

WSSA Board of Directors Meeting

January 21-22, 2024

January 21, 2024

In attendance:

Carroll Moseley, Eric Gustafson, Greg Dahl, Pamela Carvalho-Moore, Lauren Lazaro, Hilary Sandler, Christian Willenborg, Michael Flessner, Greg Elmore, Stanley Culpepper, Bret Miller, Alan Helm, Lee Van Wychen, Ian Burke, Peter Dotray, Kelly Backscheider, Steve Pyle, Lynn Sosnoskie (virtual), John Lindquist (virtual)

Call to Order

Carroll Moseley at 7:02AM CST.

Roll Call.

Approval of Business Meeting Agenda

Motion to approve the Business meeting agenda by Alan Helm at 7:10AM CST. Seconded by Hilary Sandler. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of BOD Agenda

Motion to approve made by Michael Flessner at 7:13AM CST. Seconded by Alan Helm. Motion passed unanimously.

Annual Meeting Program Update: Greg Dahl

Committee Members, 2023

Gregory Dahl WSSA Program Chair.

Todd Baughman SWSS Program Chair

Hilary Sandler WSSA Program Vice Chair

Eric Palmer SWSS Program Vice Chair

Craig Alford WSSA, Connor Webster SWSS, Agronomic Crops

Thierry Besancon WSSA, Gregory Steele SWSS, Horticultural Crops

Mayank Malik WSSA, Shawn Askew SWSS, Turf and Ornamentals

Byron Sleugh WSSA, David Clabo SWSS Pastures, Rangelands, Forests, Rights of Way, Wildlands and Aquatic Invasive Plants.

Cameron Douglass WSSA, Kayla Eason SWSS, Regulatory Aspects

Debalin Sarangi WSSA, Liberty Galvin SWSS, Teaching and Extension

Gourav Sharma WSSA, Scott Nolte SWSS, Formulation, Adjuvants and Application Technology

Shilpa Singh WSSA, Swati Shrestha SWSS, Weed Biology and Ecology

Rin Ragamaihi WSSA, Anniruddha Maity SWSS, Biocontrol of Weeds

Chad Brabham WSSA, Tommy Butts SWSS, Physiology

Kyle Russell WSSA, Matt Inman SWSS, Soil and Environmental Aspects
Ramawater Yadav WSSA, Matt Wiggins SWSS, Integrated Weed Management
Nathan Boyd WSSA, Luis Avila SWSS, Targeted and Autonomous Weed Control Technologies.
Kyle Kepner WSSA, Nicholas Basinger SWSS Sustaining Member Exhibits
Tom Mueller WSSA, SWSS
Michael Lovelace SWSS, Poster Session
Marty Schaer WSSA, Pratap Devkota SWSS, Student Contests
Pamela Carvalho-Moore WSSA, Mason Castner SWSS Student Travel Enrichment, Science Policy
Fellows, Grad Student Organizations.
Gary Schwarzlose and Luke Ethridge, Local Arrangements Co-Chairs
Carroll Moseley WSSA, Eric Castner SWSS Presidents
Eric Gustafson WSSA, Kelley Apodaca SWSS, Executives
Peter Dotray WSSA Representative from the SWSS

Greg thanks to the members of this Program Committee for all their help and service.

Committee members rotating off and recommended replacements

The SWSS representatives will be replaced by CWSS representatives.
Need to read committee reports and attend as many Section meetings as we can to get new representatives.

Committee Goals

Plan and produce the 2024 WSSA and SWSS Joint Annual Meeting.
Line up WSSA Webinars for release to membership in 2024.
Represent WSSA and the 2024 WSSA/SWSS Joint Annual Meeting.

Summary of past year's, 2023, activities including

Greg worked with the WSSA/SWSS planning meeting. Met at least once a month since April 2023. He appreciated all the great suggestions and efforts of the Program Committee members. Greg worked with Todd Baughman to send out Call for Symposia. Collected proposals and selected four proposals, which were approved by both the WSSA and SWSS Board of Directors. He worked with Todd Baughman to Issue the Call for Papers, put together the written program and doing the follow up work to put on a successful meeting. There are currently 570 presentations including over 225 posters, great student participation in three contests, The WSSA/SWSS Student Poster Contest, the SWSS 15-minute oral presentation contest, and the Single Slide Oral Presentation Contest. Students can only compete in one of the three contests. There are four symposia:

1. Herbicide Registration, Current Standards and Regulations for the Assessment of Environmental Impacts of Pesticide Use in the United States, organized by Zahoor Ganie and the WSSA E-8 Environmental Aspects Committee.
2. New Approaches to Herbicide and Bioherbicide Discovery organized by Stephen Duke and Franck Dayan.

3. Adjuvants Matter: How New Technology and a Changing Marketplace are Creating New Opportunities for Inquiry and Advancement, organized by Matt Faletti and the WSSA W-15 Formulations, Adjuvants and Application Technology Committee.

4. Herbicide Resistant Weeds: Identification, Documentation, and Regulation, organized by Craig Alford and the U. S. HRAC Herbicide Resistance Management Committee.

Marty Schram and Pratap Devkota have worked hard to provide a great student contest experience.

