



**Soil Science Society of America Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Thursday Oct. 17, 2024, 11:00am-12:15pm (Central Time)**

**Resources:** [Strategic Plan, Bylaws, Minutes](#) | [Membership Dashboard](#) | [Outreach PPT](#)

President Michael Thompson called the meeting to order.

Board members present:

President: Michael Thompson, Iowa State  
 President-Elect: Samira Daroub, Univ. of Florida  
 Ag Soil & Food Systems Group: Maysoon Mikha, USDA-ARS;  
 Hero Gollany, USDA-ARS  
 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: Ron Reuter, Oregon State;  
 Thorsten Knappenberger, Auburn  
 Ex-officio without vote: CEO Jim Cudahy

Unable to attend:

Past President: Carrie Laboski, USDA-ARS

Ag Soil & Food Systems: Dorivar Ruiz Diaz, K-State  
 CPSS Rep: Jacob Berkowitz, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
 DEI-at-Large: Xia Zhu-Barker, UW-Madison  
 Fundamental Soil Science: Maxine Levin, USDA-NRCS  
 ASF Chair Stella Salvo, Bayer CropScience; Editor-in-Chief Craig  
 Rasmussen, Univ. of Arizona; Program Planning Officer &  
 Incoming President-Elect Aaron Daigh, Univ. of Nebraska

Also attending:

Susan Chapman, Special Projects Director  
 Susan Dearing-Bond, Development Director  
 Dawn Gibas, Certifications Director  
 Sanford Moore, Finance Director  
 Luther Smith, Chief Administrative Officer  
 Sara Uttech, Governance Director  
 Matt Wascavage, Publications Director

S003 SSSA Board of Directors

1. ACTION: The following Consent Agenda was approved:
  - Oct. 17, 2024 SSSA Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
  - Sept. 19, 2024 SSSA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

2. Division/Group/Committee Reports included:

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

- Megan Bourns, Grad Student Committee:
  - Interest in hosting Grad Student peer presentations at own campuses, such as at a seminar or other grad student event, presented by grad student leaders, such as committee members and others involved in the Society. The committee was encouraged to use the new Outreach resources and PowerPoint as a starting point, available at: [www.soils.org/about-society/outreach](http://www.soils.org/about-society/outreach)
  - Request that volunteers for Society committees need more timely communication, especially if not appointed. Many grad students volunteer following the Annual Meeting, but unfortunately many don't hear back.
  - Need for better community engagement with grad student members. We do some on social media, but are hopeful that the new website offers more opportunities for engagement.
- Samira Daroub, U.S. National Committee for Soil Science:

- World Soils Day is Dec. 5, and the U.S. National Committee for Soil Science will host, "Soils Speak: Connecting Soils, Culture, Community," with a panel discussion and subtopics. Watch for more info, including times and specific speakers to be announced.
3. CEO Jim Cudahy presented a Headquarters Update, including:
    - SSSA Budget & Finance Committee Met on Sept. 30 to Review Draft 2025 Budget. Final 2025 Budget to be presented and approved at November Board Meeting
    - Outreach PowerPoint available online: [www.soils.org/about-society/outreach](http://www.soils.org/about-society/outreach)
    - Current Annual Meeting Registration Numbers: 1% ahead of last year with 64 booths
    - Website Redesign, Rolling Soft Launch in November, including Higher Logic
  4. Certifications Director Dawn Gibas is Vice Chair and Michael Walker, Australia, is Chair of the International Union of Soil Sciences Division 1 International Accreditation for Soil Science Professionals & Practitioners Working Group approved in July 2024. Objectives:
    - Form a diverse and regionally representative International Accreditation Working Group to research and develop a structure for a global accreditation or certification program in soil science. This may include specialty accreditations.
    - Investigate synergies between country and regional accreditation requirements to ascertain commonalities.
    - Ensure broad consultation and regular communication with a growing stakeholder base of soil science societies and other relevant organisations (including international institutions).
    - Work with IUSS to seek agreement on how and where the resulting accreditation scheme and associated artefacts would be published and maintained.
    - Determine how the accreditation program would be administered and managed, and under what mechanism it would be reviewed and improved or updated.
  5. Upcoming Webinars: [www.soils.org/education/online-courses](http://www.soils.org/education/online-courses)
    - Oct. 17 [\*The fate of ammonium phosphate nitrogen: A major blind spot\*](#)
    - Oct. 24 [\*Inside the Hiring Process: Perspectives from the Other Side of the Table\*](#)

#### ACS732 Program Planning

Annual Meeting Events [www.acsmeetings.org](http://www.acsmeetings.org):

- Launching CANVAS Branding
- [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Activities](#)
- SSSA Board Meeting, Sunday Nov. 10, 9:00-11:00am (8:30am breakfast)
- ASA-CSSA-SSSA-ASF New Board Member Orientation, Sunday Nov. 10, Noon-2:00pm
- [Soil Science Certification - Is it time to update requirements?](#) Sunday Nov. 10, 1:00-4:30pm
- 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)
- Division Business Meeting Schedule, check with Division Chairs for Time on Agenda for a board report: <https://scisoc.confex.com/scisoc/2024am/meetingapp.cgi/Program/2169>
  - Headquarters will send Board Discussion Items in early November

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

President Michael Thompson asked board members to review the SSSA Bouyoucos Summer Conference Final Report from the task force for discussion at the November Board meeting.

#### S592 Science Policy Committee:

- National Academies Seeks Experts for PFAS Study - Nominate/Self-Nominate by **Oct. 25**: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8040283/Assistance-to-the-U-S-Department-of-Agriculture-in-Building-a-Framework-for-Addressing-PFAS-on-Agricultural-Land-Call-for-Experts>
- Save the Date: **Feb. 25-26, 2025** Congressional Visits Day. Encourage Grad Students to apply by **Dec. 4** to attend: [www.soils.org/awards/view/185](http://www.soils.org/awards/view/185)

### S101 Nominations Committee

Call for Candidates: [www.soils.org/elections](http://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 from each division
- Board Reps: 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](#)

Consensus to Adjourn.