

## WSSA Board of Directors Meeting

August 24-25, 2022

**August 24, 2022**

### **In attendance:**

Eric Gustafson, Stanley Culpepper, Lauren Lazaro, Bill Chism, Greg Elmore, John Byrd (zoom), John Lindquist (zoom), Carroll Moseley, Anita Dille (zoom), Alan Helm, Steven Pyle, Sarah Kezar, Greg Dahl, Michael Flessner, Darren Robinson (zoom), Christian Willenborg (zoom), Lynn Sosonskie, Jim Kells, Jill Schroeder, Phil Banks, Brett Miller

### **Call to Order:**

Stanley Culpepper at 7:50AM EST

### **Roll Call**

### **Crop Life America: Ray McAllister**

Trade association of about 80 to 100 members that include law consultants, regulatory, and food and beverage. Top priority is the Pesticide Reapproval Initiation Act, a section of FIFRA, which expires every five years. An increase in EPA funding is needed. Ray discussed the general regulatory process and answered questions surrounding this. Registration review occurs every 15 years (October 2022 deadline) – this includes an endangered species review. Crop Life is looking to improve data visibility/access, risk assessment prioritization, improve electronic access to labels and knowledge of where a product can be applied on a field-to-field basis, communicating the process and outcome of product registration, improve documentation surrounding Endangered Species Act decisions, and to distribute mitigation efforts.

### **Approval of Previous BOD Meeting Minutes:**

**Motion to approve with minor changes made by Stanley Culpepper at 9:09 AM. Seconded by Alan Helm. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **Approval of Agenda:**

**Motion to approve made by Greg Dahl at 9:11 AM. Seconded by Lynn Sosonskie. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **Regional Updates**

Northeast Weed Science Society (Steve Pyle)

NEWSS held their weed contest in Guelph, Ontario. The meeting was to be co-held by Syngenta and the University of Guelph. A mini annual meeting was held during the weed contest for student benefit. Six students presented papers and five students presented posters. Eight teams

participated in the weeds contest. A BOD meeting was held at the end of the week. Steve notes that more involvement/support is needed from WSSA overall.

#### Southern Weed Science Society (John Byrd)

SWSS BOD meeting occurred last month in Baton Rouge, LA with the annual meeting planned for January 23 to 26, 2023. The 2024 meeting will be a joint meeting with WSSA in San Antonio, TX. Stanley asked John what WSSA can do to support SWSS better. John responds with more involvement/communication overall.

#### North Central Weed Science Society (Brett Miller)

The NCWSS BOD completed a review and updating of the Manual of Operating Procedures (MOP) during the past year. The 2022 Student Weed Contest was hosted by Corteva in Johnston, IA on July 28 with 96 student contestants comprising 15 graduate and 7 undergraduate teams. A team from Purdue won the graduate team award while Univ of Illinois won the undergraduate team award. Full list of winners was published in the summer newsletter.

The 77th Annual Meeting will be at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch - December 5 to 8, 2022. Call for papers and posters has gone out and the paper submission site is open with titles due by Friday September 9.

Future annual meetings:

2023, 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Hyatt, Minneapolis, MN

2024, 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Kansas City, MO

2025, 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting - site selection currently in progress

#### Canadian Weed Science Society (Darren Robinson)

Annual meeting is November 14 to 17, 2022 and is a joint meeting. They are looking forward to the joint meeting with WSSA in 2025. The 2023 meeting will be held in Manitoba. A few new BOD members are being selected – treasurer and executive secretary. Darren is the current VP and plans to initiate a student travel enrichment program.

#### Western Society of Weed Science (Alan Helm)

WSWS had a BOD meeting August 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in Boise, ID. There is excitement around the venue/area. Alan noted that WSSA can support WSWS better by having better attendance from WSSA BOD at the meeting.

#### APMS (Ben Sperry)

Not in attendance.

#### **Membership Survey: Greg Dahl**

The membership survey was sent out in May 2022.

Results: About 200 people (about 35% of society) responded to the survey. 44% of survey participants plan to attend the annual meeting in person. 75% of participants preferred 15-minute

presentations versus 10-minute presentations. Committee meetings will be held in-person prior to the annual meeting – this has been beneficial in the past few meetings. 56% of survey participants would like an electronic version of the Herbicide Handbook (currently on the WSSA website for \$35). 46% attended the joint WSSA/CWSS meeting in 2022. One third of participants did view the prerecorded presentations of the 2022 meeting. Over 66% of those taking the survey did not attend the Endangered Species Act webinar but of those remaining survey participants over 25% were satisfied to very satisfied. Similar results were seen for the USDA-NIFA grant webinar held on March 22, 2022 and the USDA-ARS webinar held on April 5 to June 7, 2022 (2% (5 people) were dissatisfied). 95% of people said that WSSA should continue to hold webinars, with 54% of people suggesting that four webinars per year is ideal. The top five suggested topics for webinars (open ended question) included weed science, communication, herbicide use, student related discussions, and policies/regulations. 20% of people were willing to help with webinars. 40 and 25% of participants were university and industry, respectively. The remainder included retired, regulatory, student, or land managers with roles that were primarily research, extension, or teaching/training. When asked if participants are aware of NAISMA, only 47% were aware of the organization and 68% were aware of CAST activities. A breakdown of which affiliated societies participants were a member of was made as well as how long participants have been a member of WSSA. The top three areas that WSSA leadership should be more engaged (open ended question) include weed management and regulations, mode of action/environment protection, and collaboration with other societies/government. When asked to define approaches in which WSSA can serve more effectively, the top responses (open ended question) included teaching students, funding for research, membership/roles, collaboration, and communication. A ranking of USDA sources of weed research and funding was included. The main take away is that the society is knowledgeable on funding opportunities. A follow-up question on which federal agencies would be considered as the most important for promoting research, education, and awareness of weeds and the top answers were NSF, BLM, and USFS.

