SSSA Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday May 7, 2014

The meeting was called to order by SSSA President Jan Hopmans. Board members present:

Jan Hopmans, SSSA President  
David Lindbo, SSSA Past President  
Carolyn Olson, SSSA President-Elect  
Miguel Cabrera, Ag Soil & Food Systems Group  
Ronald Turco, Fundamental Soil Science Group  
Thomas Fox, Soil & Ecosystem Processes Group  
John Kovar, Ag Soil & Food Systems Group  
Aaron DeJoia - Ed & Practicing Professionals Group  
John Galbraith, Fundamental Soil Science Group  
Randal Southard, Fundamental Soil Science Group  
Ole Wendroth, Fundamental Soil Science Group  
Martin Rabenhorst, Soil & Ecosystem Processes Group  
Lawrence Baldwin, Certified Professional Soil Scientists  
Robert Michitsch, Early Career Members

Ellen Bergfeld, Chief Executive Officer, ex-officio  
John Havlin, ASF Chair, ex-officio  
Andrew Sharpley, SSSA Editor-in-Chief, ex-officio  
Unable to attend:  
Andrew Sharpley, SSSA Editor-in-Chief, ex-officio  
Also attending:  
Harold van Es, Ag Soil & Food Systems Grp (via phone)  
Wes Meixelsperger, Chief Financial Officer  
Mark Mandelbaum, Director of Publications & Meetings  
Karl Anderson, Director of Science Policy  
Susan Chapman, Director of Member Services  
Luther Smith, Director of Certification  
Sara Uttech, Senior Mgr–Governance & Membership

S003 Board of Directors

1. ACTION: Motion by Dave Lindbo to approve the agenda. Marty Rabenhorst seconded. Marty Rabenhorst requested additional time on the agenda. Unanimously approved.

2. ACTION: Motion by John Galbraith to approve the April 15, 2014 Board conference call minutes. Ron Turco seconded. Carolyn Olson requested that the minutes be amended to include more detail about how the students were selected to attend the World Congress of Soil Science Soil Judging contest. Unanimous approval of the amended minutes.

3. Jan Hopmans and Ellen Bergfeld presented an overview of the current Strategic Plan and gave an update of goals and progress.

S211 Budget and Finance

1. Wes Meixelsperger and Budget & Finance Chair Randy Southard reported on the first quarter financials for 2014 that includes a net operating loss.

2. Wes Meixelsperger presented information on purchasing office space in Washington, DC for the Science Policy Office. Consensus of the board to refer this to the SSSA Budget & Finance Committee to review and make a recommendation to the SSSA Board.

Public/Science Communications

Director of Public/Science Communications Susan Fisk presented an update:

- Trial Communications Editor – feeding info to Public/Science Communications Department
- Increase in Facebook followers, Increase in Twitter followers, though need for members to post/follow/like/RT/share, submit content
- Need member help: Submit photos to Soil Sightings, Photo contest, Soil Identify Committee – chaired by Mary Beth Adams.
- Learn from what others type into a Search engine – undergrad, middle school, consulting, teachers. We are friending those pages who come up high on the list.

S711.17 - S - International Year of Soils Planning Committee

- Chair David Lindbo provided an update of the plans to celebrate the International Year of Soils – 2015, FAO and the UN decreed the 2015 Year of Soil. Audience: Members, Educators (traditional and non-traditional), Policy makers in the U.S. We will cooperate with international, but our focus is on the U.S.:

- Monthly meetings of the committee since January. Developing themes for each month. We’ve asked members to be the go-to person for each month to manage the team to develop materials for members to use to get
them out to teachers, school groups, public -- something different every month. If board members have any activities or ideas forward to Susan Fisk.

- We will be putting dollars for the International Year of Soil in the 2015 budget as nothing was budgeted in 2014.

**S301 Editorial Affairs, Policies and Practices**

Director of Publications & Meetings Mark Mandelbaum presented a publications update, including the Digital Library:

- Jan Hopmans would like a non-member individual price for the Digital Library developed but at a price where it would be cheaper to join and subscribe than to subscribe as a non-member. Only 16-17 U.S. universities subscribe to the D.L. Mark Mandelbaum was encouraged to work on this. Tom Fox encouraged Mark to create a promotional message about the D.L. that members could forward to their librarians.
- New EGU open access soils journal is generating interest. Discussion on decision to remove page charges vs. open access page charges on Society publications.
- Three editors-in-chief are meeting to discuss each Society developing new journals – electronic only and open-access and if existing journals go to an open-access model.
- Jan Hopmans will appoint a Task Force (Sally Logsdon, Dave Myrold, an international member, Mark Mandelbaum, and staff) to delve into publications to present a report at the Long Beach meeting with their recommendations for options.

