSA Executive Committee for funding (total \$99,477.00).
  - a. Title: Pulse Electric Field as an Innovative Tool for Weed Control in Rail Systems; PI: Marcel Moretti (Oregon State University); Funding: \$44,000
  - b. Title: Evaluating the Potential of Phytosterols as Novel Preemergent Herbicides for Sustainable Weed Management; PI: Krishna Kumar (Texas A&M University); Funding: \$39,600
  - c. Title: Evaluating Paper-Based Granular Carriers as a Novel Herbicide Application Technique for Floating Aquatic Plants; PI: Greg MacDonald (Florida State University); Funding: \$15,877
- 5) Action: WSSA BOD to vote on proposals.
- 6) Additional: With the rising number of proposals and the diversity (submitters and topics) of the proposals, the F2 committee recommends reevaluating and tightening the **RFP**. **It is also** recommended to form an ad hoc committee to evaluate the proposals each year based on the

diversity of topics to ensure they are evaluated by the appropriate people/backgrounds. I will continue to work with the F2 committee to come up with a proposal for this and submit it at the next BOD meeting.

Commented [HS1]: Who is this? Lauren?

**Financial Strategic Plan**

- 1) A special committee was convened in the spring of 2025 to develop a WSSA Financial Strategic Plan. The committee comprises of current and former Treasurers, along with other members of the WSSA leadership team.
- 2) The draft Financial Strategic Plan was sent to the F2 committee in September 2025. The F2 committee unanimously voted in support of the Financial Strategic Plan on October 16, 2025.
- 3) The document was then sent to the BOD for review on October 16, 2025.
- 4) Action: WSSA BOD to discuss and vote on Financial Strategic Plan. The board will review over the next two weeks and provide feedback and a vote on the plan.

**Publications Update: Sarah Ward/Chris Willenborg**

The publication numbers are slightly down for 2025 thus far. The Herbicide Handbook is not moving as quickly as we had hoped. Chris suggested that we try to find someone who could help Sarah with pulling the PDF together because it will require a lot of work.

Action: Hilary will follow up with Navdeep to see if there is a graduate student or two that would be willing to support this activity. Eric also mentioned that we paid for secretarial help for Travis so he will reach out to her as well. Ian also mentioned UNC Press as an option as well. We would like to get this done.

*Note: Erin Burns joined the meeting at 1:22 PM EST.*

**Legislative Update: Lee VanWychen, Bill Chism, Todd Baughman, Mark Van Gessel**

Lee mentioned the letter, sent out previously, on biocontrol to be sent the ARS. Several board members had a chance to review the letter and provide feedback.

**Motion to approve the amended draft of the letter on biocontrol to the ARS by Greg Dahl at 1:20 PM EST. Seconded by Ian Burke. Motion passed unanimously.**

Lee also brought up the letter for Friends of IR-4 Minor Use Branch that was sent out previously.

**Motion to approve the amended draft of the letter for friends of IR-4 Minor Use Branch by Greg Dahl at 1:31 PM EST. Seconded by Michael Flessner. Motion passed unanimously.**

- FY 2026 Appropriations
  - Congress is in its 4th week of a government shutdown. Impacts on weed science?
  - Agencies or programs that are funded on user fees, such as grain inspection, meat inspection, and EPA Office of Pesticide Programs (PRIA fees) remain open.
    - Most USDA REE agencies are closed. FSA offices will reopen on Oct. 30 with a max of 2 people per office.
  - Another full year CR for FY 2026 will be bad, especially for APMS
    - Government shutdown is impacting publishing in the federal registry
    - Potential bailout of \$13-\$15 billion for farmers with the difficulties in the farming industry; however, nothing can happen without the government being open
    - Bailout is a band-aid; however, reform is needed
  
- MAHA report
  - Released Sep. 8, much better focus on science-based regulatory policy
  - Calls for streamlining approval processes to ensure timely access to new pest-management products.
  - Precision ag and innovation strongly prioritized
  - Calls for USDA to develop a pilot program to improve soil health and stewardship of the land, aka regenerative farming
    - A couple of states have adopted a legal definition of regenerative farming (California and Vermont)
    - [4 main principles - Vermont](#)
      - contributes to generating or building soils and soil fertility and health;
      - increases water percolation, increases water retention, and increases the amount of clean water running off farms;
      - increases biodiversity and ecosystem health and resiliency; and
      - sequesters carbon in agricultural soils.

