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

Carolyn Olson, SSSA President
Jan Hopmans, SSSA Past President
Miguel Cabrera, Ag Soil & Food Systems Group
John Kovar, Ag Soil & Food Systems Group
Alan Franzluebbers, Ag Soil & Food Systems Group
Aaron DeJoia - Ed & Practicing Professionals Group
John Galbraith, Fundamental Soil Science Group
Ole Wendroth, Fundamental Soil Science Group
Aaron Thompson, Fundamental Soil Science Group
Greg Evanylo, Soil & Ecosystem Processes Group
Thomas Fox, Soil & Ecosystem Processes Group
Mary Tiedeman, Grad Student Rep.

Oren Reedy, Certified Professional Soil Scientists Rep.
Andrew Sharpley, SSSA Editor-in-Chief, ex-officio
Ellen Bergfeld, Chief Executive Officer, ex-officio
Not able to attend:

SSSA Board of Directors

1. Bill Buckner, CEO of Noble Foundation, presented information on their Soil Renaissance initiative - a virtual collaborative global Soil Health Research Center to help fund soil health efforts, outreach, and communication.

2. ACTION: Motion by Ole Wendroth seconded by John Kovar to approve the Consent Agenda. Consensus to approve:
   - Approve Feb. 26, 2015 SSSA Board Meeting Minutes
   - Approve March 26, 2015 SSSA Board Agenda
   - Approve revised SSSA Distinguished Lectureship proposal

3. Carolyn Olson reported the 2015 SSSA Election results:
   - Incoming SSSA President-Elect: Andrew Sharpley
   - Incoming SSSA Group Board Reps: Richard Ferguson (Ag Soil & Food Systems), William Horwath (Fundamental Soil Science), and Thomas Fox (Soil & Ecosystem Processes)
   - SSSA Bylaw Changes Approved, including: Soil Physics & Hydrology Division name change; Grad Student Rep as voting member of the SSSA board

4. Carolyn Olson and Ellen Bergfeld provided an overview of the upcoming May 11-12 Board Meeting where the board will review current Strategic Plans. Make your travel arrangements. Forward your itinerary to Sara Uttech
   - May 11 – Travel to arrive at Headquarters by 1:00pm (or day before if necessary). SSSA Board Meeting 1:00pm-5:00pm, followed by dinner
   - May 12 – SSSA Board Meeting 8:00am-1:00pm: Travel to fly home after 3:00pm (or day after if necessary)
   - UPDATE: We will reserve hotel rooms at the former Quality Inn & Suites – now Wyndam Garden.

S003 Editorial Affairs, Policies and Practices
ACTION: Motion by Jan Hopmans to support the development of the Letters journal and move forward with the other two societies to develop this new publication with the potential name change. Second Ole Wendroth. Unanimous approval.

S537 Science Policy Committee
Director of Government Relations Karl Anderson provided a report of the March 17, 2015 Congressional Visits Day. There were 54 individuals who participated, including members of the Executive Committees, Science Policy Committees, 21 graduate students, Certified Crop Advisers, Greenfield Scholars, and staff. They held more than 90 meetings with Congressional offices, asking for support of USDA research, including signing on to a Dear Colleague letter in support of AFRI. As a result of the visits, more than 15 signed on to the letter.
Consensus to adjourn.

Next SSSA Board Call – Thursday April 23, 2015 at 11:00am Central.