**S732 Program Planning**

Mark Mandelbaum and Ron Turco provided an update on Program Planning:

- For the January 2019 SSSA Annual Meeting, the ASA and CSSA meeting is 2 months prior in Baltimore and the World Congress of Soil Science is 5 months prior which may impact the potential number of attendees. Promotion and marketing to start early.
- Jan Hopmans reports that there is interest among the Canadian and Mexican Soil Science Societies and the Clay Mineral Society to meet with us, but nothing confirmed.
- Randy Southard agreed that the current working group will continue and will work on communication.
- There was consensus to hold the Board Meeting on Sunday instead of Thursday at the 2014 meeting.
- Update of the Small Conferences. The 2014 meetings were well attended and all were profitable. There are three proposed for 2015.
- **ACTION:** Motion by Marty Rabenhorst that we designate 2023 as a potential year for SSSA to meet without ASA and CSSA, following an immediate evaluation of the separate 2019 meeting. John Galbraith seconded. Unanimous approval.

**S537 Science Policy Committee**

Director of Government Relations Karl Anderson presented a Science Policy update:

- Encourage people to schedule a meeting with members of Congress during August Recess
- Report on 2014 Congressional Visits Day
- Purchased Engage advocacy software
- NSF Award Member Database
- Invite someone from the Science Policy Office to your campus to speak about advocacy.
- Opportunity to work with abroad coalition of scientific societies to put together a document, everyone in the whole food systems top research what the impacts are Identify future Research Priorities – funding—identifying needs per Sonny Ramaswamy, USDA-NIFA. What are the issues? Incredibly challenging. Can we build on existing efforts? An opportunity to summarize existing work and get the information out.
- **ACTION:** Motion by David Lindbo to create a task force to develop a policy paper that would identify future research priorities and funding needs for soils. Seconded by Miguel Cabrera. Jan will work with Ron Turco to put the task force together. Ron Turco will chair the task force. Unanimous approval.

**S584 Soils Certification Board**

Luther Smith provided update on certification. How can we work with the state soil science societies, how do they connect with them? SSSA is a logical home for them. There is also an opportunity to expand the certification programs internationally.
ACS090 Agronomic Science Foundation
John Havlin presented an update on the Agronomic Science Foundation.

- ASF awarded $220,000 to our members in scholarship, lectureships, and awards, including the successful Golden Opportunity Scholars undergraduate program.
- New initiative, Sustainable Research Fund to award research grants. Monsanto is the one donor to the fund, but hopefully we can bring in other major donors.
- Dig It traveling exhibit $220,000 to offset travel, storage, repair. This is the fourth museum it has been to. K-12 development successful. Alexander Barton has been in contact with Raleigh, NC, the Science Center in St. Louis, Denver, and Dallas. Ultimately in about four years, we are going to need a permanent place – headquarters could hold parts of it. Or figure out a way to find a permanent location.

S496.1 SSSA Soil Science Lectureship Award - Task Force to Develop Proposal
David Lindbo circulated a plan for the SSSA Distinguished Lectureship Program: 1-3 individuals would be selected for partial/full support to travel/speak about soils domestically (primarily) and possibly some international. Lectures should be at 8th grade level on topics about general/broad soils issues rather than specific, detailed soils research. Took the concept and some language from Sigma Xi. Also looked at GSA’s Driesdale Lecture. Post info on website and invite universities to invite lecturers to travel/give talks. Desire for GREAT speakers with “young” faces. Makes sense to launch this as part of the International Year of Soil in 2015.

S237 SSSA Membership and Society Identity
Susan Chapman presented an update on membership. Ian Popkewitz presented a new SSSA membership form. Jan Hopmans presented an Affiliate Membership proposal. Several ideas came forward from the board including:

- Aaron Dejoia asked if Continuing Education Units would be offered as a discount to which membership group
- Marty Rabenhorst would like CSA News and Soil Horizons added to the table to show that full members receive it, the others don’t
- Add a line to the table to show that Awards Nominee/Nominator are for full members only; Committee members must be full members not affiliate members.
- Marty Rabenhorst would like a discussion on electronic only for CSA News, add an additional charge if you want to have print for CSA News.
- The dollar amount is showing $100, we had talked about $60 – the affiliate is held at $20. We either lose $80 or $40.
- Needs to be a compelling difference between full membership and affiliate.
- Concern about cannibalizing – Will an SSSA-ASA member just drop to the affiliate, then we are going to lose $80.
- Dave Lindbo suggested to lower dues and then charge extra for things like CSA News, CEUs, Digital Library downloads, etc.
- Larry Baldwin – looking at all of these professional societies that now have soils related topics and activities – they have huge number of membership numbers. We want to draw those people back in. Their dues are much lower, once we draw them in, get them to upgrade to full membership.
- Randy Southard wants to uncouple the subsidizing of dues when you are a member of more than one Society.
- A Board Task Force to look at dues. A dues structure that increases as you have more benefits.

Consensus to Adjourn