

2015 Soil and Water Management and Conservation Business Meeting
November 18, 2015, 1:15-2:30 p.m.
MCC 103F, Level 1
David Huggins, Presiding

Call to Order; Meeting Agenda

- David Huggins called the meeting to order.
- Jeff Strock motioned to accept the meeting agenda. Ted Zobeck seconded the motion.

Current Officers; Committee Review

- Current officers within the division are as follows:
 - Chair: David Huggins, dhuggins@wsu.edu
 - Chair-Elect: Jane Johnson, jane.johnson@ars.usda.gov
 - Past Chair: Tom Sauer, tom.sauer@ars.usda.gov
 - Division Representative: Alan Franzluebbbers, alan.franzluebbbers@ars.usda.gov
- David Huggins reviewed committee membership.
 - Young Scholar Award: Tom Sauer (Chair) Alan Franzluebbbers, Jeff Strock
 - Nominating Committee: Tom Sauer (Chair), Alan Franzluebbbers, Jeff Strock, Mark Liebig
 - SSSA-SWCS Joint Symposium: Jeff Strock (Chair), Clark Gantzer, Chris Gross, Veronica Acosta-Martinez and Rebecca Power
 - Best Paper Award: Hero Gollany (Chair), Mark Liebig, DeAnn Presley, Francisco Arriaga, Maria Lucia Silveira, Michael Castellano
 - Graduate Student Poster Award: Tom Sauer (Chair)
 - Soil and Water Conservation Scholarship: Jerry Lemunyon (Chair) Florence Cassel-Sharma, Dory Franklin, Tom Sauer, Chris Gross, Erin Brooks
 - Graduate Student Award: Clark Gantzer (Chair), Humberto Blanco, Abbey Wick
 - Graduate Student Oral Presentation Award (originally slated to be new in 2015)

SWCS Liaison Report (Jeff Strock)

The 16th SWCS-SSSA joint symposium was held on Tuesday (11/17) on the topic of long-term agricultural research. The symposium served as an update from a similar symposium 26 years ago. Attendance was good, with approximately 80 attendees. There were 22 volunteered posters associated with the joint symposium.

A similar symposium was held at the SWCS annual meeting in July, with approximately 75 attendees.

A special issue on long-term agricultural research is being explored for potential publication in *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*.

Input is sought for symposium topics for next year's SWCS and SSSA annual meetings. Topics should consider the broad themes of each meeting (e.g., resilience, water and food security, etc.).

Review of Sessions/Symposia

- Monday: Agroecosystem resilience, Bioenergy cropping systems, Soil C and N dynamics
- Tuesday: Long-term agricultural research, Restoring soil health (symposium; very well attended), Soil and water management and conservation, Soils and human health (symposium; also well attended).
- Wednesday: Soil erosion and runoff, Soil tillage and crop residue management

The soil health symposium on Tuesday dovetailed nicely with complementary topics by the ASA Soil Health Community, including a discussion session with Dr. Moebius-Clune (USDA-NRCS) and posters/presentations on parameters used to define soil health/quality/function.

Total presentations within division: 77 oral, 62 poster (totals from last year's meeting at Long Beach was 99 oral, 95 poster).

Awards

- Young Scholar Award (Tom Sauer presenting): Mike Castellano
- Best Paper Award (David Huggins presenting for Hero Gollany): Kravchenko, A.N., and G.P. Robertson. 2011. While-profile soil carbon stocks: The danger of assuming too much from analyses of too little. *SSSAJ* 75:235-240.
- Soil and Water Conservation Scholarship (David Huggins presenting for Jerry Lemunyon): Dana Christel, University of Vermont; Advisor, Josef Gomes. Quality of candidates was outstanding. The funding for the scholarship comes from ASF (contributions to the fund welcome).
- Graduate Student Poster Awards (Tom Sauer presenting): Winner, Sage Lee, University of Redlands; Second place, Kris Guenette, University of Alberta; Third place, Jordan Beehler, Michigan State University. Thanks to judges Judy Tolk, Cathy Seybold, Tom DeSutter, Neal Eash, and Rob Michitsch.

SSSA Board Representative Report (Alan Franzluebbbers)

Board divisions/leadership/terms were briefly reviewed.