- Who is going to be in charge of the pilot program? NRCS? ARS? FSA?
  - Regenerative farming and IPM/cover crops strongly linked
- NAICC/WSSA tour of ESA issues with EPA/FWS/NMFS.
  - Sep. 22-24 tour in VA and NC- Chism, VanGessel, Sandler, Culpepper, Butler-Jones, Woolard and Van Wychen
    - Agency representatives (EPA, FWS, NMFS) heard first-hand how dire the economic circumstances are in farming and how it is impacting farmers and their ability to farm the next year
    - Farming is expensive, and adopting some of the ESA mitigation strategies will add additional costs on the farm
    - Farmers have to juggle a lot of tasks, and with the ESA mitigations, it is another hat a farmer must wear
    - Applying a pesticide costs a lot, and producers would rather not spray a field if possible
- NIFA Fellow
  - NIFA released 37 requests for proposals
    - Different deadlines. Deadlines remain in effect despite shutdown.
    - The government shutdown has NOT impacted the submission process and it will continue as normal, however the shutdown will delay the review process.
- CAST Rep
  - Last meeting of the plant group was in September and laid out expectations for the upcoming meeting
- Structured Herbicide Labels: Culpepper and Chism
  - PPT presentation for the Minor Crop Farmer Alliance meeting.
    - Gave a short presentation about a structured herbicide label. Bill circulated the PPT to this committee.
    - EPA is supportive of the structured herbicide label.
    - A structured label will help with going electronic.

**Commented [HS2]:** Which grant programs? Do we need to note that?

- Worked with PPDC to help get the required necessities that a herbicide label needs.
    - There is a current label from ADAMA under the tradename of Brevis that is a fruit thinner. First label to adopt the new format.
    - They are working with a couple of other companies on new structured labels.
- Comments on proposed USDA-ARS Biocontrol and Bio-Based Tools Research Roadmap
  - Due Nov. 5. Plan to circulate to the Science Policy Committee soon.
  - Who are the potential collaborators in biocontrol and bio-based tools that would address your industry's top problems?
    - Scott Dan from North Central is putting together a symposium
    - Crop consultants? Lee will check with NAICC
    - Bayer, BASF, Corteva, Syngenta, Winfield
    - Symposium at NEWSS?
    - Send an email to Lee with a contact if someone thinks of one in the next few days
  - Who should ARS invite from the Weed Science Societies (academia or industry) to a workshop on biocontrol and bio-based tools?
    - Authors from bio-control section at WSSA annual meeting in Vancouver
      - Marcelo Moretti, Oregon St, Biocontrol Section Chair
      - Exploring Weed Suppression Abilities in Sorghum bicolor with High Sorgoleone Production. Megan Schill\*, Nithya Rajan, William Rooney, Sakiko Okumoto, Muthukumar Bagavathiannan. Texas A&M
      - Utilizing Cover Crops as a Weed Management Tool for Combatting Amaranthus spp. Resistance. Debra Smitherman\*, David Russell, Eros Francisco, Scott McElroy. Auburn University
      - A Water Soluble  $\beta$ -Triketone Enriched Extract of Manuka Oil: Increased Weed Control Efficacy Compared to Two Organic Non-Selective Herbicides. T. Casey Barickman\*, Charles Cantrell, Amber Reichley. USDA-Natural Products Utilization Research Unit (NPURU), MS.

