The meeting was called to order by President Chuck Rice. Board participants were:

Charles W. Rice, SSSA President
Nicholas B. Comerford, SSSA Past President
David E. Radcliffe, S-1 Board Rep.
Donald L. Suarez, S-2 Board Rep
Daniel W. Sweeney, S-4 Board Rep.
Carolyn G. Olson, S-5 Board Rep.
Harold M. van Es, S-6 Board Rep.
Mary Beth Adams, S-7 Board Rep.
Thomas A. Doerge, S-8 Board Rep.
Martin C. Rabenhorst, S-10 Board Rep.
Mark McClain, S-12 Board Rep.
Robert C. Michitsch, Early Career Members Rep., ex officio
Sally D. Logsdon, SSSA Editor-in-Chief, ex officio
Ellen Bergfeld, Chief Executive Officer, ex-officio
Also participating:
David L. Lindbo, Incoming SSSA President-Elect
Lawrence F. Baldwin, Incoming CPSS Rep.
Andrew N. Sharpley, Incoming Editor-in-Chief
Wes Meixelsperger, Chief Financial Officer
Susan Chapman, Director of Member Services
Karl Glasener, Director of Science Policy
Mark Mandelbaum, Director of Publications
Cathy Goudreau, Recorder
Unable to participate:
Gary M. Pierzynski, SSSA President-Elect
April Ulery, S-9 Board Rep.
James G. Coors, ASF Rep., ex-officio
Ronald F. Turco, Incoming S-3 Board Rep.

S003 Board of Directors
1. ACTION: It was moved by David Radcliffe to approve the conference call agenda. Seconded by Carolyn Olson. Carried unanimously.

2. ACTION: It was moved by Mary Beth Adams to approve the November 17, 2011 Board conference call minutes. Seconded by Harold van Es. Carried unanimously.

3. The next conference call is scheduled for January 19, 2012 at 1:30 PM CST.

S211 Budget and Finance
Wes reported a net income from operations for the eleven months ending November 30, 2011.
S301 Editorial Affairs, Policies, and Practices
SSSA/ASA/CSSA publications currently offer two open access models:

- Author-pays model: For an additional fee (above the standard publishing page-charge fee) funded from the research grant, an author may choose to have his/her paper placed in the open access archive, and the article is immediately made freely accessible to the world.
- Society-policy model: ASA-CSSA-SSSA have adopted a policy that all published papers become open access after 12 months. In addition, all papers published between 2000 and 2010 are also available freely to the world. Articles published prior to 2000 are available to paid subscribers (i.e., individual or institution) of each journal.

Sally Logsdon and Mark Mandelbaum presented a proposal to change the open access policy.

ACTION: It was moved by Sally Logsdon to eliminate open access for the bulk of the content that is currently freely available, i.e., the journals literature published between 2000 and 2010; and to eliminate the automatic open access model for papers greater than 12 months old. Seconded by David Radcliffe. Carried. Mark McClain opposed as consulting soil scientists favor open access.

It was noted that the ASA and CSSA Boards of Directors have taken the same action so it can be implemented across the three Societies. An article will be published in CSA News and on appropriate websites to inform the membership. A forum for member discussion and comment will also be provided.

ACS466 Golden Opportunity Scholars Institute
Due to time constraints, the Golden Opportunity Scholars Institute will be an agenda item for the January 19 Board conference call.

S500 Profession Advancement
Following up on recommendations in the 2009 Alternative Revenue Task Force Report addressing educational programs, and Goal A1 in the Strategic Plan to provide educational opportunities throughout the year, Nick presented a proposal entitled Distance Education Enhancement for SSSA. He proposes SSSA develop sufficient distance education courses oriented at the undergraduate level so that any college or university without a full soil science program can train students in the basics of soil science and prepare them to pass the professional exams. He encouraged the Board to continue to discuss the proposal which addresses the purpose, benefits, pitfalls/rebuttals, and approach.

S592 Science Policy
1. Current Society policy for endorsement of letters, position papers, legislation, etc., is:

   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.

   On behalf of the Science Policy Committee, Harold presented the following proposed change:

   When a request for Society support or endorsement for position papers, legislation, and letters is received, and the turnaround time is greater than 24 hours†, the Director of Science Policy shall send the request first to the Science Policy Committee with a deadline for responding. The Director shall then send the Committee’s recommendation 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 and Committee.

† If the turnaround time is less than 24 hours, the Director shall send the request to both the Committee and Board simultaneously with a response time.

ACTION: It was moved by Harold van Es to approve the proposed change for endorsement of letters, position papers, legislation, etc. Seconded by Sally Brown. Carried unanimously.

2. Harold and Chuck informed the Board of opportunities for Society involvement with the White House Office of Science Technology and Policy (OSTP) and the National Science Foundation (NSF).

- OSTP staff is lacking ag/soils/natural resource expertise and will be seeking a sabbatical to provide feedback in these areas. The Science Policy Committee encouraged the Board move forward with sending an announcement to the membership and approving $5,000-$10,000 in support of the sabbatical. If additional dollars are needed, the B&F Committee could consider the request with a recommendation back to the Board. Chuck will work with Ellen to inform ASA of the opportunity and potential to provide some financial support.

- NSF supports soil and soil-related research and education throughout its various directorates – Geosciences, Biological Sciences, Education and Human Resources, etc. SSSA has the opportunity to work with NSF to develop a detailed accounting of total funding for soil and soil-related research and education programs. The Science Policy Committee encouraged the Board move forward with providing financial support for a science policy intern to work with NSF and the Science Policy Office for 6-8 weeks. The position will be based out of NSF or the Science Policy Office.

ACTION: It was moved by Harold van Es to approve the recommendations from the Science Policy Committee to move forward and provide financial support for an OSTP sabbatical and an NSF intern. Seconded by Tom Doerge. Carried unanimously.

3. Caron Gala, Senior Science Policy Associate, will be leaving the Society at the end of the year to pursue additional educational opportunities. The Society is currently advertising for an Administrative Assistant and a Science Policy Associate in the DC Science Policy Office.

S711 Program Planning
Action was taken on the November 17, 2011 Board conference call to hold the 2019 Annual Meeting in San Antonio, November 10-13. On behalf of the Annual Meetings Planning Committee, Dave Lindbo informed the Board that the Society is being offered a very good deal to also hold the 2024 annual meeting in San Antonio. The sentiment was raised to make sure the 2024 meeting is held in November.

ACTION: It was moved by Mary Beth Adams to approve holding the 2024 annual meeting in San Antonio. Seconded by Dan Sweeney. Carried unanimously.

ACTION: Moved by Mary Beth Adams to adjourn. Seconded by Dan Neary. Carried unanimously.