



**Soil Science Society of America Board of Directors Meeting Agenda  
Thursday May 16, 2024, 11:00am-12:15pm (Central)**

President Michael Thompson called the meeting to order.

Board members present:

President: Michael Thompson, Iowa State  
Past President: Carrie Laboski, USDA-ARS  
President-Elect: Samira Daroub, Univ. of Florida  
Agricultural Soil and Food Systems Group:  
Maysoon Mikha, USDA-ARS; Hero Gollany, USDA-ARS  
CPSS Rep: Jacob Berkowitz, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
DEI-at-Large: Xia Zhu-Barker, UW-Madison  
Early Career Rep: Dianna Bagnall, Soil Health Institute  
Education & Practicing Professionals Group:  
Clay Robinson, CRC Consulting  
Fundamental Soil Science Group: Rebecca Lybrand, UC-Davis;  
Ganga Hettiarachchi, K-State  
Soil & Ecosystem Processes: Ronald Reuter, Oregon State  
Ex-officio without Vote: CEO Jim Cudahy; Program Planning  
Officer Aaron Daigh, Univ. of Nebraska; Editor-in-Chief Craig  
Rasmussen, Univ. of Arizona

Unable to attend:

ASF Chair Stella Salvo, Bayer CropScience  
Ag, Soil & Food Systems: Dorivar Ruiz Diaz, K-State  
Fundamental Soil Science Group: Maxine Levin, USDA-NRCS  
Fundamental Soil Science: Thorsten Knappenberger, Auburn  
Grad Student Rep: Megan Bourns, K-State

Also attending:

Susan Dearing-Bond, Development Director  
Linda Dolezalek, Interim Finance Director  
Dawn Gibas, Certifications Director  
Luther Smith, Chief Administrative Officer  
Sara Uttech, Governance Director  
Susan Varghese, People & Culture Director  
Matt Wascavage, Publications Director

S003 SSSA Board of Directors

1. ACTION: The following Consent Agenda were approved:
  - April 18, 2024 SSSA Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
  - March 21, 2024 SSSA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
2. The following Consent Agenda items were approved:
  1. Approve: May 16, 2024 SSSA Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
  2. Approve: April 18, 2024 SSSA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Facilitators for Division/Group Reports			
April	May	June	July
Michael Thompson Xia Zhu-Barker	Maysoon Mikha Clay Robinson	Jacob Berkowitz Maxine Levin	Dianna Bagnall Ron Reuter
August	September	October	November
Thorsten Knappenberger Carrie Laboski	Megan Bourns Dorivar Ruiz Diaz	Samira Daroub Ganga Hettiarachchi	Hero Gollany Rebecca Lybrand

3. Maysoon Mikha reported on the Soil and Water Management and Conservation Division which has 1,212 members. They offer grad student awards through oral and poster contests. The division has a graduate student mentoring committee and a lectureship committee. Awards are funded by the division or the Agronomic Science Foundation. They participate in Cross Division Symposium with other divisions.
4. Clay Robinson reported on two activities: "Careers in Soil Science and Environmental Science" session led by practitioner soil scientists to provide an overview of jobs available in and careers with the SASES and grad students as the target audience. The second activity is the K-12 outreach, which is providing teaching strategies and materials and a representative soil booklet for Puerto Rico, which will be delivered in both English and Spanish.
5. CEO Jim Cudahy presented a Headquarters Update:

- NC-FAR Update on the Farm Bill
  - Progress on the website redesign project: focusing on organizing content and improving the overall user experience. The aim is to make the website more integrated and focused on members and prospective members
  - Membership Dashboard Preview shows SSSA membership data and trends
  - Highlighted upcoming attendance at the upcoming IUSS Centennial Meeting in Italy and the potential for global collaboration
6. Announcements and ways to promote SSSA to colleagues/students with Discussion Board Posts:
- SSSA Presidential Award: nominations due May 15 to Michael Thompson
  - SSSAJ Webinar on June 27, 10:00am (Central): Soil Biological Health is Dependent on Soil Properties and Management
  - [ASA Virtual Sustainable Agronomy Conference](#) - free two-hour live online sessions each week with up to 8 CEUs: July 10, 17, 24, 31
  - ASF Travel Grants due July 25: [www.soils.org/awards](http://www.soils.org/awards) - *encourage students to participate:*
    - [Advancing Pedology Award](#)
    - [Caregiver Travel Award](#)
    - [Graduate Student Travel Award](#)
    - [Hans Jenny Soil Field Trip Award](#)
    - [Henry Lin Travel Grant](#)
    - [Indian Univ. Grad Student Travel Award](#)

#### S211 Budget & Finance Committee

Interim Director of Finance Linda Dolezalek presented the financials for the first quarter of 2024, showing an increase in revenues and direct expenses compared to the previous year. She also said that the audit report and management letter were attached for review, following the Budget & Finance Committee Meeting with the Auditor.

#### ACS321 Editorial Policy Coordination Committee

Director Matt Wascavage provided a Publications Update:

- The Decode 6 website redesign <https://decode6.org/> will be complete in the next 6-8 weeks. The team, led by Richard Easby and Marie Johnson, is focusing on quality content rather than quantity. They are also leveraging content sponsored by Dairy Management Inc. to attract other groups in crops and farming practices. The team is also targeting organizations to promote Decode 6 with their members. They are developing content for use in CEUs for certified professionals.
- Call for Editors, apply by June 1 by contacting President identified at links below by June 1:
  - ASA & CSSA: [Crop, Forage & Turfgrass Management Editor](#)
  - ASA & CSSA: [The Plant Phenome Journal Editor](#)
  - ASA-CSSA-SSSA: [Agricultural & Environmental Letters Editor](#)
  - CSSA: [Journal of Plant Registrations Editor](#)
  - SSSA: [Editor-in-Chief](#)

#### S711.19 SSSA 2024 Program Planning Task Force

SSSA Bouyoucos Conference in Puerto Rico, June 9-13 [www.sacmeetings.org](http://www.sacmeetings.org)

Hybrid Board Meeting June 14, 9:00am-4:00pm (local time)

- Agenda Preview:
  - Storytelling Exercise
  - Outreach Presentation: Feedback
  - SSSA Strategic Plan: Objectives, Committees, Revenue-Generating Products & Services
  - Finance 101 with Interim Director of Finance Linda Dolezalek
  - Fundraising 101 with Director of Development Susan Dearing-Bond
  - Discussion: North American Proficiency Testing (NAPT) Program
  - June Division/Group Reports: Jacob Berkowitz and Maxine Levin
  - Send additional agenda topics to Michael Thompson, Jim Cudahy, and Sara Uttech
- In-Person Board Member Logistics:

- Register on your own (optional tours, workshops, lunches): [www.sacmeetings.org](http://www.sacmeetings.org)
- Book your flight; we will make Hilton Caribe reservations, up to last 2 nights direct billed
- SSSA will reimburse flight with receipts and completed Travel Reimbursement Form
- Plan for Board Dinner on Friday June 14 on property

Consensus to Adjourn.