SSSA Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, November 7, 2013 Tampa, FL

The meeting was called to order by SSSA President Dave Lindbo. Board members present:

David L. Lindbo, SSSA President
Jan W. Hopmans, SSSA President-Elect
Gary M. Pierzynski, SSSA Past President
Carolyn G. Olson, Fundamental Soil Science Group Board Rep.
Donald L. Suarez, Fundamental Soil Science Group Board Rep.
Ole Wendroth, Fundamental Soil Science Group Board Rep.
Martin C. Rabenhorst, Soil & Ecosystem Processes Group Board Rep.
Sally L. Brown, Soil & Ecosystem Processes Group Board Rep.
Thomas R. Fox, Soil & Ecosystem Processes Group Board Rep.
Harold van Es, Agricultural Soil & Food Systems Group Board Rep.
Mark S. McClain, Education & Practicing Professionals Group Board Rep.
Andrew N. Sharpley, SSSA Editor-in-Chief, ex-officio
Ellen Bergfeld, Chief Executive Officer, ex-officio

Also attending:
Ester Sztein, U.S. National Committee for Soil Science
Aaron DeJoia (2014 Education & Practicing Professionals Group Board Rep.)
John Galbraith (2014 Fundamental Soil Science Group Board Rep.)
John Kovar (2014 Agricultural Soil & Food Systems Group Board Rep.)
Wes Meixelsperger, Chief Financial Officer
Luther Smith, Director of Certifications
Mark Mandelbaum, Director of Publications & Meetings
Karl Anderson, Director of Science Policy
Bethany Johns, Science Policy Manager
Susan Chapman, Director of Member Services
Susan Fisk, Director of Public & Science Communications
Ian Popkewitz, Director of IT & Operations
Sara Uttech, Senior Manager–Governance & Membership

Not able to attend:
John L. Havlin, ASF Chair, ex-officio

S003 Board of Directors
Moved by Mark McClain to approve the Nov. 7, 2013 agenda and the Sept. 19, 2013 SSSA Board Conference Call Minutes. Seconded by Ole Wendroth. Carried unanimously.

S003 Board of Directors
SSSA President David Lindbo acknowledged the board’s appreciation of SSSA Board members whose terms end in 2013 and welcomed new board members whose terms begin in 2014.

U.S. National Committee for Soil Science
Ester Sztein from the U.S. National Committee for Soil Science reported a decrease in National Science Foundation funding for U.S. National Committee for Soil Science activities (travel, fellowships) with long-term funding uncertain. She announced two joint SSSA/USNCSS initiatives: a proposal for World Congress of Soil Science travel grants to South Korea; and a two-day Soils Sustain Life Conference in June 2015 in Washington DC as part of the International Year of Soils and a joint Taskforce to develop it.

S301 Editorial Affairs, Policies, and Practices
Mark Mandelbaum provided a publications update, which included a proposal for an SSSA open access journal with the British Society of Soil Science and Wiley, which would publish manuscripts rejected by SSSAJ, VZJ, and JEQ. After discussion, there was consensus to thank Wiley for their suggestion, but that SSSA would direct further discussion towards publishing applied soils work internally.

S711 Annual Meeting Program Planning
Discussion centered on lack of interest for organized field tours. The board recommended that SSSA Program Planning Officer Ron Turco address this with the committee for the 2014 Annual Meeting. Ideas offered: involve ASF to contribute to funding, combine tours, broaden tours, and midweek tours rather than weekend. Other discussions: a). Perceived high registration fees: Society should increase transparency in detailing costs and clarify the ‘early career’ eligibility; b). Increase across divisional sessions, reduce number of oral sessions; c). Invite mid-career scientists to symposia instead of senior scientists. d). Shift abstract deadline later in the summer; e). Meeting App was improved, still some glitches.
Regarding the 2018 Annual Meeting, President Lindbo apologized for not having had a broader discussion with a Board vote before engaging with GSA in planning for a joint SSSA-GSA meeting in 2018 in Indianapolis. After discussion, a motion by Mark McClain was presented to meet with GSA in 2018 and seconded by Sally Brown. The vote was 4 in favor and 12 against. The motion failed. Dave Lindbo agreed to discuss this outcome with Ellen Bergfeld and to suggest a joint thematic conference with GSA instead. An ad hoc committee was formed between the 4 groups (Southard, Chair, with van Es, McClain and Fox) to work with HQ on a location and report at the Spring Board meeting.

Other Meetings
Mark McClain presented an overview and budget for the 2014 Consulting Soil Scientists Meeting in Puerto Rico.

Jan Hopmans will attend the AAAS Meeting, Feb. 13-17, 2014 in Chicago to plan for organizing a session in 2015 in partnership with the U.S. National Committee for Soil Science, and he is soliciting session themes/titles/speakers.

S211 Budget and Finance
Wes presented the SSSA 3Q Financials, ending Sept 30, 2013. Wes along with B&F Chair Don Suarez presented the 2014 SSSA Budget. ACTION: Moved by Gary Pierzynski to approve the 2014 SSSA Budget amended to include the proposed Consulting Soil Scientists Tour budget. Seconded by Mark McClain. Carried unanimously.

S573 Accreditation of Soil Science Programs
Randy Southard presented the committee’s recommendation for the accreditation process, which included a detailed criteria and a template for the review process. The next step will be to test the accreditation process with a number of soil science departments. ACTION: Gary Pierzynski moved to approve to the Soil Science Program Accreditation. Seconded by Marty Rabenhorst. Carried unanimously.

SSSA Public Relations
Susan Fisk presented, “Flow of Societies’ Science through Internet presence by PR/Science Communications.”

2014 SSSA Elections
The 2014 election includes: Division Chairs-Elect; President-Elect; and Group Board Reps (1 seat each) for Agricultural Soil & Food Systems Group, Fundamental Soil Science Group, and Soil & Ecosystem Processes Group. Division Chairs are to provide names to Board Reps and Sara Uttech by Nov. 20. Following discussion about division representation on the board, the execs agreed to review the current nomination process and report back to the group.

ACS Ad Hoc Board Work Group – Dues Structure
David Lindbo led the discussion about revising the current dues structure. The ACS Ad Hoc Working Group has reviewed several models where dues are separate for each Society, and not discounted by joining more than one Society. Several voiced concern about the need for more SSSA visibility when membership is not tied to ASA and CSSA, and several voiced concern about moving too fast and alienating members. ACTION: Moved by Marty Rabenhorst to ask members their primary society at time of joining/renewing by way of a check box. When someone joins SSSA, if they also join ASA or CSSA, they indicate their primary Society. If they just join SSSA, the question doesn’t come up. If that can't be done, then immediately after joining, then they get an email asking their primary society. This is requested to be implemented as quickly as possible. Seconded by Randy Southard. Discussion centered on if members can opt out of answering the question, and if members could indicate a percentage if two societies are considered primary. ACTION: Moved by Jan Hopmans to table the discussion. Seconded by Harold van Es. Motion passed to table the discussion until Dec. 19.

Future SSSA Board Meetings
- The board agreed to keep the current schedule for 2014 (3rd Thurs at 11am Central - Every other month schedule).
- The board will meet in Sacramento May 6-7 for the Spring 2014 Board Meeting, to include a tour of the Dig It exhibit at The California Museum. The SSSA execs could meet in Madison with ASA and CSSA during their Spring Board Meeting.
- Next SSSA Board Conference Call: Thursday, Dec. 19, 11am (Central)

ACTION: Randy Southard moved to adjourn, seconded by Larry Baldwin. Carried unanimously.