Lynn made a comment that when surveys are collected there needs to be an added diversity component to increase society awareness to make sure that WSSA is reaching a wide range of audiences. Ideas on how to capture this included using the membership survey, a QR code at the annual meetings, include the questions in annual membership renewal. It was noted that answering these questions must be optional. Greg and Lynn will lead this effort and present at the next BOD meeting.

### **BREAK (10:07 to 10:20 AM EST)**

#### **CAST: Jill Schroeder**

##### Summary of Activities

1. Jill regularly attends and participates in the monthly meetings of the Plant Working Group (zoom meetings).
2. Jill is the board liaison for the issue paper “Preventing the next invasive plant: Opportunities and Challenges”. The proposal was developed by the following representatives from WSSA and NIASMA: Jacob Barney, David Coyle, Erik Lehnhoff, Daniel Tekiela, Paul Tseng. The paper is

in progress. Co-task force chairs have been recruited; they developed an outline and recommended task force members who have been invited to work on this project. A task force meeting will convene once a team is in place to assign writing responsibilities and establish the timeline for completion. Issue papers usually take approximately 6 months to complete once the task force has been assembled.

3. Greg Dahl, WSWS representative, worked with Matt Baur (WIPM Director and proposal lead) and WSWS representatives to develop a proposal for an issue paper “Integrated management of fire-adapted invasive plants responsible for changing wildfire regimes”. The proposal has been approved by the Plant Workgroup and Board of Trustees; the Board of Directors is reviewing the proposal. Lyn Gettys, APMS representative, is the board liaison for an issue paper on the topic of Harmful Algal Blooms Function and impact - HAB (Harmful Algal Bloom). The paper is in final review and editing so should be published this year.

4. Jill will continue to work with her weed science counterparts who represent WSWS, NEWSS, NCWSS, and APMS on the Board of Representatives. Lee VanWychen has been part of many conversations.

5. Jill volunteered to represent the Plant Working Group on the CAST strategic planning workgroup on project implementation. The group meets quarterly.

6. The annual meeting of all the CAST boards is scheduled for October 25-27 in Ames, Iowa. The meeting will include a celebration of the 50-year anniversary of the founding of CAST. WSSA is a founding member of the organization.

7. The representatives of the Weed Science Societies who are members of CAST worked with Kent Schescke to propose a symposium for the 2023 WSSA meeting. Unfortunately, the proposal was not selected for the program. Jill will likely submit a poster for the meeting.

#### Recommendations for Board Action:

Funds requested for travel: Reimbursement of Jill’s travel expenses to attend the October 2022 annual meeting of the CAST Boards. In addition, CAST is soliciting sponsors for the annual meeting.

#### **NIFA Fellow: Jim Kells**

##### NIFA Staff Update

Many NIFA staff have been approved for 100% remote work. Vijay Nandula is my primary contact within NIFA and we have worked on several projects over the past year. My primary contact in Washington D.C., Mathieu Ngouajio, is now working 100% remote and has relocated out of the D.C. area.

##### Recent Activities

Webinars. Two webinars were conducted on March 22 and March 29, focusing specifically on NIFA grant programs where proposals involving weeds could be competitive. A total of seven NIFA National Program Leaders and one National Science Liaison presented in the webinars. This was an in-depth discussion of both traditional weed science programs and funding programs where there are opportunities for weed scientists to get involved (such as climate, precision technologies, etc.). The recordings are posted on the WSSA web site. Unfortunately, attendance was modest.

2022 WSSA Member Survey for Research Priorities. Jim, Dan Brainard, and the WSSA Research Priorities Committee (E6) on the member survey. A manuscript on the survey results is

in preparation and Jim is responsible for drafting a section on research funding. The results of this survey will be extremely valuable in advocating for weed science priority research needs. Monthly Meetings. Jim meets by Zoom monthly with Vijay Nandula to discuss current opportunities and future plans. Vijay has invited several other NPLs to join these meetings as a means of introducing me and expanding the discussion of WSSA priorities to others within NIFA. Lee VanWychen, Vijay Nandula and Jim are meeting frequently with Steve Young (ARS) and Cameron Douglas (USDA). The group has recently been expanded to include Mark VanGessel and Bill Chism (EPA – retired).

### Future Priorities

Symposium for the 2023 WSSA Annual Meeting entitled “WSSA Research Priorities Survey Results: 13 Federal Agency-Perspectives and -Funding Opportunities”. The goal of this symposium is to identify federal sources of funding for weed science research and management and to serve as a starting point for re-envisioning of weed science as an advancing field of study and practice. Insight from the 2022 WSSA Member Survey will be shared at the symposium, which will facilitate a discussion on the future of weed science in terms of research needs, program support, and national initiatives. This symposium will provide an opportunity for a productive dialogue among federal agency leaders and WSSA attendees.

International Weed Genomics Consortium (IWGC) Conference. A second conference is planned for the day before the 2023 WSSA Annual Meeting in Alexandria, VA. One important goal is to create a white paper on research needs, that will hopefully be used by NIFA as a roadmap for weed genomics research as new funding initiatives are considered.

Advocacy for WSSA Research Funding Priorities: Jim will continue to advocate for priority areas of research as identified by WSSA. Two priority areas that have been emphasized, based on the last WSSA member survey, are 1) new technologies for precision mechanical weed control and 2) molecular biology and genomic tools to understand the biology of weeds.

Communication with WSSA Members: Jim will continue to keep WSSA members informed of funding opportunities through the NIFA competitive grants programs along with other federal funding and career opportunities.

Recruitment of Volunteers to Serve on NIFA Panels. NIFA has a new database for scientists willing to serve on competitive grants panels.

