

Soil Science Society of America Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Thursday, March 18, 2021, 1:00pm–4:00pm (Central)

President April Ulery called the meeting to order. Board members present:

April Ulery, President
Ron Turco, President-Elect
Ole Wendroth, Past President
Eric Brevik, Ed & Practicing Professionals Group
John Grove, Ag Soil & Food Systems Group
Jane Johnson, Ag Soil & Food Systems Group
Carrie Laboski, Ag Soil & Food Systems Group
Rachelle LaCroix, Grad Student Board Rep.
Matt Polizzotto, Soil & Ecosystems Processes Group
Craig Rasmussen, Fundamental Soil Science Group
Mary Stromberger, Fundamental Soil Science Group
Michael Thompson, Fundamental Soil Science Group
Aaron Daigh, Program Planning Officer, ex officio
David Myrold, SSSA Editor-in-Chief, ex officio
Luther Smith, Interim CEO, ex officio

Unable to attend:
Daniel Markewitz, Soil & Ecosystems Processes Group
James Hartsig, CPSS Representative
Xia Zhu-Barker, Early Career Board Rep.
Samantha Miller, ASF Board Chair, ex officio
Also Attending:
Karl Anderson, Government Relations Director
Chris Boomsma, Education Director
Audrey Chang, Chief Operations Officer
Susan Fisk, Public & Science Comm. Director
Liz Gillispie, Diversity Consultant
Dennis Johnson, SortSol Group
Wes Meixelsperger, CFO & Meetings Director
William Pewen, Epidemiologist
Ian Popkewitz, IT & Operations Director
Sara Uttech, Governance Director
Matt Wascavage, Publications Director

S003 Board of Directors

1. ACTION: Consensus to approve the March 18, 2021 SSSA Board of Directors Meeting Agenda.
2. ACTION: Motion by John Grove, seconded by Carrie Laboski, to approve the Feb. 18, 2021 SSSA Board Directors Meeting Minutes. Unanimous approval.
3. April Ulery introduced interim CEO Luther Smith, Director of Professional Development & Business Relations.
4. Consultant Dennis Johnson, SortSol Group and Governance Work Group Eric Brevik, Rachelle LaCroix, Matt Polizzotto, April Ulery, and Sara Uttech presented the SSSA Designed Alliance and Governance Action Plan. The board also participated in the Board Composition Matrix exercise.
5. ACTION: Motion by Eric Brevik, seconded by Ron Turco to approve the ACS DEI Statement. Unanimous approval.
6. ACTION: Motion by Ole Wendroth, seconded by Michael Thompson, to approve the Cooperation Agreement with the Soil Science Society of China. Motion carries with one abstention.
7. Director of Member Services Susan Chapman reported that communication to Division Chairs about Discussion Boards soils.org/discussion-boards would be sent, including an informational webinar.
8. The Stand-Alone Annual Meeting Task Force will meet to decide on 2027 and beyond.
9. Publications Director Matt Wascavage presented a Publications update and posted document.

S101 Nominations Committee

April Ulery reminded the board to vote in the SSSA Elections through April 8 and remind members to vote: soils.org/elections

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

Liaison Ron Turco reported that the U.S. National Committee for Soil Science wants a stronger connection to our Society and the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS). Contact him if you are interested in serving on the IUSS boards or committees. The next World Congress of Soil Science is July 31-Aug. 5, 2022: <https://soils.org.uk/wcss22/>.

S673 American Geosciences Institute Liaison

ACTION: Approved via email vote with one abstention on Feb. 26, 2021 of SSSA being a signatory on the AGI Framework document.

S211 Budget & Finance Committee

CFO Wes Meixelsperger and Carrie Laboski, Budget & Finance Chair, presented the SSSA 2020 Year-End Financials.

ACS732 Program Planning

1. CFO & Director of Meetings Wes Meixelsperger presented information on planning for the Annual Meeting, Nov. 7-10, 2021 in Salt Lake City, UT. He provided attendance and financial projections with 2,000 attendees as a break-even point and included information on Salt Lake City cancellation fees.
2. Epidemiologist consultant Bill Pewen provided information on the current COVID-19 status.
3. The ASA-CSSA-SSSA Joint Boards of Directors call will be held on April 8 at Noon Central to vote for an in-person or virtual Annual Meeting. The recommendation from the ACS732 Program Planning Committee is to move forward with an in-person meeting while holding the June 30 date as the deadline to pivot to virtual.

Consensus to adjourn. Next SSSA Board Call: Thursday April 15, 2021 2:30pm Central