The student mixer on Sunday night at Top Golf should be a great experience. The General Session is planned with a Welcome to Texas greeting from David Baltensperger, followed by our Keynote Speaker, Wyman Meinzer, presenting “Evolution of a Photographer and Author. There will be presentations from WSSA President Carroll Mosely and SWSS President Eric Castner. Lee Van Wychen will provide us with a Washington D. C. update. Then we will hold the WSSA and SWSS Awards Announcements and Reception.

GSO: Pamela Carvalho-Moore

New officers have been elected.

The GSO social media is very active. Current followers: Facebook – 462, X – 1500, Instagram – 500 followers. A monthly newsletter is sent out and highlights a student and alumni each month. Spotlights are nominated by society. In November, a mentorship event was held for both WSSA and CWSS students. There was positive feedback. Around 40 students joined the meeting.

The graduate student luncheon has 210 students confirmed to attend. Four panelists will speak about hiring procedures. The GSO MOP was changed to include virtual voting. The rubric for the SST is very good, but students are having problems including everything on the rubric in the time allotted. The GSO asks that the rubric or amount of time is re-evaluated.

Regional Updates

Southern Weed Science Society (Peter Dotray)

2024 Officers President

Todd Baughman todd.baughman@okstate.edu President Elect – Eric Palmer eric.palmer@syngenta.com Vice President – Shawn Askew saskew@vt.edu Past President – Eric Castner eric.castner@fmc.com Secretary-Treasurer - Hunter Perry hunter.perry@corteva.com Director at Large Academia – Charlie Cahoon charlie_cahoon@ncsu.edu Director at Large Industry – Adam Hixson adam.hixson@basf.com Director at Large Academia – David Russell dpr0013@auburn.edu Director at Large Industry – Matthew Wiggins matthew.wiggins@fmc.com Constitution and By Laws – Carroll Johnson carroll@whitetailinstitute.com Student Representative – TBD at annual meeting. Current rep is Mason Castner mcastne@uark.edu Editor – Te-Ming Paul Tseng tt1024@msstate.edu Endowment Foundation – Connor Webster Endowment Foundation – Lawson Priess Business Manager - Kelley Mazur kelley@imigroup.org

The 77th annual meeting of the Southern Weed Science Society will be a joint meeting with the Weed Science Society of America and will take place at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in San Antonio, TX January 22-25, 2022. Pre-registration including guests and freebies total 564. One hundred and ninety-one students registered. There are 506 numbered presentations and 517 total titles submitted (248 oral presentations and 226 posters). Wyman Meinzer, the “Official State Photographer of Texas” will provide a keynote address titled “Evolution of a Photographer and Author”. We will have four outstanding symposia (Pesticide Registration, Current Standards and Regulations for the Assessment of Environmental Impacts of Pesticide Use in the United States; New Approaches to Herbicide and Bioherbicide Discovery; Adjuvants Matter: How New Technology and a Changing Marketplace are Creating New Opportunities for Inquiry and Advancement; and Herbicide Resistant Weeds: Identification, Documentation, and Regulation. Three graduate student events are planned (15-Minute Oral Paper Competition, Single-Slide Three Minute Competition, and a Poster Competition. Other graduate students include Top Golf Graduate Student Mixer, Overcoming Hurdles in Graduate School, and the Quiz Bowl/Mixer. Three tours have been organized: Natural Bridge Caverns Tour, San Antonio Botanical Gardens Tour, and the Iron Cactus Tequila Tasting Tour.

Several members will be recognized as award recipients: Jason Norsworthy and Nilda Burgos both from the University of Arkansas will be recognized as Fellows; Tom Barber, University of Arkansas, will receive the Outstanding Educator Award; Pete Eure, Syngenta Crop Protection, will receive the Outstanding Young Weed Scientist from Industry Award; Tommy Butts, University of Arkansas, will receive the Outstanding Young Weed Scientist-Academia Award; Vipin Kumar, University of Virginia Tech will receive the Outstanding MS Graduate Student Award; Sarah Kezar, Texas A&M University, will receive the Outstanding Ph.D. Graduate Student Award; and Tom Mueller will rec, University of Tennessee, will receive the Excellence In Regulatory Award. Nineteen students from eight academic institutions applied for the SWSS Enrichment Experience in 2023. The following three students were selected and paired with their chosen sponsor: Navdeep Godara, Virginia Tech, was sponsored by Greg Elmore, Bayer CropScience; Annu Kumari, Auburn, was sponsored by Matthew Wiggins, FMC Corporation; and Cynthia Sias, Virginia Tech, was sponsored by James Holloway, Syngenta. Each of these students will give an overview of their experiences at the WSSA/SWSS joint meeting in San Antonio.

The National Weed Science competition was held in Union City, TN on July 25-27, 2023, and was hosted by Bayer Crop Science. Twenty-seven universities from the US and Canada were present. A total of 217 total contestants, 64 undergraduates and 153 graduate students, participated in the contest. Over 120 individuals served as volunteers to help make this contest a success. Numerous WSSA awards were given to graduate and undergraduate participants including First Place Team - Graduate (University of Arkansas - Jared Smith, Tristen Avent, Pamela Carvalho-Moore, Samuel Noe), First Place Individual – Graduate (Jared Smith), First Place Weed ID - Graduate (Jared Smith), First Place Team Sprayer Calibration - Graduate (Mississippi State – Kayla Broster, Antonio Tavares, Jake Patterson, Amy Wiber), and First Place Written Problems - Graduate (Tristen Avent). Numerous SWSS Awards were also given

including First Place Unknown Herbicide Identification - Graduate (Tristen Avent and Jared Smith, tie) and First Place Problem Solving (Jared Smith). The 2024 Southern Weed Conest will be in Blacksburg, VA and will be hosted by Virginia Tech. Nutrien is considering hosting in 2025 in Winterville, MS.

