SSSA Board of Directors Conference Call  
January 17, 2013  
(Call started at 11:00 AM CST; ended at 12:40 PM)

The meeting was called to order by President David Lindbo. Board participants were:

David L. Lindbo, SSSA President  
Jan W. Hopmans, SSSA President-Elect  
Gary M. Pierzynski, SSSA Past President  
Thomas A. Doerge, Agricultural Soil and Food Systems Group Board Rep.  
Harold M. van Es, Agricultural Soil and Food Systems Group Board Rep.  
Carolyn G. Olson, Fundamental Soil Science Group Board Rep.  
Ole Wendroth, Fundamental Soil Science Group Board Rep.  
Sally Brown, Soil and Ecosystem Processes Group Board Rep.  
Thomas R. Fox, Soil and Ecosystem Processes Group Board Rep.  
Lawrence F. Baldwin, CPSS Rep.  
Andrew N. Sharpley, SSSA Editor-in-Chief, ex-officio  
Ellen Bergfeld, Chief Executive Officer, ex-officio  

Also participating:  
Wes Meixelsperger, Chief Financial Officer  
Karl Glasener, Director of Science Policy  
Keith Schlesinger, Director of Meetings and Conventions  
Cathy Goudreau, Recorder  

Board members unable to participate:  
Miguel L. Cabrera, Agricultural Soil and Food Systems Group Board Rep.  
Donald L. Suarez, Fundamental Soil Science Group Board Rep.  
Martin C. Rabenhorst, Soil and Ecosystem Processes Group Board Rep.  
John L. Havlin, ASF Chair, ex-officio

S003 Board of Directors  
1. ACTION: Moved by Harold van Es to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Sally Brown. Carried unanimously.

2. ACTION: Moved by Randy Southard to approve the December 20, 2012 Board conference call minutes. Seconded by Larry Baldwin. Carried unanimously.

3. Board members were requested to sign and return to Headquarters the Written Acceptance of Conflicts of Interest Policy for 2013.

4. The next Board conference call is scheduled for February 21 at 11:00 AM Central Standard Time.
S003.11 SSSA Board Work Group – Annual Meeting Structure
Jan encouraged the Board to take action on the following recommendations presented by Sally on the December 20, 2012 conference call regarding program enhancement funds, because Divisions need to know their 2013 budgets:

• Change program enhancement funding (PEF) structure to facilitate broad based symposia - each Division to receive a flat $1500 to use at their discretion with the remainder of the funds to be used to support broad based sessions supported by multiple Divisions
• Symposia generated from existing abstracts and Division chairs and volunteered by members via a call for proposals
• Excess PEF funds to be used to support both volunteered symposia and symposia organized by chairs through a combination of submitted abstracts and invited speakers
• Divisions allowed to carry over legacy PEF funding for 3 year transition period
• Annual PEF funding per Division of $1500 may not be carried over and excess is returned to the program committee for use the following year

ACTION: Moved by Gary Pierzynski to approve the program enhancement fund structure as presented. In addition, a certain percentage of program enhancement funds will stay with the Society Program Chair as has been done for the past several years. Seconded by Carolyn Olson. Carried unanimously.

Keith will work with Sally and Jan to put together the program enhancement fund budget for the 2013 annual meeting.

S101 Nominations
Gary reported that Mary Beth Adams and Carolyn Olson are the President-Elect candidates for the 2013 ballot.

S211 Budget and Finance
The Board routinely receives quarterly financial reports, however, due to the operating loss greater than budgeted, Wes provided an overview of revenues and expenses for the eleven months ending November 30, 2012. Financials will be tracked closely to determine whether Board actions, particularly in the publications area, produce the revenue that was anticipated.

S237 Membership and Society Identity Committee
An update is anticipated on the February 21 conference call.

S303 Vadose Zone Journal
Andrew has had further discussions with the VZJ Editor and is now recommending that VZJ not withdraw from the GeoScienceWorld database which is different from the recommendation made on the December 20, 2012 Board conference call. There are several variables involved, thus the situation will be reassessed next year when the financial impact will be more clear. Dave requested the B&F Committee be kept apprised so any recommended changes can be planned for next year.

S304 Soil Horizons
The Soil Horizons Editor is open to receiving suggestions of potential guest columnists for the publication. Board members were encouraged to forward the Editor ideas/contacts of prominent soil scientists for a guest column invitation. Jan encouraged the publication be marketed beyond SSSA members as the content is so broad.
S400 Awards
Ellen presented an informational report on the Future of the Farm Prize and the potential for Society involvement. Board members were requested to review the document for further discussion on the February 21 conference call.

S530 SSSA Early Career Members Committee
Rob is a member the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Early Career Members Committee, as well as the SSSA Early Career Members Committee. He requested clarification of the purpose/goal of the SSSA committee, as well as any activities the committee should be pursuing. Board members were encouraged to contact Rob directly.