Commented [HS3]: Please spell out abbreviation

- Rapid and Accurate Characterization of Target Genes for Genetic Biocontrol of Invasive Aquatic Plant Species. Ping Gong\* and Seung Ho Chung. US Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Vicksburg, MS.
  - Paper fails to mention herbicide resistance
  - Biosolutions Conference and EXPO
  - Chism- two other issues to consider with biocontrol agents:
    - Formulation Chemistry. Many of them cannot be sprayed with conventional pesticides because of stability issues. That means another trip across the field. He thinks the USDA could invite formulation chemists to the discussion to see if there are cost-effective ways to allow these products to be co-applied with conventional pesticides.
    - Better, faster identification of what part of the field to treat. Despite what the USDA support document says, many of these biocontrol products are more expensive than conventional pesticides. He thinks the USDA should consider supporting research to find better and faster ways to identify what portion of a field needs to be treated.
- Effort to double funding for USDA NIFA CPPM program
  - Lee is working with entomology and plant pathology to double funding for CPPM to \$42M with the rationale that it will help USDA meet the goals of its
    - National Farm Security Action Plan (July 2025),
    - the MAHA report (Sep. 2025) and,
    - the ISAC Food Biosecurity white paper (Sep. 2025).
    - Had a formal meeting to work on the letter on Oct 22. Lee will circulate a first draft when available.
- Proposal from Research Committee to Innovative Grants Program (see Leon discussion above):
  - The proposal would involve 12 grad students from around the country and their advisors, plus two consultants for economic, statistical and survey design.
  - Expected Outcomes:

**Commented [HS4]:** What paper?

**Commented [HS5]:** Does this need more info?

**Commented [HS6]:** Please define abbreviation at first use.

- Develop a database of current status of human resources committed to weed science (last update was Derr and Rana 2011)
- List and describe success cases of weed impact with high return on investment
- Communication materials such as one-pagers, booklets, and powerpoint presentations that summarize the results of the study including the statistics and success cases
- Recommendations of approaches to recruit graduate students and encourage them to consider academia and industry positions that prioritize weed science

#### Other Business

- PPDC & ISAC charters have expired
  - PPDC will likely reconvene first, but with fewer members and a refined focus
  - ISAC may not be re-chartered until a new administration is in place
- Science Policy Fellows will visit DC from November 11-14
  - Congressional visits, stakeholder visits, and a trip to Riverdale, MD for the annual APHIS BRS meeting
- The EPA is seeking public comment on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) draft biological opinions (BiOp) for the pesticides atrazine and simazine. The FWS draft biological opinions for atrazine and simazine are available on EPA's [Biological Opinions Webpage](#) and public comments may be submitted to docket number EPA-HQ-OPP-2020-0514 at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). The draft biological opinions will be available for public comment for 60 days and closes on December 8.

Bill highlighted several activities that are mentioned above in the minutes. He is planning to have a committee meeting at the upcoming annual meeting and encouraged board members to attend.

Commented [HS7]: ESA?

Mark indicated that things have been relatively quiet with the EPA in the past couple of months. He has also been working with Bill on a lot of the ESA materials. He looks forward to the agency reopening and getting reengaged soon. Hilary asked Mark if there are any changes to the role that we should be aware of as we seek new candidates for the EPA liaison position in the near future. Mark indicated that the biggest change has been the move to more virtual meetings in recent years with more folks working remotely. He has had success with getting folks out on field tours in relatively close proximity to DC.

Todd did not have a lot of updates from NIFA with the current Federal Government shutdown.

*Note: Mark VanGessel left the meeting at 1:53 PM EST.*

**MOP Revisions/Committees: Ian Burke, Dawn Refsell, John Lindquist**

Dawn has been working with the various committees to update MOP language and to propose updates to committees as needed.

Ramon spoke to updates to the MOP proposed by the E6 Research Priorities Committee that better align with the goal of the committee. There was discussion among some of the proposed language.

**Recommendation to accept the updated MOP language proposed by the E6 Research Priorities Committee. Motion passed unanimously.**

*Note: Bill Chism left the meeting at 2:06 PM EST.*

Lee and Janis discussed several proposed changes for the Science Policy Committee.

**Recommendation to accept the updated MOP language proposed by the Science Policy Committee. Motion passed unanimously.**

Dawn sent the following language recommendations for the P22 and P23 committees to the board a few weeks ago.

Action: Propose action to dissolve committees (P22 and P23) and merge to just “Terminology Committee”.

