SSSA Board of Directors Meeting  
November 8, 2007  
New Orleans, LA

The meeting was called to order by President Rattan Lal. Board members present were:
Rattan Lal, SSSA President  
Gary A. Peterson, SSSA President-Elect  
Mary E. Collins, SSSA Past President  
David E. Radcliffe, S-1 Board Rep  
Daniel W. Sweeney, S-4 Board Rep.  
Michel D. Ransom, S-5 Board Rep.  
Diane E. Stott, S-6 Board Rep.  
Randal J. Southard, S-9 Board Rep.  
David L. Lindbo, S-10 Board Rep.  
Sally D. Logsdon, SSSA Editor-in-Chief, ex officio  
Calvin O. Qualset, Agronomic Science Foundation Chair, ex-officio  
Ellen Bergfeld, Chief Executive Officer and Recorder, ex-officio

Also present:  
Paul M. Bertsch, Incoming SSSA President-Elect  
Carolyn Olson, Incoming S-5 Board Rep.  
Lee Sommers, ASF Rep.  
Rob Harrison, Website Task Force Chair  
Brian Strahm, Website Task Force Rep.  
Jeff Hatten, Website Task Force Rep.  
Paul Footen, Website Task Force Rep.  
Karl Glasener, Director of Science Policy  
Paul Kamps, Development Officer

S003 Board of Directors
1. ACTION: Moved by Dan Neary to continue the schedule of Board conference calls the third Thursday of each month at 10:00 AM Central time. Seconded by Dale Johnson. Carried unanimously.

2. As a matter of information, the Board will meet May 6-7, 2008 in Estes Park, Colorado with May 5 and 8 as travel days.

3. As a matter of information, the President-Elect will review, correct, and approve minutes of Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings/conference calls. The full Board will have the opportunity to formally approve the minutes at the next conference call/meeting.

S010 Divisions - General
The Division Representatives reported on discussions held in their respective business meetings. Those items requiring Board action are recorded in these minutes under the appropriate code numbers.
ACS090 Agronomic Science Foundation
Cal Qualset and Lee Sommers provided an informational report on ASF activities including the status of the ASF strategic plan.

S101 Nominations for President-Elect
Rattan Lal reported that Nick Comerford and Diane Stott will be the candidates for President-Elect on the ballot in 2008.

S111 Nominations for Division Officers
Board Reps. were requested to turn in names of candidates for the various Divisional offices to run on the ballot in 2008 to Cathy Goudreau or Ellen Bergfeld at Headquarters as soon as possible.

S201 Organization, Policy, and Bylaws
1. The Board discussed changing officers on a calendar year basis rather than at the end of the annual meeting. This will allow time to close out business following the annual meeting. Changing to a calendar year basis would include the President-Elect, President, Past President, all Division officers, and all committee chairs and committee members.

   ACTION: Moved by David Lindbo that SSSA change officers on a calendar year. Seconded by Mickey Ransom. Carried unanimously.

   The action will become effective in 2008. The SSSA Bylaws will be revised to reflect the above action.

2. The Board reviewed the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Alliance of Crop, Soil and Environmental Science Societies (ACSESS), Inc. Article V in the Articles of Incorporation will be revised to include the 2008 Society officers. Articles V and VI in the Bylaws will be revised to reflect the change of officers from annual meeting to a calendar year basis.

   ACTION: Moved by Gary Peterson to approve the ACSESS Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation as revised. Seconded by David Radcliffe. Carried unanimously.

   It was the consensus of the Board to recommend to the ACSESS Board that a business plan, including objectives and strategies, be developed for ACSESS and shared with the SSSA Board of Directors.

S201.4.7 Website Task Force
Rob Harrison and Brian Strahm presented the Website Task Force report, including the following recommendations, in order of sequence in which they should be carried out:

   ▪ The site www.soils.org should be made more attractive visually. Examples of attractive websites were provided.

   ▪ Get www.soils.org to register at the top of Google and Yahoo searches, particularly Google. Strategies to achieve this were provided.

   ▪ The site www.soils.org should initially link to other websites to provide more detailed information and education about soils. Examples of websites were provided.

   ▪ SSSA should develop and provide their own content. One example of very useful content is SSSA’s *Glossary of Soil Science Terms*. When data becomes available on current use to determine what parts of the site are most accessed, the task force will analyze it and amend their report accordingly.

The task force will continue to work on this project to carry out improvements.
S211 Audit, Budget and Finance
The Audit, Budget and Finance Committee, composed of members of the Board of Directors, met in August 2007. Doug Beegle, Chair of the committee, reported on the Society’s proposed 2008 operating budget.