Jim asks the BOD that his term be reduced by one year. Jim also notes that the model that is used be remodeled to include other organizations and deal with changes in organization structures. A new set of priorities should be made based on the member survey that was just concluded. A question was asked on how/if the EPA liaison position is any different and should it also be examined. Stanley noted the EPA appears to be following the same approach but slower in implementation; thus, a discussion for a later time. Stanley also asked Jim Kells to organize a group to discuss how the NIFA fellow position should be altered to facilitating better achieving WSSA goals moving forward. Jill and Bill offered to help Jim and together they all suggested Lee, Steve Young, and Mark VanGessel be added into the discussion. Eric notes that the MOP may need to be adjusted based on the outcome of these discussions.

### **GSO Update: Sarah Kezar**

Sarah starts out by endorsing the want/need for other regional societies to adopt the student travel enrichment experience.

Newsletter: Monthly a student and alumni were highlighted, and important dates/information were sent out at the beginning of each month. This will switch to a bimonthly structure. The newsletter will be sent out to the larger society in the quarterly report.

Social Media: Engagement has been low across platforms. The GSO will work on reaching more audiences and outreach.

Website: Include a student tab for student information. Eric says that this can also be added in the current newsletter tab.

Additional: The Canadian Weed Science Society GSO reached out to put on a joint panel to discuss transitions from graduate school to the workplace (academia, industry, regulatory, etc.). Eric will send the information to the other societies.

The GSO WSSA luncheon will include a round table discussion highlight federal employees (five speakers have been identified). Students will randomly be placed at a table that will have one speaker at each table. Every ten minutes the speakers will rotate to another table. This will allow students to ask directed questions to the panel member. Sarah notes that this depends on the number of attendees and space requirements. Stanley and Eric note that they can help make this work with the hotel venue.

Sarah proposed the need and importance to discuss mental health for graduate students. The GSO suggests having an additional small room to support this initiative. Several questions surrounded how to make this a safe space, when to hold it, who will be present, etc. Sarah notes that this is a graduate student only event for the first year. There was unanimous support for this initiative. A note was made that the appropriate resources need to be made available also that this is just a support system and not a way to diagnose/treat.

### **ESA Committee: Bill Chism**

Most endangered species are plants. The ESA 1973 says that all federal agencies protect endangered species and their habitats. There has been no major revision to the act since it came into effect. Many federal agencies and courts have added restrictions to many herbicides that will have to undergo an assessment. There is a lack of funding surrounding this. This committee is needed to help improve this process. A symposium has been approved for the upcoming WSSA annual meeting. Bill notes that there is a need for an initial extension presentation to be developed to help spread awareness, with a second more in depth presentation for the scientific community. Bill also proposes a series of white/review papers surrounding this theme.

The Endangered Species (ESA) Special Committee shall:

1. Consist of a Chair, a WSSA graduate student, and a minimum of four other members. The board liaison is the Executive Director of Science Policy.

2. Each committee member, including the chair, is allowed a renewable three-year term.
3. Assimilate information on how ESA impacts agriculture, the environment, and WSSA members.
4. Inform WSSA members regarding the developments of the ESA.
5. Generate educational materials for WSSA members, including Extension, to share with various clientele.
6. Facilitate communication with state and federal agencies including the Services (Fish and Wildlife Services and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Services), U.S. EPA, and USDA to enhance 1) current WSSA and federal agency relationships, 2) ESA information development and delivery, and 3) facilitate regulatory use of science-based data.

### **LUNCH BREAK (11:45 AM to 12:00PM EST)**

*Note: Janis McFarland, Bill Curran, Sarah Lancaster, and Amy Giannotti joined the meeting virtually.*

### **EDSP – Science Policy Update: Janis McFarland**

Janis provided a general update on Lee's activities and reiterates that Lee needs support. We anticipate Lee adding his notes prior to our next board meeting.

Lee Van Wychen's Science Policy Updates (provided on October 19, 2022).

### **Science Policy Fellows**

Anita Dille, Janis McFarland and I reviewed and selected two Science Policy Fellows for 2022-2023 out of an outstanding pool of applicants. Their year will culminate at the WSSA annual meeting in Washington DC.

Taylor Randell is a third year Ph.D. student at the University of Georgia studying under the direction of Dr. Stanley Culpepper. Her dissertation research is focused primarily on weed management in cotton and vegetable production systems, along with quantifying PPO-resistance in Georgia Palmer amaranth. Prior to her Ph.D. work, she received a B.S. in Agriculture from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and an M.S. in Crop and Soil Science from the University of Georgia.

Navdeep Godara is a first-year Ph.D. student at Virginia Tech, pursuing his doctorate degree with Dr. Shawn Askew. Navdeep's dissertation project is focused on evaluating the effects of herbicides and other crop protection chemicals on pollinator foraging behavior, ultraviolet floral reflection, and floral nectar production in common weeds of managed turfgrass systems. Prior to his Ph.D., he completed his M.S. degree in Crop, Soil, and Environmental Science from the University of Arkansas under the direction of Dr. Jason Norsworthy. He received a B.S. in Agriculture from CCS Haryana Agricultural University, India.