Future SWSS annual meeting locations, hotels, dates: 2025, Charleston Marriott, Charleston, SC 2026, collecting bids from Nashville, Ashville, Lexington, and Chattanooga.

North Central Weed Science Society (Brett Miller)

2023 Officers

President – Dawn Refsell dawn.refsell@corteva.com

President Elect – Mark Bernards Mark.Bernard@usda.gov

Vice-President – Brett Miller brett.miller@syngenta.com

Past President – Reid Smeda SmedaR@missouri.edu

Secretary-Treasurer – Eric Spandle epspondl@landolakes.com

Editor NCWSS Proceeding – Karla Gage kgage@siu.edu

Editor NCWSS Communications / Newsletter – Travis Legleiter Travis.Legleiter@uky.edu

WSSA Representative – Erin Burns burnser5@msu.edu

CAST Representative – Tom Peters thomas.j.peters@ndsu.edu

Directors at Large

Strategic Planning – Angela Kazmierczak angela.kazmierczak@bayer.com

Extension – David Nicolai nico0071@umn.edu

Industry – Ryan Henry ryan.henry@upl-ltd.com

Resident Education – Ram Yadav ryadav@iastate.edu

Graduate Student – Kaitlin Creager kaitlin.creager@siu.edu and Cristina Rankrape cris.rankrape@siu.edu

Director at Large Central Region – Chad Smith chad.smith@valent.com

Director at Large Western Region – Tate Castillo tate.castillo@bayer.com

Director at Large Eastern Region – Steve Meyers slmeyers@purdue.edu

Director of Science Policy – Lee Van Wychen

Executive Secretary - Kelley Mazur kelly@imigroup.org

Other

The 78th Annual Meeting was successfully held in person December 11 to 14, 2023, at the Hyatt Regency in Minneapolis, MN. A total of 91 oral presentations and 83 posters were included in the 2023 program including 2 symposia and a graduate student workshop. The meeting included “What’s New in Industry” and the symposia addressed “Pesticide Application with UAVs” and “Field to Film: Beginners Guide to Video Editing and Production”. Total attendance at the in-person NCWSS meeting was 293 with 213 regular members and 80 student members. The attendance number continue to challenge the society and were ~ 40 fewer than 2022 in St. Louis.

The 2024 NCWSS Student Weed Contest will be hosted by ABG Ag Services in Indiana and BASF has offered to host at their facility near Champaign, IL in 2025.

During 2023, Brett attended as many of the regular NCWSS BOD meetings and WSSA Science Policy Committee Meetings as possible. Brett will be replaced in this position on the WSSA BOD by Erin Burns, Michigan State University, and will transition to Vice President of NCWSS.

Future annual meeting locations, hotels, dates

2024, 79th Annual Meeting in Kansas City, MO – December 7-13, 2024

2025, 80th Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids, MI – December 15-18, 2025

2026, 81st Annual Meeting in Columbus, OH – Proposed to be a joint meeting with NEWSS

Northeast Weed Science Society (Steve Pyle)

2024 NEWSS Executive Committee Officers

President – Erin Hitchner - erin.hitchner@syngenta.com

President Elect - Thierry Besançon - thierry.besancon@rutgers.edu

Past President – Wes Everman - wes_everman@ncsu.edu

Vice President – Kate Venner – katelyn.venner@basf.com

Treasurer - Larissa Smith - larissa.smith@syngenta.com

Committees and Representatives

Membership Chair – Matt Elmore – Matthew.Elmore@rutgers.com

Editor – Vijay Singh - vijaysingh@vt.edu

Graduate Student Rep. – Eli Russell - ecrussell@vt.edu

Graduate Student Rep Elect – Navdeep Godara - ngodara@vt.edu

Research and Education – Carolyn Lowry - cvl5836@psu.edu

Sustaining Membership/Weed Contest – Cajo Brunharo – brunharo@psu.edu

Public Relations - John Kaminski - kaminski@psu.edu

Media Communications - Lynn Sosnoskie – lms438@cornell.edu

WSSA Representative – Steve Pyle – steve.pyle@syngenta.com

CAST Representative - Anthony Witcher - awitcher@Tnstate.edu

Science Policy Director – Lee VanWychen - lee.vanwychen@wssa.net

Weed Contest

The NEWSS Student Weed Contest is being planned for July 30, 2024, with North Carolina State University serving as host for the event.

Annual Meeting

2024 - The 77th Annual Meeting of the NEWSS Meeting was successfully held in person at the Hyatt Regency Boston, MA January 8-11, 2024.

2025 - The 78th Annual Meeting will be held in Annapolis, MD at the Graduate Hotel January 6-9, 2025

2026 – The 79th Annual Meeting location and host hotel venue is currently being determined for January 2026 and will be communicated once selected.

2027 – The 80th Annual Meeting is proposed to meet jointly with the NCWSS in Columbus, OH in Dec 2026 rather than our customary Jan. 2027 time.

Western Society of Weed Science (Alan Helm)

WSWW is preparing for their annual meeting in March 2024. There will be two symposia: Palmer amaranth in the west and EPA. The upcoming meeting is in Denver, CO and the 2025 meeting will be in Seattle, WA.

