SSSA Board of Directors Meeting  
October 9, 2008  
Houston, TX

The meeting was called to order by President Gary Peterson. Board members present were:

Gary A. Peterson, SSSA President  
Paul M. Bertsch, SSSA President-Elect  
David E. Radcliffe, S-1 Board Rep.  
Daniel W. Sweeney, S-4 Board Rep.  
Carolyn G. Olson, S-5 Board Rep.  
Diane E. Stott, S-6 Board Rep.  
Robert L. Mikkelsen, S-8 Board Rep.  
Randal J. Southard, S-9 Board Rep.  
David L. Lindbo, S-10 Board Rep.  
Gary M. Pierzynski, S-11 Board Rep.  
Sally D. Logsdon, SSSA Editor-in-Chief, ex officio  
Ellen Bergfeld, Chief Executive Officer, ex-officio  
Also present:  
Nicholas B. Comerford, Incoming SSSA President-Elect  
Harold M. van Es, Incoming S-6 Rep.  
Fran Katz, Chief Operations Officer and Director of Publications  
Wes Meixelsperger, Chief Financial Officer  
Susan Chapman, Director of Member Services  
James Giese, Director of Science Communications  
Karl Glasener, Director of Science Policy  
Paul Kamps, Development Officer  
Ian Popkewitz, Director of IT and Operations  
Luther Smith, Director of Certification Programs  
Cathy Goudreau, Recorder

S003 Board of Directors
1. ACTION: It was moved by Randy Southard to approve the September 18, 2008 Board of Directors Conference Call minutes. Seconded by Paul Bertsch. Carried unanimously.

2. It was the consensus of the Board to continue holding conference calls the third Thursday of the month at 10:00 AM Central time. The next conference call is scheduled for November 20.

3. Paul Bertsch will recommend some dates for the Spring 2009 Board meeting to be held in Lexington, KY. The exact dates will be determined on the November 20 Board conference call.

S101 Nominations for President-Elect and Division Officers
The Division Board Representatives were encouraged to forward names of candidates for the 2009 ballot (Division Chairs-Elect, Board Representatives, and President-Elect) to Cathy Goudreau with a copy to Gary Peterson no later than October 31.
S201.4 Strategic Planning
James Giese presented an overview of the new SSSA website scheduled to launch in early 2009. Gary Peterson requested the website be placed on-line for Board feedback.

S211 Budget and Finance
1. Richard Dick reported that as of August 31, the budget is in the black. Although there were budget surpluses in 2006 and 2007, a shortfall is anticipated for 2008. The 2009 profits (before investment returns/losses) are projected to improve compared to 2007, the last year for meaningful financial comparisons. This is based on a continuing trend of increased revenues noted in 2008 for publications and subscriptions, along with an increase in membership dues that coincides with a small increase in membership. Overall revenue budgeted for SSSA is $2,733,143, an increase of 4.5% over 2007. After expenses, SSSA is expected to have a budgeted operating profit (before inclusion of investment income/loss) of $181,896.

ACTION: It was moved by Richard Dick to approve the 2009 budget. Seconded by Randy Southard. Carried unanimously.

2. ACTION: Per the recommendation of the B&F Committee, Richard Dick moved that page charges be tied to the Higher Education Price Index. Seconded by David Lindbo. Carried unanimously.

S495 Fellows
Per the recommendation from Division S-6 action was taken at the November 8, 2007 Board meeting that the Fellows Committee be requested to increase the percent value for the Service to Society section of the Fellows nomination. To date, the Fellows Committee has not considered the recommendation. Following extensive discussion, the Board took the following action.

ACTION: It was moved by David Radcliffe to create a Service to SSSA category with 1-10 points and to adjust the Professional Achievement category to 1-50 points. Seconded by Diane Stott. Carried.

AMENDMENT: It was moved by Dan Sweeney to increase the Service to SSSA category to 1-15 points and to adjust the Achievements Based on Summary and Contributions to 1-10 points. Seconded by Diane Stott. Amendment failed.

ACS536 Washington Presence
Per action at the November 5, 2000 meeting, the Board of Directors ratified the following policy previously adopted by the Executive Committee for dealing with position statements on controversial or sensitive matters.