S592 Science Policy
The Board reviewed the proposed SSSA white paper and position statement approval process, as developed by the Science Policy Committee and Science Policy Office.

ACTION: Moved by Harold van Es to approve the White Paper and Position Statement Approval Process document. Seconded by Tom Doerge.

Several questions and concerns were raised regarding procedures for Board approval of a position statement versus publication of a manuscript in a Society publication, and various recommendations to revise the document were made accordingly. Some Board members requested a revised version be presented for approval.

ACTION: Moved by Randy Southard to table the motion. Seconded by Carolyn Olson. Carried with 3 opposed.

Karl will prepare a revised version to present to the Board for approval via an email ballot.

Note: Following the conference call, the Board unanimously approved the following document, via email ballot:

Soil Science Society of America Position Statement and White Paper Approval Process

Periodically, SSSA develops timely position statements and white papers on soil, soil science and related issues of interest to and under discussion by the scientific community, public, and policymakers.

Position statements are relatively brief (1-3 pp), topically focused, and contain specific recommendations or proposed actions and accompanying justification. Position statements are of particular value to congressional personal offices as they are brief and provide actionable recommendations.

White papers are often generated to address and provide an expanded exploration and discussion of a critical issue in the field or to supplement a position statement. White papers are seen as invaluable resources by White House science offices, federal science agencies, and congressional committee staff.
The SSSA position statement and white paper approval process is as follows:

1. SSSA member(s) submit a proposed topic for a position statement and/or white paper to the SSSA Science Policy Committee (Committee) and SSSA Board of Directors (Board) for approval. If the position statement/white paper topic is approved, the Committee and Board work with the SSSA member(s) to recruit a qualified, volunteer writing team.

2. Once completed, reviewed, and approved by the Committee and Board, the official SSSA position statement/white paper will be posted on the SSSA website and distributed to the scientific community, public, and policymakers via the **CSA News, Science Policy Report, Society News Flash**, press releases and other vehicles.

A position statement does not necessarily have to be accompanied by a more extensive white paper, but this may be desirable in many cases.

S681 Geological Society of America
SSSA will cosponsor several sessions at the October 27-30, 2013 GSA Annual Meeting in Denver in honor of GSA’s 125th anniversary. This provides an excellent opportunity for collaboration and to promote soil science.

S700 Meetings
On the December 20, 2012 Board conference call Dave presented a proposal from Paul Bertsch requesting $10,000 SSSA cosponsorship of the AGU Chapman conference “Soil-mediated drivers of coupled biogeochemical and hydrological processes across scales,” to be held at the biosphere near Tucson, October 21-24, 2013. The Board expressed general support but requested additional information, including a budget, before making a decision.

The Board reviewed the additional information provided by Dave and were reminded of the AGU-SSSA Memorandum of Understanding to foster exchange in scientific research and promote scientific opportunities.

**ACTION:** Moved by Jan Hopmans that SSSA provide $2,500 to cosponsor the AGU Chapman conference “Soil-mediated drivers of coupled biogeochemical and hydrological processes across scales,” to be held at the biosphere near Tucson, October 21-24, 2013. Seconded by Carolyn Olson. Carried unanimously.

In an effort to promote the value of SSSA membership to nonmembers attending the conference, Dave was encouraged to explore the potential of including an SSSA brochure/membership application in the conference registration packet.

S711 Program Planning
1. The annual meeting early career registration rate was a test for 2012, with 135 individuals registering at the reduced rate. The 2013 annual meeting budget assumes the Society will continue the reduced early career registration rate, however, Keith requested the Board make a formal decision on continuation of the reduced registration rate. On the November 30, 2012 Board conference call, “early career” was defined as a person that has achieved their terminal degree within the last 7 years.

**ACTION:** Moved by Sally Brown to continue an annual meeting early career registration rate for two more years. Seconded by Tom Fox. Carried unanimously.
Board members requested clarification of how the lost revenue was divided between SSSA, ASA and CSSA. It would also be helpful to know if early career attendance increased in 2012 due to the reduced registration rate.

2. Per discussions on the December 20, 2012 Board conference call, the SSSA 2018 Annual Meeting Survey results included some comments from members about the perception of SSSA pulling away from agriculture. In an effort to address the perception, Gary presented the following resolution for adoption by the Board:

The SSSA Board of Directors reaffirms its long standing and synergistic relationship with ASA and CSSA. Agriculture will always be one of the focal areas for SSSA. The 2018 annual meeting, separate from ASA and CSSA, does not signify an intent to meet apart from ASA and CSSA permanently, but rather represents an opportunity to collaborate with other closely related scientific societies.

ACTION: Moved by Gary Pierzynski to adopt the resolution as presented. Seconded by Ron Turco. Carried unanimously.

The resolution will be communicated to the membership via email, News Flash, and CSA News. Dave will work with Headquarters to put the resolution in proper context.

ACTION: Moved by Sally Brown to adjourn. Seconded by Ron Turco. Carried unanimously.