Canadian Weed Science Society (Darren Robinson)

None.

APMS (Benjamin Sperry)

None.

Social Media Update: Eric Gustafson

Social media is an additional way to communicate society news/events/etc. Amy, social media lead, is a contractor and her contract is annual. Amy is not in attendance at WSSA. The BOD feels like the content has been great, but there have been missed opportunities.

Social media accounts include Instagram, Facebook, Twitter. There was initially rapid growth, but the growth has levelled off. This could be due to new social media algorithms. Lynn notes that there has been a lot of change on social media platforms, and this could be a reason why there has not been as much growth this past year.

Finance Committee: Greg Elmore

Financial Health

The financial health is improving.

Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2024:

U.S. Bank \$286,209.98

General Fund \$1,711,729.80

Endowment Fund \$482,182.88

CD Account \$157,979.21

Inventory Asset \$596.37

Total Assets \$2,638,698.24

Innovative Grants

Fifteen submissions were received and two were funded. Feedback was provided to all submitters. A few minor changes to the call for submissions have been made for clarity.

IWSS

IWSS has requested \$15,000 from WSSA to support student travel. The finance committee is recommending matching IWSS up to \$12,000 pending if the IWSS meeting is happening. There was a question surrounding whether inflation was considered. Greg says no. Finances, in the past, have been limited to students in the Western hemisphere. WSSA would like the funds to go to WSSA student members. The BOD would like to ask the Finance Committee to increase the student travel funds to \$15,000.

Committee Budgets

Several committees have requested funding for 2024: CAST, NIFA, FICMNEW, Constitution and Operating Procedures.

Co-Director of Publications: Chris Willenborg and Sarah Ward

Financial Reports

Cambridge University Press has been invoiced (Dec. 12, 2023) for the following amounts for 2024 as per our contract: Support for journal editor stipends: \$52,000 and Sponsorship Fee (for support of Outstanding Paper awards): \$6,000.

2024 Revenue Forecast from CUP

The forecast total income for WSSA journals in 2024 is \$143,273 (\$157,022 in 2023), with forecast royalties to WSSA (39%) of \$99,273 (\$113,022 in 2023). Guaranteed payment to

WSSA (80% of forecast royalties excluding BioOne) for 2024 is \$79,778 plus \$6,000 award sponsorship fee and \$58,000 editorial stipend support less the \$20,000 hosting charge. CUP has been invoiced for \$79,778. The transition to Open Access may hurt the overall revenue some. There were conversations surrounding how to increase submissions. Pamela suggested a booth at regional meetings and Eric suggested a recorded webinar.

WSSA Newsletter

Carl Libbey continued to do an excellent job as Newsletter Editor in 2023, 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. Several large and timely reports on the work in Washington were submitted by Lee van Wychen, and several notices on the transition of the journals to open access were also included in this year's volume.

WSSA journals in 2023

2023 was the seventh year with Cambridge University Press (CUP) as our WSSA publishing partner. The strength of this relationship was reaffirmed when Sarah and Chris visited CUP in December of 2023. All Editors and DPs spent time in a series of strategic development sessions with the CUP Managing Editor for the WSSA journals. Topics mainly focused on submission rates, editorial board positions, journal templates, potential new article types, etc.

Over the course of 2023, Chris and Sarah 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). As part of this, we engage in the Transformative Journals process, with a commitment to transitioning to open access in the future. Weed Technology flipped to open access in early December. Weed Science will become open access in 2024, and IPSM will follow in 2025.

WSSA journal metrics in 2023 (2022 figures in parentheses)

Clarivate Analytics impact factors released in 2023 (for the publication year 2022) showed a decline in impact factor for all WSSA journals, although only a very slight decline for Weed Science. 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. The number of published articles increased compared to 2022 for Weed Science and IPSM and declined slightly for Weed Technology. The increase for IPSM and Weed Science reverses a decline in the number of published articles over the past couple of years.

Weed Science

Manuscripts submitted: 172 (160)

Acceptance rate: 46% (40%)

Total page number for 2022 volume: 614 (714)

Number published articles: 60 (77)

Mean time from submission to first decision: 44 days (41 days)

Impact factor 2.5 (2.58)

a. 26/88/90 Agronomy Journals

b. 102/239 Plant Sciences Journals

Weed Technology

Manuscripts submitted: 154 (160)

Acceptance rate: 60% (59%)

Total page number for 2022 volume: 669 (739)

Number published articles: 91 (98)

Mean time from submission to first decision: 49 days (49 days)

Impact factor: 1.4 (1.81)

a. 58/88 Agronomy Journals

b. 160/239 Plant Sciences Journals

IPSM

Manuscripts submitted: 60 (42)

Acceptance rate: 53% (59%)

Total page number for 2022 volume: 258 (159)

Number published articles: 25 (26)

Mean time from submission to first decision: 42 days (51 days)

Impact factor 1.1 (1.333)

a. 182/239 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. Unfortunately, our long-time contract writer for these pieces, Linda Edgerton, retired in 2023. Going forward, Chris and Sarah are pleased to be working with John Pocock, who replaces Linda. 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 twitter page to provide greater visibility.

Herbicide Handbook

The Herbicide Handbook is still being developed and will not be published in 2024 likely. Ian notes that there are several hurdles including obtaining herbicide information not registered in North America. Several resources are no longer available either.