**PROPOSED MOP LANGUAGE**

**4.XX Terminology Committee (W5)**

The Terminology Committee shall:

1. Consist of a Chair and a minimum of four other members, each appointed to a renewable three-year term. Additional members will be appointed based on the workload of the committee. Appointment of member representatives from various regional groups (NE, NC, S, W, and Canada) is encouraged, but not mandatory. The Board Liaison is an APMS representative. Committee affiliates (e.g. USDA NRCS, HRAC) input and cooperation will be paramount.

2. Coordinate the standardization of botanical and herbicide nomenclatures such as adjuvants, abbreviations, and definitions related to the discipline of weed science in North America and maintain on WSSA website.
3. Activity of the committee should be favorable to utilization of information for the regional society summer weeds contests.
4. Encourage uniformity and consistency in discipline specific nomenclature and definitions by:
  - a. Maintain a list of WSSA-sanctioned scientific and common plant names (synonyms) and associated European and Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) Global Database (<https://gd.eppo.int/>) plant codes on the WSSA website. Common names may be maintained or adopted based upon cultural acceptance within WSSA, rather than adopting the accepted nomenclature of other associations.
  - b. Maintain updated links on WSSA website to Global HRAC Herbicide MOA classification.
  - c. Annually or upon request of a WSSA committee review nomenclature related to weed science for clarification, definition, or addition.

**The need for consistent terminology in weed science remains a priority. The Herbicide Nomenclature Committee was originally established to address the diversity of herbicide classification systems and to support the growing pipeline of new chemistries emerging from industry. However, with advancements in technology, processes, and communication, the continued relevance of this committee has diminished, and its dissolution is now being considered.**

**Efforts to standardize plant names in collaboration with USDA and publication boards have not yielded the desired outcomes. Given these challenges, we propose the dissolution of committees P22 and P23 and the formation of a new Terminology Committee that can more effectively address current and future needs in nomenclature and terminology.**

## **CURRENT MOP LANGUAGE**

### **4.17.1 Terminology Committee – Herbicide Nomenclature (P22)**

The Herbicide Nomenclature Terminology Committee shall:

1. Consist of a Chair and a minimum of four other members, each appointed to a renewable three-year term. Appointments to subcommittees will be made as needed. The Herbicide Handbook Editor and Terminology Committee – Standardized Plant Names Chair shall be an ex-officio member. The Board Liaison is APMS representative.
2. Standardize and coordinate terminology in weed science including herbicide names, adjuvants, abbreviations, and definitions of weed science terms.
3. Encourage uniformity and consistency in herbicide nomenclature by using the following guidelines:

- a. The form for requesting a new herbicide classification is located on the WSSA website. The committee will consider the new herbicide name after the form is reviewed. Both WSSA and HRAC will approve.
- b. The chemical name approved for an herbicide is that identified by the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) according to their system of nomenclature in effect since 1972, the period beginning with the ninth collective index.
- c. Newly approved common and chemical names will be published in Weed Technology Notes and on the back cover of Weed Science as well as distributed to regional societies and other interested parties.
- d. A complete list of approved herbicide names will be maintained by the Herbicide Nomenclature Subcommittee and published periodically in Weed Science.

#### **4.17.2 Terminology Committee – Standardized Plant Names (P23)**

The Standardized Plant Names Terminology Committee shall:

5. Consist of a Chair and a minimum of four other members, each appointed to a renewable three-year term. Additional members will be appointed based upon the workload of the committee. Appointment of member representatives from various regional groups (NE, NC, S, W, and Canada) is encouraged, but not mandatory. Terminology Subcommittee – Herbicide Nomenclature Chair shall be an ex-officio member. The Board Liaison is an APMS representative. Committee affiliates (e.g. USDA NRCS) input and cooperation will be paramount.
6. Standardize and coordinate botanical nomenclature including plant scientific and common names, species codes, and definitions for botanical terms related to the discipline of weed science.
7. Encourage uniformity and consistency in botanical nomenclature by:
  - a. Maintain a list of WSSA-sanctioned scientific and common names and associated European and Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) Global Database (<https://gd.eppo.int/>) plant codes. The botanical nomenclature database will be published on the WSSA website. Common names may be maintained or adopted based upon cultural acceptance within WSSA, rather than adoption of the accepted nomenclature of other associations.
  - b. Communicate with WSSA members to gather information regarding geographic distributions of weed species as needed.
  - c. Conduct periodic reviews of other terms and concepts related to botanical nomenclature.