- Divisions: Soil & Water Mgmt & Conservation, Soil Fertility & Plant Nutrition, Nutrient Mgmt & Soil & Plant Analysis
- Leaders (with term of service): Miguel Cabrera (2013-2015), John Kovar (2014-2016), Alan Franzluebbbers (2015-2017), Richard Ferguson (2016-2018)

2016 Annual Meeting Preview

- Short symposia (2.5 hr: 3-4 speakers; half day, 6-8 speakers). Focused topics, high-quality talks.
- 15 min format still available.
- 'Ignite Sessions' – 5 min presentations. There will be training for these sessions through a webinar.
- TEDx Lunch Sessions tabled for a possible alternative supported/facilitated by the tri-societies.

2019 Annual meeting, Jan 6-9, San Diego, CA

- Independent of ASA and CSSA
- First-ever North American Soil Science Meeting
- Soil Science Society of America

- Canadian Soil Science Society
- Mexican Soil Science Society
- If interested in joining planning committee please contact SSSA President Carolyn Olson

ASF Foundation

- ASF, and tri-societies supporting 18 Golden Opportunity Scholars at this meeting.
- ASF supported Team USA that took first place in the 2nd Annual International Soil Judging Contest held in September in Hungary.
- Students: Kristen Pegues, Erin Bush, Stephen Gelb, and Adrienne Nottinghamham.
- Coaches: Joey Shaw, Stephanie Connolly.

Public/Science Communications

- Int. Year of Soils 2015: task force developed 12 monthly themes/educator resources
 - www.soils.org/iys
- Engagement in Facebook and twitter
- Soils Matter blogs:
 - 4500 readers in December 2014
 - 17,000 readers/month in Sep and Oct 2015
- SSSA had several tables at Annual Meeting Science Festival on Nov 15

Certification/Education (CPSS – Certified Professional Soil Scientist)

- Certification has dropped from 1300 to 700-800.
- In response to this decline, there will be new CEU offerings, with self-paced learning. Hopefully, proposed changes will facilitate a resurgence in the number of CPSS.

Science Policy Office

- ASA purchased office building in DC
- 3000 sq ft, 2000 sq ft for tri-societies
- Congressional Visits Day: 48 participants, 100 meetings with congressional offices
- Congressional Science Fellows: applications open

Membership

- 6983 members
- New dues structure \$100 for one society, \$150 for two: \$200 for three. Effective with renewal.

Finances

- Expenses exceeded revenue in 2014. In response, SSSA is developing a zero-deficit annual operating budget policy for future years (that does not rely on income from investments).

Candidates Needed for 2015 Ballot

- Need 2 candidates for each of the following:
- SSSA Division Chair-Elect
 - Two for Soil Fert. & Plant Nutrition

- Two for Soil & Water Mgmt. & Conserv.
- Two for Nutrient Mgmt & Soil & Plant Anal.
- Board Rep for Agric. Soil & Food Systems (two for the group)
- Nominees for SSSA President-Elect
- Provide names to board rep or Sara Uttech

Report from SSSA Program Chair (Harold van Es)

David Huggins was recognized for his service as division chair.

Comments (update): Every three years there is a strategic planning, which will occur next year. Please convey input to Board members (Miguel Cabrera and Alan Franzluebbbers). Efforts to increase visibility of soils in society have been effective. Going forward, standards are needed for sustainability assessments. SSSA should play an important role in developing these standards. Comments may be directed to Harold van Es or Andrew Sharpley.

Technical Editor Report (Brian Wienhold)

- AEs retiring: Anthony Buda, Tom DeSutter, Mark Liebig, David Lobb, Mark Tomer.
- AEs reappointed: Maysoon Mikha
- AEs incoming: Jane Johnson, Skye Wills

Impact factor for SSSAJ dropped again, but ranking has stayed even (13th among soil journals).

Submissions are encouraged to help restore journal status/impact. Review articles and special issue proposal are especially welcome. Those submissions are not assessed page charges. Review articles may be open access. Ideas for reviews/special sessions are welcome (symposia and popular sessions may be an excellent source for these).

Soil Horizons will be discontinued after December 2015.

Call for Nominations; Call for 2016 Symposium and Topic Sessions

Nominations for 2018 Division Leader and suggestions for 2016 symposia/sessions will be done by email.

Other Business

Ted Zobeck reminded attendees that there will be no 2018 SSSA meeting, but that SSSA would meet twice in 2019. There was much discussion about the standalone SSSA meeting in 2018. While drawbacks were noted (e.g., lessened potential for agriculture-related and multidisciplinary topics), there is significant potential for new and exciting collaborations with soil scientists across North America.

Minutes recorded by Mark Liebig (for Jane Johnson)