The meeting was called to order by SSSA President Carolyn Olson. Board members present:

Carolyn Olson, SSSA President
Jan Hopmans, SSSA Past President
Harold van Es, SSSA President-Elect
Miguel Cabrera, Ag Soil & Food Systems Group
John Kovar, Ag Soil & Food Systems Group
Ole Wendroth, Fundamental Soil Science Group
John Galbraith, Fundamental Soil Science Group
Oren Reedy, Certified Professional Soil Scientists
Andrew Sharpley, SSSA Editor-in-Chief, ex-officio
Mary Tiedeman, Grad Student Rep., ex-officio
Alan Franzluebbers, Ag Soil & Food Systems
Aaron Thompson, Fundamental Soil Science
Greg Evanylo, Soil & Ecosystem Processes
Ellen Bergfeld, Chief Executive Officer, ex-officio
Not able to attend:
Robert Michitsch, Early Career Members
John Galbraith, Fundamental Soil Science Group
Thomas Fox, Soil & Ecosystem Processes Group
Aaron DeJoia - Ed & Practicing Professionals Group
Also attending:
Wes Meixelsperger, Chief Financial Officer
Susan Chapman, Director of Member Services
Susan Fisk, Director of Public & Science Communication
Bill Cook, Director of Publications
Sara Uttech, Senior Mgr–Governance & Membership

S003 SSSA Board of Directors


2. ACTION: Motion by John Kovar to approve the Jan. 28, 2015 SSSA Board Conference Call Minutes. Seconded by Harold van Es. Unanimously approved.

S211 Budget and Finance

1. ACTION: Motion from the B&F Committee to approve the following set of eight recommendations for SSSA budget development. Unanimously approved.

   **Budget & Finance Committee Budget Development Recommendations**

   1. Establish as an operating principle that SSSA will develop zero-deficit annual budgets, which may require adjustments to align expenses and revenue.
   2. As a guideline, limit projected budget deficit not to exceed 10% of projected revenues (not including investment income)
   3. Establish that the current business model of SSSA emphasizes that most revenues (and profit) are derived from publications and meetings.
   4. Consider using the Higher Education Price Index as a mechanism for adjusting dues, and ensure that dues are adjusted in a timely manner.
   5. Anticipate the financial consequences of an action for budgeting or planning purposes with B&F review.
   6. When planning the budget, request that revenue estimates be conservative and reflect the most likely outcome.
   7. When developing a new budget involve the B&F committee in a detailed analysis of the deficit of the previous year.
   8. Ensure the budget serves as a guideline, which reflects the best estimate of SSSA’s anticipated income and the costs of operating various program activities.

2. Wes Meixelsperger presented the 2014 SSSA year-end financials, which included an operating loss of $409,557. The B&F Committee will meet to identify opportunities to reduce 2015 budget expenditures.

S301 Editorial Affairs, Policies and Practices

Editor-in-Chief Andrew Sharpley and Publications Director Bill Cook presented a proposal that will go before all three boards to develop an open-access, letters-length journal containing timely topics with a working title of *Agricultural Letters*. Following discussion, there was consensus to table this topic until the next board call to allow the organizers to revise their proposal, taking into account the financial aspects, marketing, staff time, and a cost/benefit analysis. Board members are encouraged to submit suggestions and questions to Andrew Sharpley and Bill Cook.
**SSSA General Awards**
The Board was reminded to review the posted SSSA Awards Policy regarding award nominations and reference letters.

**Upcoming SSSA Meetings**
- The May SSSA Board Meeting will be held in Madison, WI, May 11-12, 2015. Ellen Bergfeld directed the board to review the posted SSSA Strategic Plan in advance of the meeting. Sara Uttech will send an email with information for board members to make their travel arrangements.
- Next SSSA Board Call: Tuesday March 26, 2015 at 11:00am Central.

Consensus to adjourn.