### **Weed Science Congressional Visits**

I organized and conducted 13 Congressional meetings on weed science issues with the presidents of the weed science societies. This included Stanley Culpepper (WSSA), David Simpson (NCWSS), Jacob Barney (NEWSS), Darrin Dodds (SWSS) and Joel Felix (WSWS). The three main issues we focused on were:

1. Support USDA NIFA IR-4 Project funding at \$25 million in FY 2023. There is a phenomenal need for specialty crop protection products to help feed the world. The IR-4 Project provides an incredible return on investment as it contributes \$9.9 billion to the annual U.S. GDP and supports more than 123,260 jobs.
2. Support the USDA NIFA Crop Protection and Pest Management (CPPM) program at \$25 million in FY 2023. This highly effective “applied” grant program available to public researchers tackles real world weed, insect, and disease problems with applied solutions through the concepts of integrated pest management (IPM).
3. Amend the Plant Protection Act in the 2023 Farm Bill so that definition of a “Plant Pest” includes “noxious weeds”, not just parasitic plants. (7 USC 104, S.7702 (14)). USDA-APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) spends less than 1% of their \$360 million plant protection budget on noxious weeds because the definition of “plant pest” only legally includes “parasitic plants”.

Other issues that were discussed included: 1) support for the appropriations report language on **cogongrass** that directs \$3 million to APHIS to partner with State departments of agriculture and forestry commissions to assist with cogongrass control; and 2) supporting appropriations for the \$50 million per year “Invasive Plant Elimination Program” for managing weeds along rights-of-way that’s authorized in the 2021 Infrastructure Law. This program is authorized for FY 2022 to FY 2026, but has not received funding in FY 2022 or 2023. This funding would go to the Department of Transportation and be administered through the Federal Highway Administration to “carry out a program to provide grants to States to eliminate or control existing invasive plants or prevent introduction of or encroachment by new invasive plants along and in areas adjacent to transportation corridor rights-of-way”. I’ve also tried to make this program known to several other lobbying groups.

### **APMS Congressional Visits**

I organized and conducted 11 Congressional meetings on aquatic plant management issues with House and Senate staffers in member’s offices as well as on relevant authorizing and appropriations committees. Many thanks to APMS leadership for participating in these virtual meetings including Mark Heilman, Rob Richardson, Ryan Wersal, Ryan Thum, Jay Ferrell and Carlton Layne.

Main issues included seeking the full \$25 million appropriation for the Army Corps Aquatic Plant Control Research Program (APCRP), discussing the potential impacts of the new strain of hydrilla in the Connecticut River basin, and supporting authorization and funding of invasive species provisions in the 2020 and 2022 Water Resources Development Acts (WRDA).

We’ve made excellent progress on these issues including initial funding for the Army Corps Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) demonstration program, \$1 million increases for the Aquatic Plant Control Research Program, and new language in the FY 2023 Senate appropriations bill that recommends **\$6 million in additional funding** “for hydrilla control, research, and demonstration work in the Connecticut River basin”.

### **FY 2023 Ag Appropriations**



Our work on advocating for the IR-4 Project and the Crop Protection and Pest Management (CPPM) program over the past couple years is starting to pay off as we see potential increases for both programs in the FY 2023 appropriations. I continue to advocate for these programs and many others through various means including coalitions and congressional visits.

Through the AFRI Coalition, the six National and Regional Weed Science Societies joined other scientific societies and organizations in [supporting](#) Congressional funding for the USDA AFRI Competitive Grants Program at its authorized level of \$700 million in FY 2023.

Likewise, through the Friends of ARS Coalition, the six National and Regional Weed Science Societies joined other stakeholder organizations in [urging](#) House and Senate Appropriators to provide at least \$1.9 billion for salaries and expenses at USDA-ARS in FY 2023.

There is also appropriations report language in both the House and Senate for a regionally focused **Herbicide Resistance Initiative** for the Pacific Northwest. In FY 2022, \$2 million was allocated to “*support research to address weed management strongly affecting the long-term economic sustainability of food systems in collaboration with USDA-ARS, research institutions, and stakeholder support*”.

### **Getting APHIS PPQ to Spend Money on Federal Noxious Weeds**

Dr. Mark Davidson was appointed to lead APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) in May 2022. APHIS PPQ’s primary role is to safeguard U.S. agriculture and natural resources against the entry, establishment, and spread of pests and diseases. In July I met with Dr. Davidson and Samantha Simon to discuss APHIS PPQ’s abhorrent lack of focus on federal noxious weeds. Joining me on the meeting were President Culpepper and Jacob Barney, WSSA Noxious and Invasive Weeds Committee Chair.

We kindly reminded them that widespread weeds like hydrilla and cogongrass are federally listed noxious weeds for which APHIS PPQ has responsibility for managing. We discussed the new strain of hydrilla in the Connecticut River and its potential to spread into the Great Lakes. While APHIS has active permits for two hydrilla biocontrol agents, *Hydrellia balciunasi* and *Hydrellia pakistanae*, they do not have a current program for the control and management of hydrilla.

For the time being, APHIS PPQ pointed us to funding available under the [Plant Protection Act section 7721](#) where you can find information about the Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program (PPDMDPP). Key contacts for PPDMDPP are Van Pichler, who is the National Policy Advisor for PPA 7721. She can advise you regarding reviewers for project suggestions for PPDMDPP. Also, Christa Speekmann, who is the Director for Pest Evaluation and Response for PPA 7721 portfolio.

### **2023 Farm Bill**

While there is a long way to go, work is progressing on development of the 2023 Farm Bill with hearings and listening sessions taking place in Washington, DC and around the country. I am working with the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NCFAR) and the

Supporters of Ag Research (SoAR) on talking points for use in support of ag research in the Farm Bill. Collectively, we are recommending an **increase of \$5 billion** allocated to agricultural research in the 2023 Farm Bill.

I have also worked with NAISMA to advance [four invasive species policies](#) for the 2023 Farm Bill. Our top recommendation is to update the definition of plant pest to include all noxious weeds, not just parasitic plants.

