



**Soil Science Society of America Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
Thursday Sept. 19, 2024, 11:00am-12:15pm (Central Time)**

Strategic Plan, Bylaws, Minutes: www.soils.org/about-society | [SSSA Membership Dashboard](#)

President Michael Thompson called the meeting to order.

Board members present:

President: Michael Thompson, Iowa State
 President-Elect: Samira Daroub, Univ. of Florida
 Past President: Carrie Laboski, USDA-ARS
 Agricultural Soil and Food Systems Group: Maysoon Mikha, USDA-ARS; Hero Gollany, USDA-ARS; Dorivar Ruiz Diaz, K-State
 CPSS Rep: Jacob Berkowitz, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 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
 Grad Student Rep: Megan Bourns, K-State
 Soil & Ecosystem Processes: Thorsten Knappenberger, Auburn
 Ex-officio without Vote: CEO Jim Cudahy; Program Planning Officer & Incoming President-Elect Aaron Daigh, Univ. of

Nebraska; Editor-in-Chief Craig Rasmussen, Univ. of Arizona

Unable to attend:

ASF Chair Stella Salvo, Bayer CropScience
 DEI-at-Large: Xia Zhu-Barker, UW-Madison
 Fundamental Soil Science Group: Maxine Levin, USDA-NRCS
 Soil & Ecosystem Processes: Ronald Reuter, Oregon State

Also attending:

Susan Chapman, Special Projects Director
 Susan Dearing-Bond, Development Director
 Linda Dolezalek, Interim Finance Director
 Sanford Moore, Finance Director
 Luther Smith, Chief Administrative Officer
 Ian Popkewitz, IT & Operations Director
 Sara Uttech, Governance Director
 Matt Wascavage, Publications Director

S003 SSSA Board of Directors

1. The following Consent Agenda was approved:

- Approve: Sept. 19, 2024 SSSA Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
- Approve: Aug. 15, 2024 SSSA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

2. Division/Group Reports included:

- Dorivar Ruiz Diaz reported that there will be a tribute to former SSSA President Leo Walsh, who passed away on June 27, as part of the ASF Leo Walsh Soil Fertility Lectureship.
- Ganga Hettiarachchi reported that the Soil Physics Division does not like the current SSSA Discussion Boards. They would like to have push notifications and the ability to not have to log in. This has contributed to a low number of award nominations. CAO Luther Smith responded that our new Higher Logic Discussion Boards should address these concerns.

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

4. CEO Jim Cudahy presented a Headquarters Update that included:

- Website Redesign soft rollout at the Annual Meeting in November
- *CSA News* and *Crops & Soils* moving to digital in 2025
- Customizable Outreach PowerPoint coming soon
- Webinar update, new hire to focus on webinars
- Current Annual Meeting registration numbers: up over last year

- Budget & Finance Committee call on Sept. 30 to review 2025 Budgets with Directors

ACS521 ASA-CSSA-SSSA Ethics Committee

Ethics Committee Chair Lee Tarpley and Special Projects Director Susan Chapman presented the updated ASA, CSSA, SSSA Ethics Statement seeking feedback from board members before presenting it to the full membership for feedback. It will replace the former SSSA Ethics Statement, last updated in 1999. Board feedback included:

- Broadening the statement to be more inclusive for non-profits, industry, those who are not certified and non-academics/non-researchers to ensure they are reflected in this statement
- Suggest referencing on the document that a CCA and CPSS Code of Ethics exists
- The committee will not be revising the CPSS Ethics Statement & Complaint Investigation Procedure
- The committee will work on a separate Code of Conduct and will reference the Statement of Ethics

S101 SSSA Nominations Committee

Governance Director Sara Uttech announced the Call for 2026 Candidates: www.soils.org/elections

Nov. 15: Interest due to Division Chairs

Nov. 30: Final candidates due to Sara Uttech

Encourage women and other underrepresented groups to run for office

- President-Elect: S101 Nominations Committee
- All Division Chairs-Elect: 2 candidates for each division
- Board Reps this Cycle with a 2025-ending term; *current reps eligible for re-election (3-year terms)*:
 - Ag, Soil & Food Systems; Fundamental Soil Science; Education & Practicing Professionals:
 - DEI Member-at-Large: [Apply online by Nov. 15](#)
 - Early Career (within 7 years of terminal degree as of 2026): [Apply online by Nov. 15](#)
 - Grad Student (as of 2026 even if graduating), 2-year term: [Apply online by Nov. 15](#)

ACS321 Editorial Policy Coordination Committee

Publications Director Matt Wascavage provided an update, including a roundup of 2025 Editorial Appointments and Annual Meeting Publications Workshops.

S592 SSSA Science Policy Committee

Luther Smith presented a Science Policy Committee update that included the 2025 Congressional Visits Date announcement: Feb. 25-26, 2025.

S973.10 U.S. National Committee for Soil Science

President-Elect Samira Daroub reported on plans for World Soil Day on Dec. 5.

ACS732 Program Planning Committee

President-Elect Samira Daroub provided an Annual Meeting update that included:

www.acsmeetings.org:

- [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Activities](#)
- SSSA Board Meeting, Sunday Nov. 10, 9:00-11:00am (8:30am breakfast)
- ASA-CSSA-SSSA Awards Lunch, Monday Nov. 11, Noon-1:30pm (ticketed)
- SSSA Coffee with the Presidents, Tuesday Nov. 12, 9:00-10:30am (exhibit hall)
- Science Policy and You - Learn, Be Inspired, Get Involved, Tuesday Nov. 12, 10:00am-Noon
- Sabor De San Antonio: An Exploration of Food, Culture, and Multi-Lingual Science, Tuesday Nov. 12, 6:00-8:20pm (ticketed)
- SSSA Plenary/Brady Lectureship & Breakfast, Wednesday Nov. 13, 7:45-9:30am (ticketed)

- Annual Meeting Promotional Toolkit – Images and text to share on social media:
www.acsmeetings.org/promotionaltoolkit

Consensus to Adjourn.