

WSSA Board of Directors Meeting – April 21, 2021

ZOOM Meeting

In attendance:

Anita Dille, Eric Gustafson, Bill Curran, Delaney Foster, Lauren Lazaro, Lynn Sosnoskie, Dawn Refsell, Karla Gage (guest), Stanley Culpepper, Theresa Reinhardt Piskáčková (guest), Brett Miller, Greg Elmore, Carroll Moseley, Rob Richardson, Lee Van Wychen, John Lindquist, Rakesh Chandran, Francois Tardif, Alan Helm, Jill Schroeder (guest), Janis McFarland (guest)

Call to Order:

Anita Dille at 9:02AM CST

Introductions

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve by Carroll Moseley at 9:10AM; seconded by Stanley Culpepper. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – BOD February 12, 15, 19, WSSA Business Meeting on February 18

Minutes for February 12 and 15 just received and the BOD has requested an extension to review and edit until April 30, 2021. Edits will be sent to Lauren Lazaro. Vote will take place electronically after April 30, 2021.

Summary of 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting: Eric/Anita

Eric provided a budget summary: WSSA budgeted \$133,000 for the 2021 conference and brought in a revenue of \$128,350 (registration and donations). Total cost of the conference was \$42,391. Profited 68%. Constructive feedback on the conference was to allow more time or a better avenue for networking when meeting virtually. Rakesh asked if there was a way to increase participation for future conferences if there is a hybrid in person and virtual conference for next year. Eric responded with that is a possibility and it warrants further discussion. Dawn noted that there were a lot of seminars and that it is difficult to attend them all. She mentioned that WSSA should investigate giving the seminars year-round instead of all during the annual meeting. Additionally, there was issues with logging in to the virtual conference system. Eric mentioned that seminars can be prerecorded and allowed to view after the conference or be offered throughout the year. Carroll liked having committee meetings prior to the start of the conference. Board agreed. Registration cost of in person versus virtual needs to be examined to look further into potential hybrid conference.

Membership Survey – Review of Annual Meeting: Carroll

Carroll will send out potential questions and a draft prior to sending the survey out via survey monkey. He asked that if there are any questions that should be included to send them to him via email. Membership survey will be around previous and future conference. A very important question is will you travel to Canada if Canada is open for travel. Potentially wait to send out the survey until later in the summer to see what happens with travel restrictions.

Update CAST Publication on Invasive Species: Jill Schroeder/Lee

Jill noted that there are two previous publications, 2000 publication on invasive plants and 2002 publication on other invasive taxa, that needs to be updated. CAST is unsure how to move the proposal further. Additionally, CAST is interested in furthering partnerships/collaboration with other entities (i.e., North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA)). Additionally, there needs to be information on the economics or socioeconomics of invasive species. NAISMA was asked to put forth a point person to work on a proposal, work on action items, and to work on recommendations. There is a possibility of cobranded papers/partnerships on this. Jill is asking if WSSA is willing to partner on these publications and that WSSA appoints a contact/lead person to represent WSSA.

Bill asks if there was a request for financial support from CAST. Jill responds with no; this is solely a policy paper (literature paper – no research) that needs a point person. Stanley asks what the negative side is of doing this paper. Jill/Lee/Carroll respond with there is no negative from their points of view. This allows for WSSA to broaden our reach. Jill reminds that CAST does not direct the nature of the paper, CAST does not fund research, or make recommendations. CAST only identifies key personnel and helps get the paper published.

Motion to approve that WSSA will collaboratively work with CAST made by Greg Elmore at 9:48am; seconded by Carroll Moseley. Motion passed.

2022 Joint CWSS/WSSA Conference: Stanley/Eric/Francois

Stanley noted that WSSA representatives met with Canadian Weed Science Society last month. Progress is being made on organization and a call for symposium has been made. Opening program is currently being developed. Canadian counterparts are also working on potential tours currently. There is some concern with travel and working with the hotel. Currently the Canadian border is shut down. There may be an update at the end of July on this.

Updates on WSSA Committees – chairs, members: Carroll

Carroll needs to know if any committee needs help with recruiting new members to let him know. Anita noted that there is a volunteer form on the WSSA website. Send out an email reminding people of this. Greg noted that the Finance committee needs some replacements. Muthu has put forth his resignation as the website committee manager effective June 30.