Funds spent in 2023

Editorial stipends: \$52,500 Outstanding Paper and Outstanding Reviewer awards: \$6,000

Payment to Linda Edgerton/John Pocock for writing featured article press and blog releases: \$3,132.50 (\$6,000 budgeted).

BREAK (9:00AM to 1:00PM CST)

Note: Bill Chism and Jill Schroeder joined the meeting.

EDSP – Science Policy Update: Lee Van Wychen

2023 – 2024 Science Policy Committee Members

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------|
| 1. Janis McFarland | Chair | WSSA |
| 2. Lee Van Wychen | Executive Director Science Policy | WSSA |

3. Stanley Culpepper	Past President	WSSA
4. Carroll Moseley	President	WSSA
5. Greg Dahl	President-elect	WSSA
6. Hilary Sandler	Vice President	WSSA
7. Mark VanGessel	EPA Liaison	WSSA
8. Jim Kells	NIFA Fellow	WSSA
9. Jill Schroeder	CAST rep	WSSA
10. Caren Schmidt	Public Awareness	WSSA
11. David Shaw	At-Large	WSSA
12. Mike Barrett	At-Large	WSSA
13. Craig Alford	At-Large	WSSA
14. Ray McAllister	At-Large	WSSA
15. Jay Ferrell	President	APMS
16. Rob Richardson	APMS Rep	APMS
17. Reid Simpson	President	NCWSS
18. Brett Miller	NCWSS Rep	NCWSS
19. Wes Everman	President	NEWSS
20. Steve Pyle	NEWSS Rep	NEWSS
21. Eric Castner	President	SWSS
22. Todd Baughman	SWSS Rep	SWSS
23. Curtis Rainbolt	President	WSWS
24. John Vickery	WSWS Rep	WSWS

<u>Member Rotating Off:</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Replacement:</u>
Brett Hartis	APMS President	Jay Ferrell
Reid Simpson	NCWSS President	Dawn Refsell
Wes Everman	NEWSS President	Erin Hitchner
Eric Castner	SWSS President	Todd Baughman
Curtis Rainbolt	WSWS President	Tim Prather
Stanley Culpepper	WSSA	Ian Burke
Caren Schmidt	WSSA Public Awareness	Bart Clewis

Science Policy Fellows

Two Science Policy Fellows were selected for 2023-2024. Cynthia Sias was a third year Ph.D. student at Virginia Tech University studying under the direction of Dr. Michael Flessner and completed her degree in December 2023. Annu Kumari, is a third-year Ph.D. student at Auburn University, pursuing her doctorate degree with Dr. Andrew Price and co-advised by Dr. Steve Li. Lee will advertise for the 2024-2025 Science Policy Fellows after the WSSA annual meeting with an application deadline of Monday, April 1, 2024.

Newsletter Reports and Washington Updates Submitted

WSSA- 4; APMS- 2; NCWSS- 3; NEWSS- 3; SWSS- 3; and WSWS- 3

WSSA Committee Work

Lee continues to work with numerous WSSA committees on various weed science policy issues. This includes:

- Public Awareness Committee: advising, reviewing, and editing weed science related press releases (approx. 20 meetings per year and 12-15 press releases).
- Standardized Plant Names Committee: Continue to update WSSA's composite list of weeds as well as syncing with the USDA Plants Database.
- Research Priorities Committee: Continue to disseminate and highlight the 2023 weed research priorities survey.
- Website Committee- Continue work to update and refresh the new WSSA website with all things science policy.
- Invasive Plants Committee: Advocating and planning for NISAW issues. Maintaining a strong presence in the invasive plant community and promoting the Invasive Plant Science and Management journal.
- Endangered Species Act Committee: Helping assimilate and circulate information on how the Endangered Species Act (ESA) will impact weed management in agriculture and the environment. Lee worked with Bill Chism, Stanley Culpepper, and the entire committee to write, review, and submit almost 100 pages of federal docket comments on EPA draft proposals for ESA mitigations.
- Herbicide Resistance Education- oversight on how we can advocate for Federal public policy that will reduce herbicide resistance but keep a level economic playing field.

Weed Science Society Presidents Congressional Visits in April

Lee organized 14 Congressional visits on weed science issues with the Weed Science Society presidents. This included Carroll Moseley (WSSA), Reid Smeda (NCWSS), Wes Everman (NEWSS), Eric Castner (SWSS) and Curtis Rainbolt (WSWS). Lee also organized and conducted eight Congressional visits for the two Science Policy Fellows in October that focused on similar issues. These issues included USDA IR-4 funding and USDA CPPM funding primarily. Other issues were discussed as well.

Endangered Species

On February 14, 2023, the WSSA, along with APMS, NCWSS, NEWSS, SWSS and WSWS submitted comments in response to EPA's request for information on its draft Endangered Species Act (ESA) Workplan Update. This is a major step for EPA to harmonize its obligations under the ESA and FIFRA. EPA has stated previously as part of its earlier Workplan document, issued in April 2022, that using the present approaches, EPA would complete only 5 percent of the ESA required reviews in about 18 years -- implying that the current approach to get through re-registration of all herbicides would take about 360 years to complete.