- Budgeted revenues are lower than last year due to declines in library subscriptions. It is anticipated that new international agreements currently being negotiated should significantly help the bottom line for *SSSA Journal* and *Journal of Environmental Quality*.

- Conservative estimates were used to develop the 2008 meetings budget due to the unique features associated with the joint meeting with GSA. However, it is anticipated that a greater net income than currently budgeted will be realized.

- Headquarters has implemented several changes in operations that have resulted in improved efficiencies which will reduce member services costs.

- There is a need for increased communication with the NAPT program as it shows a significant deficit in 2008 based on current participation and existing contracts for program services.

- The IT structure at Headquarters underwent a major upgrade over the last several years that is resulting in improved member services and greater efficiency in operations.

Although the 2008 budget has a proposed deficit of $194,493, without the one-time expenses for the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit, increased funding for website and educational resources, the pilot program for soil scientist licensing, and the 3-year depreciation costs for the new IT infrastructure, the budget would be solidly in the black. Therefore, the Board of Directors has recognized the special circumstances resulting in the deficit and has determined that Society reserves, which are very healthy, be utilized to cover the deficit.

Sally Logsdon noted that personnel costs for *Soil Survey Horizons* needs to be decreased per discussions during the August B&F Committee meeting.

**ACTION:** Moved by Craig Cogger to approve the 2008 budget with a decrease in personnel costs for *Soil Survey Horizons*. Seconded by Mickey Ransom. Carried Unanimously.

Doug Beegle, SSSA B&F Chair; Steve Petrie, ASA B&F Chair; and Tom Gerik, CSSA B&F Chair, spent considerable time in 2007 working on the dues structure. Although Tom Gerik and Steve Petrie will remain as members of their respective B&F Committees in 2008, Doug Beegle goes off the SSSA B&F Committee in 2007. The Board recommends that Doug, Steve, and Tom continue to work on the dues structure.

S301 Editorial Affairs, Policies, and Practices
Sally Logsdon provided a summary of items from the editorial board meetings. It will be recommended that SSSA give authors the option of open access of Society journals that are on-line through High Wire for an $800 fee, in addition to the normal publication charges. Open access means that the High Wire switch can be set to open access. If the Board approves the recommendation, Fran Katz will contact authors who violate copyright by posting pdf files before 18 months. The *Journal of Environmental Quality* Editorial Board voted to recommend the fee structure be changed to that recommended by the *Agronomy Journal* Editorial Board - $80 per page up to 6 pages and $175 per page for 7 pages and up. Sally will provide a written report for discussion and action on a future Board conference call.
S495 Fellows
ACTION: Per the recommendation received from Division S-6, Diane Stott moved that the Fellows Committee be requested to increase the percent value for the Service to Society section of the Fellows nomination. Seconded by Dan Neary. Carried unanimously.

It was suggested that the voting process for Fellows allow committee members to provide brief feedback for each person ranked. It was the consensus of the Board to include a discussion of the electronic voting process for Fellows as an agenda item on a future conference call.

S500 Profession Advancement
1. The Board discussed an invitation from CSSA to participate in their Golden Opportunity Scholars Institute program which was initiated to develop an outstanding cadre of young crop scientists to provide leadership in coming decades. Due to the diversity of backgrounds coming into the program, and the fact that mentors have come from all three Societies, CSSA is exploring the feasibility of expanding the program to include ASA and SSSA. Obtaining endowment level funding for the program is the number one priority for CSSA. The Agronomic Science Foundation has indicated it would be more effective in raising funds if the program were broadened to include ASA and SSSA.

ACTION: Moved by Mickey Ransom that Rattan Lal communicate to Henry Shands that SSSA is willing to participate in the Golden Opportunity Scholars Institute program with no additional funds currently. Seconded by Diane Stott. Carried unanimously.

2. The Board requested further information as soon as possible regarding the opportunity for a full-page ad in an upcoming issue of National Geographic on soils.

ACS536 Washington Presence
Karl Glasener provided a brief update on the House Soils Caucus and the Farm Bill.

S589 Smithsonian Soils Exhibit
Paul Kamps reported that the opening of the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit will occur on July 19, 2008 with a special VIP event the evening of July 17. The traveling component of the exhibit will be 4 years, beginning in 2010, at a cost of approximately $1.5 million.

S711 Program Planning
Several Divisions recommended that more communication among Division Chairs is needed to avoid the numerous conflicting sessions at the annual meetings. Inadequate funding for symposia speakers was another common problem reported across Divisions. In light of the issues raised by the Divisions, it was the consensus of the Board to revisit the Annual Meetings Task Force report on a future conference call.

The Board recognized outgoing Board members Doug Beegle, Craig Cogger, and Mickey Ransom. The Board also expressed appreciation to Rattan Lal for his leadership as President during 2007.

Meeting adjourned.