### **WSSA Committee Work**

I continue to work with numerous WSSA committees on various weed science issues. This includes multiple press releases with the Public Awareness Committee (E13), updating WSSA's composite list of weeds through the Standardized Plant Names Committee (P23), drafting and disseminating the weed research priorities survey through the Research Priorities Committee (E6), helping coordinate a CAST issue paper on invasive weeds through the Noxious and Invasive Weeds and Biocontrol Committee (E4), and helping assimilate information on how the Endangered Species Act (ESA) impacts agriculture, the environment, and WSSA through the new Endangered Species Special Committee. In addition, I have contributed to multiple symposium proposals and have helped make initial contacts for tours through the Local Arrangements Committee for the 2023 annual meeting.

### **NISAW: February 20-26, 2023**

National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) will be digital again in 2023. If you have topics or issues of concern, or would like to help plan next year's NISAW, please let me know.

### **Support for BLM's Intent to Approve Eight Herbicides**

On behalf of the National and Regional Weed Science Societies, I submitted a [letter of support](#) to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) supporting their notice of intent to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for approval and use of aminocyclopyrachlor; clethodim; fluazifop-p-butyl; flumioxazin; imazamox; indaziflam; oryzalin; and trifluralin on public lands.

### **Glyphosate Letter to US Solicitor General**

On May 10, 2022, Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar submitted a brief to the U.S. Supreme Court advising the Court against hearing a glyphosate case, arguing that federal pesticide registration and labeling requirements do not preclude states from imposing additional labeling requirements, even if those requirements run counter to federal findings. This position was a stunning reversal from numerous past administrations, Democratic and Republican alike. On behalf of the National and Regional Weed Science Societies, we supported a [letter](#) strongly urging Solicitor General Prelogar to withdraw the brief establishing this new policy.

### **International Weed Science Issues**

There has been some discussion about getting involved with International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) on weed science issues. The IPPC is an intergovernmental treaty signed by over 180 countries, aiming to protect the world's plant resources from the spread and introduction of pests, and promoting safe trade. The IPPC introduced International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures as its main tool to achieve its goals, making it the sole global standard

setting organization for plant health. Under IPPC- “Pest” is defined as “Any species, strain, or biotype of plant, animal or pathogenic agent injurious to plants or plant products”.

### **Strategic Plan: Bill Curran**

The strategic committee was formed in the fall of 2020 and was chaired by Dawn Refsell. Five strategies were determined (trusted resource, affiliated relationships, communication with key influencers, symposia and scientific exchange, and member engagement), and subcommittees were formed around each strategy. Three main priorities were communication, increase opportunities, and increase educational events. Resources for each strategy is listed at the end of each strategy item within the Strategic Plan. The past Strategic Plan is expired.

Bill asks that the BOD approve the current Strategic Plan draft and form a standing committee that annual reviews the Strategic Plan. Bill also suggests that funds need to be allocated towards additional semipermanent/permanent positions.

Discussion surrounding the draft Strategic Plan: Carroll asks where the gaps are in the strategic plan draft and implementing the plan long-term. Bill notes that we are moving in the right direction with communication and education, but there is a lot of room for improvement. Carroll also notes that our membership, around 1,000 people, is low and we need to appropriate funds strategically. The website and communication are the top priorities currently. Greg asks how/who manages and updates the website. Eric asks who are the affiliated groups/organizations. Bill responds with regional societies, APMS, and the Canadian Weed Science Society. Jill notes that the regional societies need to be on the same level (no superiority) as WSSA on the relationship between societies. Eric notes that there is a potential to merge needed positions. Bill, Anita, and Stanley will develop a plan for forming a special strategic planning committee.

**Motion to approve the draft Strategic Plan made by Carroll Moseley at 12:41 PM EST. Seconded by Alan Helm. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **Website: Sarah Lancaster**

Currently, David Krueger and Eric are maintaining the website. A two-step approach has been developed by the website committee: 1. Current resources were examined to determine who can help develop a site map and 2. Determining who will manage the website now and in the future. Sarah met with several companies to determine the best fit for our organization and she has narrowed it down to two companies. Follow up meetings are being setup to finalize which organization the website committee would like to work with and to develop a proposal to move forward.

Sarah asks what the BOD is expecting from the website committee and Stanley asks the same to her/the website committee. Sarah notes that the budget may need to be increased significantly. Website maintenance and content can be conducted as it currently is conducted. Eric adds that there needs to be a clear delineation of roles. Therefore, the only cost would be upfront to create the website. Additional questions surrounded how long the website redesign would be adequate for.

## **Social Media: Amy Giannotti**

Instagram: The Instagram account for WSSA was launched April 19, 2022, as a brand-new account. Here is a summary of analytics as of June 30, 2022: Posts 29, Followers 97, Accounts WSSA is following 36. As of today there are 115 followers.

Facebook: The Facebook account for WSSA was launched May 9, 2013 and had 525 Likes and 592 Followers when I assumed responsibility for it in April 2022. Here is a summary of analytics as of June 30, 2022: Likes 2272, Followers 2451.

Twitter: The Twitter account for WSSA was launched July 2009 and had 29 followers when I assumed management of it in April 2022. Here is a summary of analytics as of June 30, 2022: Followers 2342, Accounts WSSA is Following 238.

LinkedIn: The LinkedIn account for WSSA was launched April 2022, but the followers on the existing page did not move over, so I assumed management of that. Analytic data as of June 30, 2022, are provided: Followers 66 (existing profile has 900+)

Amy notes that at some point, WSSA may want to consider abandoning this WSSA Weeds page as it is set up as “personal profile” which people must request to connect, except that it has a long-established and large following. A business/professional organization should have an actual “page” which allows folks to join/follow without prior approval and has been set up with very few followers.

Amy targets posting three times a week on each platform. She will work with the website committee. Amy welcomes people to send her photo/notes/etc.