The draft ESA Workplan Update provides more details about how EPA plans to impose various mitigation measures that will be required on pesticide labels to meet its ESA obligations when registering a pesticide. The two main mitigation strategies involve pesticide off-target movement from 1) spray drift and 2) runoff/erosion. There are concerns about some of the mitigation

options such as “buffers to reduce pesticide drift and water runoff” or “do not use when rain is expected in the next 48 hours” — which raises other issues such as what or how compliance might be proven or enforced. The draft ESA Workplan Update also describes initiatives that, according to EPA, will help it and other federal agencies improve approaches to mitigation under the ESA and improve the interagency consultation process outlined in the ESA Workplan. These initiatives include EPA’s work to identify ESA mitigation measures for pilot species (e.g. American burying beetle, Mead’s milkweed), incorporate early ESA mitigation measures for groups of pesticides (e.g., herbicides, insecticides, fungicides), and develop region-specific ESA mitigations (e.g. Hawaii, Puerto Rico).

On June 6, 2023, EPA’s Vulnerable Species Pilot (VSP) identified 27 species that are classified as either endangered or threatened based on documentation from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). EPA considers these species to have a medium or high overall vulnerability to pesticides. On August 6, 2023, the WSSA submitted comments on the EPA’s VSP project, requesting the agency consider the many benefits of developing WSSA-EPA working groups to cooperatively and more effectively address issues facing herbicides, including the ESA. The WSSA is also committed to working with the agency to 1) generate dependable, accurate, and usable science-based data, and 2) provide a direct connection to research and extension experts working with herbicides across environments in real-world situations. On November 21, 2023, EPA published an update on its VSP project based on the 10,000 plus comments (200 unique comments) they received during the 45-day comment period. On October 22, 2023, the Weed Science Societies provided comments to improve EPA’s “Herbicide Strategy” for its ESA mitigations in its draft workplan. WSSA suggested nine additional ways to mitigate the impact of herbicides on listed species due to spray drift, which includes decreased buffers for ultra-coarse droplets, additional types of vegetation to intercept spray droplets and grower education.

WSSA also suggest six additional ways to mitigate herbicide runoff and erosion, which also includes grower education, more specific terminology for agricultural vs specialty crops as well as assigning more compensatory mitigation points for fields with subsurface drainage or cover crop practices.

Most importantly, the Weed Science Societies stressed that grower education will be the most effective way to implement EPA’s Herbicide Strategy. WSSA recommends a minimum of a 3–5-year phase-in period for the herbicide strategy ESA mitigation practices, which corresponds to the 3-5-year interval that pesticide applicators must be recertified.

EPA Pesticide Label Reform is Finally Happening

On November 15, EPA released a white paper titled “Benefits of the Adoption of Structured Content and Digital Pesticide Labels” and is requesting feedback on its plan to adopt digital pesticide labels that will make labeling information clearer, more consistent, and more accessible to users.

EPA's plan for digital labels covers the creation of both a structured label—which would provide a framework for consistently placing and ordering label information—and a digital label, which would organize the label information as electronic data.

Currently, the pesticide product label registration process is mostly manual, with EPA staff reading through long, detailed label submissions to pull out specific information, like application rate, to enter the EPA's Pesticide Product and Label System.

This has led to time-consuming reviews and high cost to registrants and regulators. Further, the increasing complexity of pesticide labels and lack of standardized label format and language can create challenges for pesticide users and the public seeking information about which products to use and how to use them.

Moving from traditional labels to digital labels and providing a database of accepted label language would make submitting label content simpler and more consistent for all pesticide registrants and would improve the Agency's ability to review and access submissions efficiently.

EPA is requesting public comment on all aspects of structured digital labels, including: anticipated benefits: risks and challenges, key information fields (such as pesticide use site, formulation, and maximum application rate), and potential phases of adoption.

The whitepaper will be open for comment until March 14, 2024, on docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2023-0562.

EPA Releases Final Report from FIFRA SAP Regarding the Use of 11 Controversial Atrazine Cosm Studies

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) provides independent scientific advice to the EPA on health and safety issues related to pesticides. The FIFRA SAP conducted on August 22-24, 2023, was titled: "Examination of Microcosm/Mesocosm Studies for Evaluating the Effects of Atrazine on Aquatic Plant Communities".

To protect aquatic plant communities from the effects of atrazine, EPA developed an aquatic plant community-based concentration-equivalent level of concern (CE-LOC). The CE-LOC is determined using a combination of single-species aquatic plant toxicity studies and microcosm/mesocosm (cosm) studies. The cosm studies included in the CE-LOC calculation can be defined as complex experiments used to examine aquatic plant communities under semi-controlled conditions that simulate natural environments. Endpoints for these cosm studies were defined as single determinations of the response of one or more components of the aquatic plant community (e.g., phytoplankton, periphyton, macrophytes) for a defined individual atrazine test concentration as it relates to the controls in the study.

On November 16, 2023, the FIFRA SAP final report on the use of the 11 atrazine cosm studies was released. Based on the SAP's discussions, most of the 11 atrazine cosm studies in question did suffer from various flaws and should not be used to calculate a CE-LOC for atrazine. There are nearly 50 other cosm studies that meet EPA's criteria for inclusion in its cosm database. If EPA follows the 2023 FIFRA SAP's recommendations, they would be using the best available science to calculate the CE-LOC for atrazine, which would likely mean a higher atrazine CE-LOC.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Land

Seven herbicides have been approved for use on BLM land.

NISAW is February 26 – March 3, 2024.