**Motion to dissolve the P22 (Herbicide Nomenclature) and P23 (Standardized Plant Names) committees and to merge these responsibilities into the formation a new committee titled Terminology Committee (W5) by Dawn Refsell. Seconded by Greg Dahl. Motion passed unanimously.**

Greg reviewed the proposed changes to the MOP language for the Targeted and Autonomous Committee.

The Targeted and Autonomous Committee would like to have the committee name to be changed to the Sensing, Automation, and Precision Technologies Committee.

The committee would like the WSSA Board of Directors to approve the MOP language below for incorporation:

1. The committee will consist of a Chair and a minimum of four other members, each serving a renewable three-year term. The Board Liaison will be the NCWSS representative, and one member will serve as a liaison to the W-(TBD) committee.
2. The committee shall solicit and maintain current technical information on existing and emerging precision, automated, and weed sensing technologies that apply to weed science.
3. We will encourage research and educational initiatives in agricultural engineering that advance the development, evaluation, and adoption of emerging weed control technologies.
4. Our goal is to promote public understanding of the benefits, challenges, and risks of emerging weed control technologies.
5. We aim to foster cross-disciplinary collaboration and communication among engineers, economists, social scientists, pest control professionals, and regulatory agencies on emerging weed control technologies.

**Recommendation to accept the updated MOP language proposed by the Targeted and Autonomous Committee. Motion passed unanimously.**

Hilary suggested that we discharge the Herbicide Handbook Committee (P5). It can be reinstated once again when needed.

**Motion to discharge the Herbicide Handbook Committee (P5) by Dawn Refsell. Seconded by Michael Flessner. Motion passed unanimously.**

Sarah reviewed some of the challenges for the Awards Committee (W3) in recent years. The suggestion was that MOP language be defined for the paper awards as part of the publications committee and bring it back to the board for discussion.

#### **Other Board Updates – Logo Shirt Option/Board and Membership: All**

Erin provided updates at the upcoming NCWSS meeting. The numbers of papers and posters are positive for the upcoming meeting.

Steve provided updates for the NEWSS meeting. The board met last week at the facility, and they are excited about the meeting. Steve will be rotating off of the board in January and also indicated that he will be retiring from Syngenta at the end of the year.

Charles said there are about 120 attendees registered for the CWSS meeting which is next week in Quebec.

Peter said that the SWSS is quickly approaching. Shawn Askew has been pleased with the Four Waves submission system thus far.

**Dates for Board Meetings at 2026 Annual Meeting: Hilary Sandler, Ian Burke, Eric Gustafson**

The WSSA board meeting will be held in-person with a virtual option all day on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026. There will be no board meeting on Monday. The board meeting after the WSSA meeting will be held virtually after the meeting to allow all to attend functions on Thursday.

**Old Business: Hilary Sandler**

None.

**New Business: Hilary Sandler**

None.

**Motion to adjourn made by Ian Burke at 2:55 PM EST. Seconded by Dawn Refsell. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Electronic Votes conducted after the meeting:**

**November 2025**

Approve Financial Strategic Plan. Dawn Refsell motioned to approve, Michael Flessner seconded. 16 ayes, 1 abstain, and 1 no vote.

Approve recommendations for Innovative Grants Program. Lauren Lazaro motioned to approve, Peter Dotray seconded. 15 ayes, 1 abstain, 2 no votes.

Approve submitted changes to the Manual of Operating Procedures. Ian Burke motioned to approve, Peter Dotray seconded. 17 ayes, 1 no vote.

**December 2025**

Approve nominations for Society awards. Lauren Lazaro motioned to approve, Peter Dotray seconded. 17 ayes, 1 no vote.

**January 2026**

Approve recommended candidates for EPA Liaison (John Byrd), Science Policy Chair (Stanley Culpepper, Chair and Cameron Douglass, Vice Chair) and Chair Constitution and Operating Procedures (Anita Dille). Peter Dotray motioned to approve, Greg Dahl seconded. 16 ayes, 2 no votes.