*Note: Janis, Sarah, and Amy left the meeting.*

## **Finance Committee: Greg Elmore**

Financial Health: Statement of Financial Position as of July 29, 2022:

- 1) U.S. Bank \$135,278.73
- 2) General Fund \$1,575,121.31
- 3) Endowment Fund \$465,440.58
- 4) CD Account \$230,113.03
- 5) Inventory Asset \$720.29
- 6) **Total Assets \$2,406,673.94**

Total assets are \$2.4M compared to \$2.7M at the end of January 2022, \$2.5M a year ago August (2021) and \$2.3M January 2021. Sustaining Membership has contributed well to date (\$63,000 or 95% of budget). Membership dues are down slightly (\$182,000 or 91% of budget). Net revenue for last fiscal year (December 1, 2020 through Nov. 30, 2021) was \$10,000. Based on the Statement of Activity as of January 2022 – Total Revenue was \$71,279.79, Total Expenditures were \$67,130.83 and Net Revenue was \$4,148.96. Proposed budget for 2022 (December 1, 2021 through Nov. 30, 2022) lists total revenue at \$584,800.00 and total expenditures as \$658,535.89 for a negative net revenue of \$73,735.89. A significant driver for negative net revenue is reduced income from virtual annual meeting registrations. Budget versus

actual through July 29, 2022 (December 1, 2021 through July 29, 2022) shows revenue at \$385,898 and expenditures at \$503,892 for a negative net revenue of \$117,994. The negative net revenue is about \$15,000 more negative than budget. One reason for that may be that annual journal revenue has not been received yet.

Innovative grants program update: Edits on the call for proposals (RFP) document were completed on May 2, sent out on May 4, and sent out again on May 18, 2022. No proposals have been received at this point. Consider resending the call for proposals, which includes the October 1, 2022 submission deadline and/or highlighting on social media. (Announcement went out in July newsletter and is being included on webinars)

Budget Needs: The Strategic Plan contains suggested improvements, but no specific costs associated with them. WSSA is already funding some ideas, such as host webinars, social media activities, and website improvement. The WSSA may decide to fund additional ideas such as hire a website manager and/or partner with Take Action.

### **Student Contest: Marty Schraer**

The Graduate Student Contest is relatively new to the WSSA. To accommodate and continue growing the contest, the 2020 meeting in Maui transitioned the oral contest to the branded 3MT contest. The WSSA then transitioned 2021 and 2022 meetings into the virtual age.

- 2015 Lexington--Poster: 45 students
- 2016 San Juan (SWSS)--Poster: 84 students
- 2017 Tucson--Poster & Oral: 77 students
- 2018 Arlington--Poster & Oral: 109 students
- 2019 New Orleans Poster & Oral: 126 students
- 2020 Maui (WSWS) Poster & 3MT: 95 students
- 2021 Virtual Poster & 3MT: 112 students
  - Began building committee beyond Dodds/Schraer
- 2022 Virtual (Vancouver, CWSS) Poster & 3MT: 76 students
  - Committee began on contest development

The 2022 meeting was deemed from the initial planning stages to be “Student Focused.” The Graduate Student Contest “Committee’s” official existence is as section 15 of the Program Committee. The Student Contests are listed as section 5.4 of General Polices in the MOP.

If the Society plans to continue with a greater emphasis on have student-focused annual meetings the Graduate Student Contest Committee recommends adoption of a more formalized committee, possibly have presence on the BOD. The student contest committee will work closely with the GSO to improve the contest. Additionally, more formal guidelines will be drafted to better structure the contest in a more efficient manner and draft language to include in the MOP. Marty notes that recognition is needed for judges at meetings.

**Motion to approve a new expenditure of an award of \$75 per finalist who does not place first, second or third in the 3MT contest moved by Carroll Moseley at 1:44 PM EST. Seconded by Stanley Culpepper. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Depart for EPA Tour (2:30 PM EST)**

**WSSA Board of Directors Meeting Continued  
August 25, 2022**

**In attendance:**

Eric Gustafson, Stanley Culpepper, Lauren Lazaro, Bill Chism, Greg Elmore, John Byrd (zoom), Carroll Moseley, Anita Dille (zoom), Alan Helm, Steven Pyle, Sarah Kezar, Greg Dahl, Michael Flessner, Darren Robinson (zoom), Christian Willenborg (zoom), Lynn Sosonskie, Jim Kells, Jill Schrader, Phil Banks, Brett Miller, Wesley Everman, Erin Hitchner, Mathew Sudeep, Eric Jones, Jacob Barney

**Call to Order:**

Stanley Culpepper at 7:57 AM EST

**Roll Call**

**Director of Publications: Chris Willenborg**

**Final 2021 Journal Revenue Report from CUP (2020 figures in parentheses)**

**a) Subscription revenue:**

Sales to individual institutions: \$34,019 (\$39,529)

Consortia subscriptions (sales to groups of institutions): \$114,833 (\$105,575)

BioOne total sales: \$139,991 (\$131,016)

**b) Non-subscription revenue:**

Back volume sales \$2,250 (\$5,862)

Page charges and APCs \$79,309 (\$88,430)

Licensing \$24,483 (\$29,432)

Permissions and single article sales \$5,751 (\$4,448)

Digital archive sales \$20,235 (\$19,779)

Total WSSA journal income for 2020 was \$487,301 (\$490,197) on which WSSA receives a 39% royalty payment of \$190,047 (\$186,274). Amount was up due to slight increase in BioOne sales, and a negotiated increase to our royalty rate. After the addition of guaranteed payments of sponsorship fee for Best Paper Awards \$6,000 (\$6,000) and editor stipend support \$52,500 (\$52,500) and the deduction of hosting charge \$20,075 (\$20,180), the 2021 total paid to WSSA is \$228,472 (\$224,595). Guaranteed payment (on 75% of forecast) \$121,631 (\$133,750), plus sponsorship fee and editor stipend support, has already been received. The outstanding sum for payment to the WSSA is \$48,341 (\$32,345). CUP was invoiced for this amount on July 22.