The 25th anniversary of National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) will occur from Feb. 26 – Mar. 3, 2024. The 2024 NISAW webinar series is listed below. NISAW will be virtual this year because the House decided to take recess that week.

2024-2025 Proposed Committee Activities

1. Promote and advocate funding for weeds & invasive plant programs in FY 2024 and FY 2025 budget
 - a. Increase IR-4 funding to \$25 million and CPPM funding to \$25 million
 - b. Increase funding for DOI programs that support invasive weed research, prevention, and management within BLM, USGS, NPS, FWS and USFS.
 - c. Support cost share language in 2024 WRDA (Water Resource and Development Act).
 - d. Support \$10 million appropriation for the DOT Invasive Plant Elimination Program.
2. Work to expand the definition of a "Plant Pest" under the Plant Protection Act (PPA) to include "noxious weeds". Funding for noxious weeds at APHIS-PPQ is severely hampered because noxious weeds are not considered a "plant pest". Only "parasitic plants" are considered a plant pest in the PPA (7 U.S.C. 7702).
3. Monitor and provide input to improve EPA's Endangered Species Act Protection Program.
4. Conduct and report the 2024 National Weed Survey for Most Common and Troublesome weeds. Write a manuscript to summarize weed survey data from 2015 to 2023.
5. Hire and conduct a training program for two Science Policy Fellows
6. Work to support the USDA-ARS National Program Leader for Weed Science.
7. Work with WSSA-EPA Liaison on herbicide stewardship and other FIFRA regulatory issues.
8. Work with WSSA-NIFA Fellow to promote weed science research and funding.

9. Support funding for the Aquatic Plant Control Research Program and other APMS priorities (\$6 million for CT River hydrilla research and management).
10. Monitor and provide input to the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR).
11. Support 2024 National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) and strategize for 2025. Investigate the possibility for a national invasive species prevention and management fund.
12. Continue work with the WSSA Standardized Plants Name Committee to sync USDA Plants Database with WSSA Composite List of Weeds.
13. Sell Weed Bingo. Lee handed out 22 games to Congressional offices in 2023.

Funds Requested for 2024

The Science Policy Committee's (SPC) annual budget allocation is \$6,000. Investigating additional resources needed for part time Science Policy work to help WSSA uphold its mission and achieve the goals of its strategic plan. WSSA is supporting NISAW at \$2500 as a "Partner" sponsor for 2024. This is the same amount WSSA approved last year for NISAW.

ESA Committee: Bill Chism

An Endangered Species workshop was conducted at the WSSA 2023 annual meeting to find out what scientific information the WSSA members could provide the EPA, FWS, NMFS, and USDA for their endangered species assessments. A workshop took place on January 31, 2023, and over 170 people attended. The workshop provided suggestions for communications, label reform, mitigations, and phytotoxicity testing. The Endangered Species Act webpage was created on the WSSA website and includes background information on landing page, links to EPA webpage on Bulletins Live 2, glossary of terms, and links to lists of threatened and endangered species on Fish and Wildlife and National Marine Fisheries Services websites. A subcommittee with 14 weed scientists was developed to work on label structure. Several committee members are working directly with the U.S. EPA and U.S. FWS on mapping threatened and endangered species and farm field's locations. Endangered Species gave numerous presentations by committee members including a NCFAR Lunch-N-Learn presentation on Capitol Hill in June 2023. The committee provided 34 pages of comments on October 22, 2023, to the EPA on the Draft Herbicide Strategy Proposal. The committee also provided 15 pages of comments on August 6, 2023, to the EPA on the Vulnerable Species Strategy.

The ESA Committee is currently a Special Committee (created in January 2022) and would like to be converted to a Standing Committee. John Lindquist has approved the MOP language Stanley presented. Greg notes that there is very little industry involvement on the committee. Bill notes that there is still communication occurring on this committee with industry on specific items. Further, a relationship with EPA was necessary. Stanley notes that this committee requires flexibility. Ian notes that most of the committee is rotating off in 2027 and asks if it would be

beneficial to stagger those dates. Stanley says no that the committee was designed this way and people will have the option to stay on the committee for a second term.

Motion to move the ESA Committee from a Special Committee to a Standing Committee by Stanley Culpepper at 2:15PM CST. Seconded by Greg Dahl. Motion passed unanimously.

Note: Bill left the meeting.

BREAK (2:20PM to 2:40PM CST)

Approval of Previous BOD Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve previous BOD meeting minutes by Alan Helm at 2:42PM CST. Seconded by Peter Dotray. Motion passed unanimously.

FICMNEW Support Request: Carroll Moseley and Eric Gustafson

The Federal Interagency for Management of Noxious & Exotic Weeds (FIMNEW) has asked WSSA to host the North America Invasive Species Forum in May 2025. FIMNEW has also asked if WSSA can provide fiscal organizational support to accept registrations fees and sponsorship on behalf of the organization. Eric notes that IMI would charge WSSA for an additional meeting and the funds would go into the WSSA bank account. The BOD is unclear on several details, such as is this an in-person or virtual meeting, what the costs are estimated to be, etc., and would like to have a virtual meeting to discuss these questions further. IMI requires a scope of service additionally. Eric will follow up with FIMNEW.

Standing Committee Reports

Committee reports can be found on the WSSA website.

