The meeting was called to order by President Gary Pierzynski. Board participants were:

Gary M. Pierzynski, SSSA President
David L. Lindbo, SSSA President-Elect
David E. Radcliffe, S-1 Board Rep.
Daniel W. Sweeney, S-4 Board Rep.
Harold M. van Es, S-6 Board Rep.
Mary Beth Adams, S-7 Board Rep.
Randy J. Southard, S-9 Board Rep.
Martin C. Rabenhorst, S-10 Board Rep.
Mark S. McClain, S-12 Board Rep.
Robert C. Michitsch, Early Career Members Rep., ex officio
Ellen Bergfeld, Chief Executive Officer, ex-officio

Also participating:
Karl Glasener, Director of Science Policy
Mark Mandelbaum, Director of Publications
Ian Popkewitz, Director of IT and Operations
Cathy Goudreau, Recorder

Unable to participate:
Charles W. Rice, SSSA Past President
Donald L. Suarez, S-2 Board Rep.
Ronald F. Turco, S-3 Board Rep.
Carolyn G. Olson, S-5 Board Rep.
Thomas A. Doerge, S-8 Board Rep.
Lawrence F. Baldwin, CPSS Rep.
Andrew N. Sharpley, SSSA Editor-in-Chief, ex officio
James G. Coors, ASF Rep., ex-officio

S003 Board of Directors
1. There were no changes or additions to the agenda, thus it was approved by consensus.

2. ACTION: Moved by Randy Southard to approve the January 27, 2012 Board conference call minutes. Seconded by Marty Rabenhorst. Carried unanimously.

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

S201.4.11 Reorganization Task Force
The Board provided preliminary comments on the SSSA Reorganization Task Force final report. By consensus, the Board agreed to the following timeline:

- Post the report to the www.soils.org/reorganization website by the end of March and notify the membership
- Gary to present strategy on April 19 Board conference call for extensive discussion at the May 23-24 Board meeting. Tom Fox will be invited to attend the May Board meeting.
- Request the Task Force write a brief article for the May CSA News noting that the Board will discuss the report at the May meeting
S211 Budget and Finance
Harold reported a net income from operations for the twelve months ending December 31, 2011.

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 Comerford presented a proposal on the December 22, 2011 Board conference call entitled Distance Education Enhancement for SSSA. He proposed 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 continue to discuss the proposal which addresses the purpose, benefits, pitfalls/rebuttals, and approach.

It was the consensus of the Board that Gary draft a task force charge for discussion on the April 19 Board conference call.

S800 Scientific Affairs
1. Action was taken on the December 9, 2010 Board conference call to suspend the Policy for SSSA Sponsorship of Programs to allow consideration of two requests for sponsorship that were received after the deadline stipulated in the Policy. The Board then encouraged the B&F Committee to review the Policy at their August 2011 meeting and present a revised policy to the Board for discussion and approval. David indicated that the B&F Committee did not make any changes to the Policy and recommends it be reactivated.

ACTION: It was moved by Sally Brown to recall the suspension of the Policy for SSSA Sponsorship of Programs. Seconded by Harold van Es. Carried unanimously.

By consensus, the Board agreed to provide $10,000 for the 12th International Conference on Biogeochemistry of Trace Elements (ICOBTE), to be held June 16-20, 2013 in Athens, GA. This will be added to the 2013 budget.

2. Gary requested clarification of the $10,000 line item in the Governance budget for Special Initiatives which can be used to fund timely initiatives to be approved by the Board or Executive Committee. It was clarified that “timely initiatives” could be other than cosponsoring conferences.

By consensus, the Board agreed to provide $2,500 for the North American Forest Soils Conference to be held June 16-20, 2013 in Whitefish, Montana. This will come from the Special Initiatives fund.

S900 International Activities
Gary and Ellen provided a letter in support of Paul Bertsch’s nomination for President of the International Union of Soil Sciences. If elected, Paul may request some financial support from SSSA. Harold encouraged that any request for financial support be worked out as IUSS is a separate organization with their own resources.

Meeting adjourned.