**2022 Revenue Forecast from CUP:** The forecast total income for WSSA journals in 2022 has not yet been provided by Cambridge but should be made available to WSSA very soon.

Clarivate Analytics Journal Impact Factors: Updated impact factors were released in June, based on citations in 2021 to papers published in 2019 and 2020. Weed Science was down slightly, Weed Technology held steady, while IPISM increased slightly.

Weed Science: 2.58 (2.713 in 2020)

Weed Technology: 1.807 (1.884 in 2020)

Invasive Plant Science and Management: 1.333 (1.273 in 2020)

Other journal updates: Submissions to all journals continues to trend down for the year. Some of this may be due to COVID related issues, but some of it may be due to increasing competition among more journals for fewer authors (manuscripts). Cambridge and I remain very engaged in improving marketing efforts to increase submission rates.

Herbicide Handbook update: Dr. Gannon indicates work on the Herbicide Handbook is proceeding, though more slowly than anticipated. Dr. Gannon has all files out to industry and is currently receiving them back. He is in the process of hiring administrative help to collate and edit the files to be moved into the database.

Information Posted to WSSA Website: Links to journal activity, press releases on the new featured journal article each month, and WSSA Newsletters are posted on the WSSA website. In addition, featured articles are published on WSSA social media outlets, and the Cambridge Blog and Press Release through Eurekaalert. Email blasts to the membership also accompany the press release.

Funds spent: Journal and Newsletter Editor stipends; Editor stipend for Herbicide Handbook; payments to Linda Edgerton for journal featured article press releases.

Board Actions: Request to BOD to establish policy on membership waiver for WSSA members to reward loyalty to and scholarship in WSSA journals. The cornerstone of the policy is to waive WSSA membership dues for one year to authors who have four or more manuscripts accepted by WSSA journals in the previous calendar year. This waiver will apply to the senior author or corresponding author in the case of multiple author manuscripts.

*Suggested language to add to MOP:*

#### Membership Fee Waiver

Membership fees will be waived for WSSA members who have, in a given calendar year, four or more manuscripts accepted in WSSA journals. Accepted is defined as fully accepted by the Editor of the journal, with no pending revisions to the manuscript. The waiver will apply to the senior author or corresponding author in the case of multiple author manuscripts. The membership fee waiver will apply in the year following the achievement and would be for a period of one calendar year.

**Motion to approve suggested language, pending minor edits, surrounding a publication membership fee waiver to be added to the MOP moved by Stanley Culpepper at 8:13 AM EST. Seconded by Alan Helm. Motion passed unanimously.**

2023 Director of Publications Discussion (Anita Dille)

Chris may need to step down as the Director of Publications midterm, therefore he is asking to end his term in February 2023. Anita notes that the BOD can reduce the term as needed and thanks Chris for his service to the BOD. Chris is willing to overlap some with the new person to aid in training. Chris and Anita will draft a position announcement.

**Annual Meeting Update: Carroll Mosely, Wesley Everman, Jacob Barney, Bill Chism, Mathew Sudeep**

NEWSS Update (Wes and Jacob)

NEWSS will hold their own oral student contest in addition to the WSSA student contest. NEWSS will also hold their own BOD meeting and business meeting. Typically, NEWSS holds a desert social (fundraiser opportunity) on Wednesday night of the conference – they are unsure if this will occur in 2023, but they will work with Stanley and Eric on the details. The social would be open to the entire society. Stanley asks if this would replace the WSSA reception or be an addition. Eric notes that this would be an additional event. Mathew asked how the funds would be appropriated between WSSA and NEWSS if this event is open to all members. Wes states that further discussions are needed to reach a decision. Jacob reminds everyone that the event and any donations are voluntary. A 50/50 raffle has been done typically in the past. There are opportunities to generate revenue in other ways such as a silent auction. It was asked how WSSA generates revenue for the endowment fund. Eric responded that there is a button on the registration form. NEWSS has a similar option on their registration form. Discussion surrounded adding both options to donate on the joint registration form. Carroll suggests that discussion continue and the BOD for both societies reach a decision at the next annual meeting.

Tours (Bill and Mathew)

Two tours are being proposed: U.S. Botanical Gardens and Smithsonian's Museum Support Center, which includes the greenhouse operations. Both tours are behind the scenes (not open to the public) and indoors (winter in Arlington). Logistics are still being worked out, which would include how many people can attend each tour and should be finalized in the next few weeks. Eric asks what the cost is. Bill notes that both are free tours, but there would be a transportation cost.

Keynote Speaker (Carroll)

Jake Li, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Pesticide Programs, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, U.S. EPA, will be the keynote speaker.

Symposiums (Carroll)

There were ten submissions and five were chosen. The five symposia chosen were: Endangered Species Act (Chism), Novel Technology for Weed Management (Sosnoskie), Crop-Weed Management in a Rising CO<sub>2</sub> and Warming World (Williams), Cover Crops (Haramoto and Young), and WSSA Research Priorities Survey Results (Kells and Young).



### Call for Papers (Carroll)

Carroll and Eric will work on the call for papers after this meeting.

### Future Meetings (Carroll)

2023 – Joint with NWSS, January 30 to February 2, 2023, Arlington, VA

2024 – Joint with SWSS, January 22 to 25, 2024, San Antonio, TX

2025 – Joint with CWSS, February 24 to 27, 2025, Vancouver, BC Canada

### **Hotel Tour (8:45 to 10:00 AM EST)**

#### **Annual Meeting Continued**

##### Joint Meeting Registration (Eric)

There are two options for memberships and registration: WSSA or NEWSS. The last WSSA meeting at this location, in 2018, registration cost was \$850/regular member and \$150/student. The student membership was suggested to move up to \$200 for WSSA and \$100 for NEWSS. For NEWSS and WSSA members, the membership cost would be for each individual society but there would be one registration fee for the entire meeting. Hotel is \$215/night.