CAST: Jill Schroeder

Jill attended the annual meeting of the CAST Boards that was held in College Station, TX November 7-9, 2023. As a Board of Representatives member, she serves on the Plant Agriculture and Environmental Issues Working Group (Plant Working Group) and attends the general session and workgroup meetings. Jill regularly attends 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. She was a board liaison for the issue paper “Preventing the next invasive plant: Opportunities and Challenges”. 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. Greg Dahl 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 to 2024 series of webinars that discuss each paper; the final report (full series of papers) will be released in 2024. Jill continues to work with WSWS, NEWSS, NCWSS, and APMS on the Board of Representatives. SWSS has rejoined CAST. She 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).

There was a recent publication and webinar release of the paper "RNA Interference in Agriculture: Methods, Applications, and Governance." The paper "Preventing the Next Invasive Plant: Opportunities and Challenges," will be released on February 27 (tentative) as a webinar scheduled during NAISMA. The paper is undergoing peer review and final editing but is on schedule. The webinar is scheduled from 1:00 to 2:00PM CST on Feb. 29.

Jill thanks Pamela and the GSO for the communication and efforts to increase engagement.

Diversity Survey: Lynn Sosnoskie

The WSSA society is changing demographically and there is value in knowing where we are and how we can grow as a membership. Additionally, many universities have a diversity clause in job positions and there is no known information to provide to the public. Lynn has reached out to other societies on how they capture this information within their organizations. The difficulty is not in developing the survey, but how/who to maintain and keep the sensitive data safe/secure. The main concern is around protecting the information. Lynn asks if IMI keeps any data like this or knows where to begin. Eric works with another society that may be collecting similar data but is unsure what happens with the data once collected. He will investigate this further. Eric asks how long WSSA will need to keep the data. Discussion surrounding data storage and possible options.

Lynn will send out a sample survey to the BOD.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Adjourn for the day (4:17PM CST)

WSSA Board of Directors Meeting Continued

January 22, 2024

In attendance:

Carroll Moseley, Eric Gustafson, Greg Dahl, Pamela Carvalho-Moore, Lauren Lazaro, Hilary Sandler, Christian Willenborg, Michael Flessner, Greg Elmore, Stanley Culpepper, Bret Miller, Alan Helm, Lee Van Wychen, Ian Burke, Peter Dotray, Kelly Backscheider, Steve Pyle, Lynn Sosnoskie (virtual), John Lindquist (virtual), Jim Kells (guest), Janis McFarland (guest), Sarah Lancaster (guest)

Call to Order

Carroll Moseley at 7:01AM CST.

Introductions

Website Committee: Sarah Lancaster

The website launched this month. The overall goals for the new website included reducing the number of external links, improving how to navigate the website, and making the website more visually appealing. The website committee are looking for photos for the website. Sarah asks committees to review their information on the website for accuracy. Eric notes that this should be done quarterly. Sarah has one more year as chair of the website committee. Stanley thanks Sarah and the committee for all their hard work.

NIFA: Jim Kells

NIFA maintains a database for scientists willing to serve on competitive grant panels. The last call for volunteers led to a modest number of weed scientists included in this database. More weed scientists were needed for this database. Two approaches have been implemented to recruit more weed scientists to volunteer. 1) Jim sent personal invitations to 41 weed scientists encouraging them to volunteer. He received 16 responses, of which 12 indicated that they had submitted their information to the NIFA reviewer volunteer system. Others indicated that they had already volunteered. 2) With the exceptional assistance of the WSSA Science Policy Fellows, a poster was created entitled “Advancing Weed Science Research, Extension, and Education: NIFA Grants and Panel Reviewer Opportunities”. The poster includes a QR code for an electronic version with links to each of the key NIFA competitive grant programs related to weed science. Authors are Annu Kumari, Cynthia Sias, James Kells, Vijay Nandula, and Lee Van Wychen. The poster has been presented at NCWSS and NEWSS and will be presented at WSSA/SWSS and WSWS. Carroll suggests that Jim should investigate a WSSA committee, such as the Research Priorities committee, to help recruit reviewers as well. Several ideas were suggested by the BOD to facilitate this. Jim notes that his biggest learning through this has been that general announcements do not yield results, but personalized emails work much better.

Jim’s NIFA term is ending in 2024 and a new NIFA fellow will need to be recruited.

Old Business

Government Travel Request

WSSA has been asked to write a letter to the EPA on what WSSA is proposing in terms of travel assistance for government employees to attend the annual meeting. A consideration is that this needs to extend to other government agencies. Congress is requiring that about \$1 million of their budget is spent on training. Peter asks if the WSSA annual meeting can be considered a training event or does society need to add a section in.

New Business

None.

BREAK (7:50AM to 8:00AM CST)

Note: Jim, Eric, and Sarah left the meeting

Science Policy: Janis McFarland

Janis and Lee are requesting additional resources for part time Science Policy work to help WSSA uphold its mission and achieve the goals of its Strategic Plan. Janis and Lee are working on a formal proposal for \$25,000 for flexible spending for the liaisons to present to the BOD at the summer board meeting. Additionally, the Science Policy committee would like to recommend that other groups, such as ARS, etc., have a liaison as well.

Note: Lee left the meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Alan Helm at 8:25AM CST. Seconded by Greg Elmore. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to enter executive session made by Hilary Sandler at 8:26AM CST. Seconded by Bret Miller. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to leave executive session made by Hilary Sandler at 9:02AM CST. Seconded by Alan Helm. Motion passed unanimously.