GSO Update: Delaney

Very few students attended the virtual GSO Business Meeting as opposed to the student contest. Delaney worked with Eric to develop a graduate student listserv. The GSO officers have met to discuss how to increase graduate student activity and they have begun a monthly newsletter that is sent out the last Friday of every month. Additionally, there is a monthly graduate spotlight that is peer nominated. Eric suggested sending the newsletter to the entire membership. Carroll noted that several GSO graduates are now on the Public Awareness Committee and that has been great in terms of the WSSA social media. Further, the GSO president of the Canadian WSS has been in contact with Delaney and they are currently working on a joint graduate student event with separate GSO business meetings. Delaney will coordinate with Stanley to make sure that the event gets into the schedule. Delaney asked about Travel Enrichment Scholarships, specifically about students who received the scholarships last year and did not get to travel and how new ones would be sent. The committee will make recommendations. Anita will reach out to the committee chair for an update. Last year's hosts and students need to be contacted to determine if anything has changed based on COVID regulations in place.

Standardized Plant Names Committee: Karla Gage/Theresa Reinhardt Piskáčková

Currently attempting to go through the entire WSSA common plant names list to merge with USDA names. This began as effort to standardize WSSA common names with USDA Plants common names. USDA Plants will include WSSA common name on their website. Current goals are to 1. Change any inappropriate names, 2. Flag names of cultural or geographical origin, and 3. Where possible, provide uniformity and consistency in names. The committee has reviewed at least half the records and determined that some basic guidelines for a standardized review are required. Committee is presenting basic guidelines (three levels: low (steps 1 and 2), medium (steps 3 to 5), high (steps 6 and 7)) for standardization of weed common names and looking for BOD feedback. Suggesting a white paper to provide background for these changes. Suggesting that scientific names, instead of common names, are used in weed contests.

Bill suggests being in contact with the Publications Committee and determine how this would affect the journals. There is concern on implementing the 'high' level of the guidelines. Anita notes that this is a very complicated topic and may require additional time to review. Carroll notes that the BOD needs to approve entire list. Lee recommends further discussion is needed for the medium level guidelines.

Motion to approve "low level guidelines and committee will provide a subset of the medium level guidelines for the BOD to examine" by Carroll Moseley at 10:34AM; seconded by Francois Tardif. Motion passed.

Strategic Planning Committee Update: Dawn

Strategic Planning meetings are continuing. There are five strategies. Communication was a sixth strategy, but that has been removed and is being reinforced throughout the other strategies. Conversations have also been around increasing transparency around society activities. Strategic Plan will be presented to the BOD at the summer BOD meeting.

EDSP Update: Lee/Janis McFarland

There was an excellent pool of applications for the Science Policy Fellow. Devon Carroll (UT) and Rebecca Champagne (U. Maine) were awarded the Fellowship. Congressional visits are ongoing and research budget increases are being requested. Recent publication in Science addressed diquat in recent Bald Eagle deaths – the science behind that does not make sense. Inquiries are being made.

Advisory Committee Report: Bill/Anita

Activity in various committees is occurring, but no new official updates.

Old Business:

Conflict of Interest Update to MOP: Bill

Current version of MOP only pertains to BOD; revision to expand past the BOD to include additional volunteers (i.e., liaisons, committee members, etc.). Under the new document, all volunteers will be given the document, but only the BOD and liaisons would be asked to sign. The new document is ready to be replaced in the MOP.

Motion to accept the Conflict-of-Interest update made by Bill Curran at 10:59AM; seconded by John Lindquist. Motion passed.

Nominations Committee: Bill

Committee is supposed to consist of past presidents and not current presidents. Last year current presidents were on the committee. Confusion is around when various society meetings are held. Bill notes that language in the MOP needs to be revised on when terms begin/end based on a specific date.

Weed Loss Committee: John

Update to the Weed Loss Committee MOP was developed by the committee and has been circulated to the BOD.

Motion to accept the changes to the language to the Weed Loss Committee MOP made by John Lindquist at 11:05AM; seconded by Stanley Culpepper. Motion passed.

New Business:

Website Content Manager

Muthu is resigning at the end of quarter (June 30, 2021). A search committee chair will be nominated to develop the position further. Incorporate the new Strategic Plan and Website Committee into initial discussions.

NSF LEAPS Collaboration with ASA-CSSA-SSSA: Anita

NSF looking for collaboration/partnership in writing a grant to expand graduate student/mentor diversity, inclusiveness, equality, etc. The document is still being developed, but WSSA is interested in engaging.

BOD Summer Meeting: Erica/Anita/Stanley

Zoom virtual meeting. Doodle poll to be sent out.

BOD Schedule Quarterly Meeting for October: Anita/Eric

Potential time for BOD to visit WSSA annual conference site the week of October 5-8, 2021. More information to come.

Motion to adjourn made by Lauren Lazaro at 11:15AM. Seconded by Anita Dille. Motion passed unanimously.