*Note: NEWSS BOD members stepped out of the meeting.*

#### **Alternatives and Autonomous Weed Control: Greg Dahl**

Objective and Reason this Committee is needed: Expand Weed Management with Research, Demonstration and Education of Positive Effective New Methods for Controlling Weeds.

- Allows focus on many new alternative weed control/management methods.
- Increases visibility of researchers working in these weed science areas.
- Allows for planning of research, training events and other means of furthering this weed science area.
- Allows this important Weed Science Area to grow and develop as it can.
- Enhances the Weed Science Society of America.

Proposed Chair: Nathan Boyd (UF)

Proposed WSSA Board of Directors Liaison: Brett Miller, NCWSS Representative

##### Relationship (overlap) with W – 15 Committee, Formulations, Adjuvants and Application

Methods: There are similar interests, but not direct overlap as W-15 deals with herbicides and spray technology. The biggest overlap would be machine learning, which is also needed for “See and Spray” technologies. This committee may not adequately feature and may be limiting to this weed science area.

Relationship (overlap) with E-10 Committee, Weed Control for Specialty Crops, which currently fits most applications: This may limit usage in large acre situations in the future and may distract from other Specialty Crop Issues and Methods. This also may not provide enough exposure to this weed science area, may slow growth in this weed science area.

There is currently no Integrated Pest Management or Integrated Weed Management Committee listed for WSSA. There is an Integrated Weed Management Section on the WSSA Program Committee.

Weed Control Methods Including: Autonomous cultivators, Autonomous Laser Weeders, Weed Zappers and Electrocutors, Plant Clippers, Autonomous Weed Pullers, Banded Steam Applicators, Seed Destructors, Weed Control Films, Fire weed controllers, Abrasive Projectile Applicators, Other Methods.

Committee members: TBD, suggested several from meeting participants list. Other Candidates could include, Muthu Bagavathiannan, Vijay Singh, Darren Robinson, Breanne Tidemann, Others.

The BOD has resounding support for this committee. Lynn and Lauren noted the importance of having a diverse committee including, academics, industry, regulatory, etc in agronomy and specialty crops, etc. There was significant discussion surrounding the purpose of this committee. It was decided that this is not an integrated weed management committee but an alternative mechanical weed management approach committee. A follow up question surrounded if there is a need for a separate IWM committee. Lauren will lead the IWM committee proposal and present at the next BOD meeting.

The board supported the creation of a new special committee “Alternatives and autonomous weed control” with Greg Dahl agreeing to work with Nathan Boyd as chair to bring forward additional members of the committee at the next board meeting.

### **Webinars – 2022 update and plan for 2023: Stanley Culpepper, Eric Gustafson, Carroll Mosely**

September 22, 2022: Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, U.S. EPA

October 11 and 18, 2022: The current regulatory and legal environment for weed control products.

There were too many webinars last year and there needs to be a clear process in place surrounding the webinar approval process. Carroll asks if there should be a small fee that would go towards the Endowment Fund. Stanley noted that charging a fee may limit/reduce the participation. Eric responds with the fact that a fee would hold people accountable to attend. Stanley asked if students would also need to pay. A suggestion was made that there be a payment structure for members, nonmembers, and students. Stanley noted that we have not been promoting WSSA at the webinars and that was a missed opportunity to possibly increase WSSA membership. Lauren suggested adding a slide at the beginning/end of the webinar presentation that includes a QR code to link to the WSSA membership page. Eric suggested sending a promotional email to the email list of webinar registrants. Bill will send Stanley a list of herbicides that is of particular interest to the EPA this year. This may aid in determining several webinars for 2023. Mathew suggests that there be a package of ‘on-demand’ webinars that can be purchased for viewing afterwards. Darren suggested offering CCA credits (regulatory, soil, and water) for crop consultants, etc.

## **Old Business**

None.

## **New Business**

### CAST

Carroll asked for feedback on how to learn more about CAST and would people be interested in learning more. Discussion surrounded possible avenues of distributing information to WSSA members on CAST, including newsletters. Greg asked how many WSSA members are also members of CAST. The answer is unclear. Greg suggests that CAST come to WSSA to promote themselves instead of WSSA promoting CAST. A webinar was suggested to aid in this effort. Steve also suggested a CAST poster or booth at the WSSA annual meeting.

### Weed Olympics

Carroll asks for confirmation on where the Weed Olympics will be held in 2023. John Byrd stated that the Weed Olympics will be hosted by Bayer in Union City, TN. A question was asked if a process needs to be developed to support the Weed Olympics. SWSS has pledged to support some aspects of the Weed Olympics and WSSA has paid for the awards in previous Weed Olympics. Eric notes that WSSA can pay for awards and possibly food. Greg will get confirmation on whether Bayer is in fact hosting the contest and if they are, what help do they need. John asked if the other regional societies pay anything towards their regional weed contests. The answer was yes, NCWSS and NEWSS do. Industry representatives added that the hosting industry pays for most of the contest. Eric asked for clarification if the funds from the regional societies are towards the contest or students attending the contest. John responded with the fact that SWSS put funds towards the contest itself. Others noted that it depends on who the host is. Carroll notes that there is no formal document surrounding the Weed Olympics and these need to be developed. The previous Weed Olympics had several chemical companies contribute financially.

### Next BOD Meeting

Next BOD quarterly meeting date will be determined later but is targeted for the end of October 2022.

**Motion to adjourn made by Carroll Moseley at 11:06 AM EST. Seconded by Alan Helm. Motion passed unanimously.**