- If the Society has a minimum of 4 working days, the President is authorized to poll the members of the Board of Directors relative to a response. The Board Representatives will be encouraged to poll their respective Divisions for input if time allows.

- If the Society is not given a minimum of 4 working days to respond, the President is authorized to poll the Executive Committee relative to a response. In this case it will be made clear that the response is that of the Executive Committee but not necessarily that of the Society.
Karl Glasener stated that often in the policy making arena, the Society is asked to respond in a very short timeframe to support/endorse position statements; sign on to letters directed to the Administration or Congress regarding appropriations, authorizations or particular issues or legislation; and other matters. Under the current policy for short turnaround time, it is not practical or helpful to indicate the response is from the Executive Committee but not necessarily from the Society, and could confuse the intended audience. Karl proposed that regardless of the turnaround time on a request for Society support or endorsement for position papers that are controversial or sensitive, legislation, and letters, the request will be sent to the Board of Directors with a deadline for responding. To obtain Society approval, a majority of the Board must respond favorably. If in the time period allotted for a response, less than a majority of Board members respond to the request, then the Executive Committee is permitted to make a decision on behalf of the Society.

ACTION: It was moved by Gary Pierzynski to adopt the following policy. Seconded by David Lindbo. Carried unanimously.

- Regardless of the turnaround time on a request for Society support or endorsement for position papers, legislation, and letters, the request will be sent to the Board of Directors with a deadline for responding. To obtain Society approval, a majority of the voting members of the Board must respond favorably. If in the time period allotted for a response, less than a majority of the voting members of the Board respond to the request, then the Executive Committee is permitted to make a decision on behalf of the Society, taking into consideration those votes received by the voting members of the Board.

S589 Smithsonian Soils Exhibit
Per conversations during the course of the week with international meeting attendees, Carolyn Olson informed the Board that interest has been expressed to have the soils exhibit go abroad. Paul Bertsch also noted that interest in this possibility was also expressed by the IUSS Council at the recent IUSS Inter-Congress meeting.

S711 Program Planning
1. As a result of discussions at the May 6-7, 2008 Board meeting regarding Divisional program enhancement funds, an ad hoc committee (Richard Dick, Rob Mikkelsen, and Randy Southard) was requested to prepare a draft proposal for Board review. Richard Dick presented the draft proposal on behalf of the committee. After extensive discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that the draft proposal be a main agenda item for the November 20 conference call. In addition, Nick Comerford will prepare some general guidelines on appropriate and inappropriate uses of program enhancement funds for discussion on the November 20 conference call.

Because the current distribution formula for program enhancement funds is joint between the three Societies, Ellen Bergfeld encouraged that the draft proposal be shared with the CSSA and ASA Boards of Directors.

ACTION: It was moved by Paul Bertsch that when the program enhancement fund proposal is approved by the SSSA Board, that Gary Peterson and himself be empowered to take it to the ACSESS Board with a recommendation that CSSA and ASA adopt the same policy. Seconded by Randy Southard. Carried unanimously.

2. As ACSESS Secretary-Treasurer, Gary Peterson has formed a committee to look into the efficiencies of the annual meetings. The committee will consist of the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Budget and Finance Committee Chairs, Ellen Bergfeld, Wes Meixelsperger, and Gary Peterson.
3. Gary Peterson informed the Board that the Canadian Society of Soil Science has accepted the offer to meet with SSSA in 2011 in San Antonio. April Ulery suggested the Society also extend an invitation to the Mexican Society of Soil Science to meet with SSSA in 2011. Gary Peterson will follow up on the suggestion.

S800 Scientific Affairs
Gary Pierzynski presented a request for SSSA funding of $10,000 for the International conference on the Biogeochemistry of Trace Elements (ICOBTE) to be held July 13-16, 2009 in Chihuahua, Mexico. The ICOBTE series was initiated in 1990 and SSSA has provided monetary support for most of the past conferences. Sponsorship helps support scholarships for scientists and students from developing countries to attend the conference. Previous conferences have had high level of participation from SSSA members and based on papers presented at previous conferences, the topics will be of interest to nearly all SSSA Divisions.

ACTION: It was moved by David Lindbo to approve the $10,000 request for funding the International conference on the Biogeochemistry of Trace Elements (ICOBTE) to be held in Chihuahua, Mexico on July 13-16, 2009. Seconded by Randy Southard. Carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.