SSSA Board of Directors Conference Call
October 14, 2010
(Call started at 2:00 PM CDT; ended at 3:05 PM)

The meeting was called to order by President Nick Comerford. Board participants were:

Nicholas B. Comerford, SSSA President
Charles W. Rice, SSSA President-Elect
Paul M. Bertsch, SSSA Past President
David E. Radcliffe, S-1 Board Rep.
Daniel W. Sweeney, S-4 Board Rep.
Carolyn G. Olson, S-5 Board Rep.
Mary Beth Adams, S-7 Board Rep.
Robert L. Mikkelsen, S-8 Board Rep.
April Ulery, S-9 Board Rep.
Martin C. Rabenhorst, S-10 Board Rep.
Ellen Bergfeld, Chief Executive Officer, ex-officio
Also participating:
  John Havlin, ASF Board of Trustees
  Wes Meixelsperger, Chief Financial Officer
  Susan Chapman, Director of Member Services
  Keith Schlesinger, Director of Meetings and Conventions
  Cathy Goudreau, Recorder

S003 Board of Directors
1. ACTION: It was moved by Marty Rabenhorst to approve the September 9, 2010 Board conference call minutes. Seconded by Dan Neary. Carried unanimously.

2. The SSSA Board of Directors will meet during the Annual Meeting in Long Beach on Thursday, November 4, 9:00-11:00 AM.

S005 Committees
Following up on discussions during the August 12, 2010 Board conference call Nick Comerford presented recommendations to restructure several Society committees.

1. It was the consensus of the Board to request the S479 International Soil Science Award Committee to review the proposed scope of the award, particularly the emphasis on low income countries, with a recommendation back to the Board.

2. ACTION: It was moved by Paul Bertsch to establish an SSSA Presidential Award including the criteria as presented. Seconded by Chuck Rice. Carried unanimously.

3. ACTION: It was moved by Rob Mikkelsen to combine the S481 Soil Science Professional Service Award and the S472 Soil Science Industry Award into the Industry and Professional Leadership Award. Seconded by Dan Sweeney. Carried unanimously.

Although the two awards are now combined into one award, it was clarified that the selection committee will have the option of presenting more than one award each year if there is more than one qualified candidate.
4. It was the consensus of the Board not to combine the following award committees into one committee of 7 members: S472 Soil Science Industry Award, S481 Soil Science Professional Service Award, S471 Soil Science Research Award, S478 Soil Science Applied Research Award, S479 International Soil Science Award, and S480 Soil Science Education Award.

**ACS090 Agronomic Science Foundation**

1. John Havlin presented the following recommendations on behalf of the ASF Board of Trustees:
   - Consolidate the Beachell, Clark, Dixon, Johnson, Mott, Reed and Trough funds into a single “Scholarship Fund” that can be used to provide scholarships to undergraduate, graduate and Ph.D. students who are interested in pursuing careers in agronomy, crops or soils. The combined value is ~ $225,000.
   - Consolidate the L.B. Nelson, L.R. Frederick and Bouyoucus funds to create an “International Travel Study Fund” that could be used to encourage international teaching experiences for students and instructors. The combined value is ~$550,000.
   - The Golden Opportunity Fund will be considered one of the three “high priority” funds by ASF in terms of promotion and soliciting additional funds for sustained growth. There is not a recommendation to combine this fund with the other Scholarship Fund at this time.

The ASF Board has reviewed the funds and Fund Agreements which govern the management and distribution of awards resulting from these investments. The funds would be consolidated, while continuing to preserve the naming conventions and donor intent, to enhance the stature and visibility of the award opportunities. Such consolidation would result in creating the top three priority funds that would be marketed to the Societies’ membership as well as corporate supporters. The first step in the process is to seek approval of the SSSA, CSSA, and ASA Boards of Directors. Following Society approval ASF would contact the donors or their families to explain the consolidation of funds and seek their approval. A more detailed plan would then be developed and presented to the Board at a future date.

Several Board members expressed concerns about the recommendation to aggregate funds, particularly when many of the funds are currently SSSA funds. Concern was also expressed over the legal aspects vs. a marketing aspect. There was not a clear understanding how the recommendations would work. John will carry the Board’s concerns to the November 1 ASF Board meeting.

2. John encouraged Board members to forward Ellen names for potential appointment to the ASF Board of Trustees for discussion at the November 1 ASF Board meeting.

**S201 Organization, Policy, and Bylaws**

Action was taken on the May 13, 2010 Board conference call to refer the proposed Bylaws amendment addressing Affiliate membership to the SSSA Budget and Finance Committee and the ACS Membership and Society Identity Committee for a recommendation back to the Board. Recommendations from the two committees were to be discussed at the November 4 Board meeting in Long Beach.

**ACTION:** It was moved by Marty Rabenhorst to table the proposed Bylaws amendment addressing Affiliate membership indefinitely. Seconded by David Radcliffe. Carried unanimously.
The following two items will be added to the November 4 Board agenda:

- Review of the current dues structure and consider alternative scenarios for sharing of revenue for people who are members of more than one Society. Nick requested information be provided on how the current dues structure was developed.
- Review of the current process for voting on Division officers

**S201.4.11 Evaluation of Division Reorganization Task Force**
Action was taken on the August 12, 2010 Board conference call to appoint a task force to evaluate Division reorganization. Nick has received names of suggested task force members from the Board and will share the names with the Executive Committee for input before appointments are made. Nick will also develop a charge for the task force to keep them on course.

**S211 Budget and Finance**
Wes Meixelsperger reported a positive net income from operations for the eight months ending August 31, 2010.

**S711 Program Planning**
1. Chuck Rice encouraged Board members to promote the 2010 Annual Meeting keynote speakers and plenary sessions to their Divisions. Per previous Board action, SSSA is maintaining the 4 x 8 poster size and posters will be up for 2-day time slots.

2. The Board reviewed the draft discussion items for the Division business meetings. The final document will be posted on the Board website and copies will be available in each Board folder in the registration area at the annual meeting.

**S711.8 SSSA 75th Anniversary Committee**
Chuck Rice reported that the proposed 2011 SSSA budget includes a projected expense for the 75th Anniversary celebration although the total estimated cost of this activity is still being discussed with the committee.

**ACTION:** It was moved by David Radcliffe to adjourn. Seconded by Marty Rabenhorst. Carried unanimously.