SSSA Board of Directors Meeting
November 3, 2004
Seattle, Washington

The meeting was called to order by President Thomas Sims. Those present were:

Thomas Sims, SSSA President
Michael Singer, SSSA Past President
John Havlin, SSSA President-Elect
Warren Dick, Editor-in-Chief, Ex-Officio
Ellen Bergfeld, Executive Vice President, Ex-Officio
Dani Or, S-1 Past Chair
Glenn Wilson, S-1 Board Rep.
Robert Taylor, S-2 Past Chair
Chris Van Kessel, S-3 Past Chair
Thomas Loynachan, S-3 Board Rep.
John Sawyer, S-4 Past Chair
Marcus Alley, S-4 Board Rep.
Michel Ransom, S-5 Past Chair
Robert Ahrens, S-5 Board Rep.
Gary Peterson, S-6 Past Chair
Jorge Delgado, S-6 Chair filling in for S-6 Board Rep.
Nicholas Comerford, S-7 Board Rep.
William Jokela, S-8 Past Chair
Wayne Hudnall, S-9 Board Rep.
Peter Groffman, S-10 Past Chair
Janis Boettinger, S-10 Board Rep.
Nicholas Basta, S-11 Board Rep.
Jessica Davis, Western Branch Bd. Rep.

Guests:
Mary Collins, S-5 Chair and Incoming SSSA President-Elect
Dan Radcliffe, S-1 Chair
Mark Coyne, S-3 Chair
Ken Van Rees, S-7 Chair
Thomas Doerge, S-8 Chair
David Kral, Associate Executive Vice President
Luther Smith, Vice President and Executive Director of Certification Programs
Michela Cobb, Director of Financial Services
Cathy Goudreau, Assistant to the Executive Vice President and Recording Secretary
S011.07 Division S-7
ACTION: Per the request received from the Division S-7 leadership, it was moved to change the name of S-7 from Forest and Range Soils to Forest, Range and Wildland Soils. Seconded. Carried.

S201.4 Strategic Planning
Strategy 1-Society Structure

ACTION: It was moved to move forward with restructuring the Board of Directors. Seconded. Carried.

Concern was expressed about the need to build diversity into the Board. It was clarified that the sense of the motion is to begin the process to amend the Bylaws. Although the Executive Committee has recommended a 15-member Board with two ex-officio members, the actual composition of the Board still needs to be determined. The Board of Directors will have the opportunity to approve the final language in the Bylaws before they go to the membership for a vote.

ACTION: It was moved to ensure diverse representation on the Board of Directors to include regions, students, and minorities. Seconded. Carried.

The sense of the motion is that diversity will be taken into account as the Board is restructured.

Strategy 2-Membership and Member Services

1. Since the annual meeting is a member service, it was the consensus of the group that more attention be given to the scheduling of business meetings, committee meetings, student activities, etc., to avoid as many conflicts as possible.

2. Headquarters will look into the cost of putting together an effective membership drive.

3. ACTION: It was moved that the first sentence in tactic 2 (“Augment and improve member services, with particular emphasis on electronic options”) of strategy 2 (Membership and Member Services) be identified as objective 3. Seconded. Carried.

Strategy 3-Publications and Professional Meetings

1. Warren Dick reported on various editorial meetings held during the week. Review sections of the journals will be expanded; Divisions were invited to provide suggestions for possible reviews. It has been suggested that the on-line bookstore needs to be enhanced. A proposal will be forthcoming to bundle the electronic journals. It is anticipated that there will be publication-focused articles on a regular basis in CSA News. Since publication of books and monographs will be outsourced to Oxford University Press in the near future, it is recommended that the ACS325 Monographs Committee and S370 Book Series Committee be merged into a single committee.
A high priority item for the Executive Committee and Board of Directors for 2005 will be to address the request from the practicing professional soil scientists for a publication outlet.

2. ACTION: It was moved to give meeting registrants an option on how they wish to receive the program book. If persons want a printed copy, they will pay for it on the registration form or they can opt for the electronic form. Printed copies of the program book will be available on site for no additional fee. Seconded. Carried.

3. The Divisions provided feedback on the discussions held in their respective business meetings regarding the proposed theme-based meetings. The general consensus was that a bottom-up approach be used by those Divisions choosing to develop themes. Oral papers will not be restricted. In addition, there is a need for more coordination of all papers.

4. SSSA will hold a joint annual meeting with the Geological Society of America in 2008 in Chicago. The Board was encouraged to contact the Executive Committee with suggestions of other organizations that could be pursued for possible joint meetings in the future.

**Strategy 4-Professional Development**

The Society will move forward with the proposal to provide financial support for promotion of certification and licensing of soil scientists. It is anticipated that this will be a 3-year commitment and the funds will come from the SSSA Special Opportunity Fund.

**Strategy 5-Public Policy and Outreach**

The Divisions provided feedback on the discussions held in their respective business meetings regarding the proposed investment in development activities for 2005-2006. Although no specific action was taken by the Board, the Executive Committee will pursue the suggestions of having a payroll deduction or automatic withdrawal for contributions to the Smithsonian project, and the possibility of contributing through the Society’s membership renewal form.

ACTION: It was moved to distribute information about the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit through the International Union of Soil Scientists. Seconded. Carried.

**Strategy 6-Fiscal Strength and Development**

Although action was taken by the SSSA Board of Directors in 2003 to authorize a 20 percent dues increase for 2005, it was the consensus of the Budget and Finance Committee and the Executive Committee not to implement a dues increase in 2005. Therefore, the 2005 budget does not include a dues increase.

ACTION: It was moved to ratify the SSSA budget for 2005. Seconded. Carried.
Following discussion of the six strategies, the Board was requested to adopt the Strategic Plan, in concept, for 2005-2010. It was clarified that adoption of the plan does not include approval of the specific tactics. The tactics are a guide to the Board and staff to implement the objectives.

It was the consensus of the Board to revise the Vision statement to read: “The Soil Science Society of America provides knowledge and practices that sustain soil resources and guides their wise use to secure an adequate and healthy food and fiber supply and a quality environment.”

ACTION: It was moved to adopt, in concept, the 2005-2010 Strategic Plan. Seconded. Carried.

The Strategic Plan can be viewed at http://www.soils.org/strategic_plan/

3. ACTION: Moved to adjourn.