



**WSWS Board Meeting Minutes
Summer Board Meeting
July 17, 2024, Seattle WA**

Brad Hanson, WSWS Secretary

8:20 am (PST) meeting called to order by Tim Prather

Board members and others introductions.

- *Present:* Tim Prather, Eric Gustafson, Ryan Rapp, Curtis Rainbolt, Brad Hanson, Dirk Baker, Carl Coburn, Alan Helm, Rui Liu, Albert Adjesiwor, McKenzie Barth, Wes Maughan. *Via zoom:* Sandra McDonald, Greg Dahl
- *Not present:* Derek Sebastian

Officer Reports:

Secretary - Brad Hanson

- March meeting minutes shared via email recently. Sandra suggested that someone move to accept the minutes with amendments. Moved by Ryan, seconded by Alan. Unanimous vote to accept.
 - o Brad will resend final version after the meeting after further comment.

Business Office – Eric Gustafson

- No changes or updates since last meeting.

Treasurer – Ryan Rapp

- Details in committee report.
- Committee has requested Profit and Loss report statements for meetings by site/year (separate from the annual society financial statements to provide information about site-to-site conference profitability). Will address in September committee meeting.
- Discussion of how to handle donations to society, particularly bequests and estate gifts
 - o Society and individual tax implications, how to honor donors while maximizing flexibility and transparency about how funds are used to support the society operations and initiatives.

President – Tim Prather

- Several activities, some to be address further under New Business
 - o Exploring software for program development, discussion about following suit with WSSA and other regional societies
 - o Endangered Species Act related

- Established a WWSW ad hoc committee to liaise with WSSA ESA ad hoc committee. Brad Hanson is on the WSSA ESA committee and will chair the WWSW ad hoc committee.
- Discussion to make sure WWSW interests in how ESA changes will affect range and pasture and similar areas (WSSA seems focused on ESA changes impacts on crops at this point)
- Several actions and consultations with WSSA Science Policy Committee on WWSW behalf
 - Including good visit to Washington DC with other regional presidents.
- Committee assignments almost completed
- Consultation with Tina Nabilone at HPN Global, potential resource to help the Society find meeting sites venues at no cost to the Society (service paid by venues). Could simplify our site selection and negotiations. Will discuss in new business.

Past President – Curtis Rainbolt

- No report. Some interactions with site selection committee, otherwise minimal activity.

President-Elect/Program Chair – Carl Coburn

- Call for symposia sent out and due at the end of July. None received so far
- Appointed Derek Sebastian as Member-at-Large (private sector)
- Discussion of meeting program software. Is optimistic for fit.
- Discussion of program
 - Developing ideas for keynote speakers
 - Potentially shortening general session slightly vs 2024
- ESA topic raised as potential symposia. However, may overlap with WSSA plan for that symposia topic in 2025. Maybe use that for one of our discussion sections instead.

Education and Regulatory Section Chair – Albert Adjesiwor

- Call for symposia sent out

Member at Large, Public Sector – Erik Lehnoff

- Has drafted survey aimed at Federal and State agency members. Requests Board input.
- Tim noted potential for new meeting software to have “hybrid” sections that might allow agency folks to participate in symposia rather than the whole conference if agency approval for travel is a main barrier.

Research Section Chair – Dirk Baker

- Discussion of how to ensure involvement of section chair-elects to train and mentor before they chair. Could this be formalized? It is in some committee operating guides. Sandra will add this language into the Program Committee operating guide.
 - Tim noted that he sent the operating guide to each new committee chair.
- Discussion that the program committee might need to do more outreach to solicit symposia topics (people are busy, might need a push).

WSSA Representative - Alan Helm

- No report submitted. Activities already discussed including ESA work, program development software, etc.

CAST Representative – Greg Dahl

- Recently several good CAST publications, several more in process.
- Good meeting with the Society Presidents during Washington DC visit; Food and Ag Coalition, CAST reps from other Societies

- The call for NIFA Fellow is out again (to replace Jim Kells)
- Noted really good impacts of regional presidents signing letter related to drift reduction agents as a mitigation strategy for ESA compliance.

Student Liaison - McKenzie Barth

- Student night out went well, could use more mentors
- WSSA will hold a weed contest in Illinois summer 2024, not aware of any WSSWS teams
- Discussion
 - o Tim will reach out to Liaisons for students to serve on WSSWS committees
 - o Ryan we had WSSWS polo shirt sale in 2024, only sold 16. But, we will give these to retirees instead of golf balls.
 - Also, will put a “buy it now” sheet for these in the silent action (preferably with a QR code to the vendor so they get drop-shipped to buyer)
 - Society will purchase these shirts for Board members to advertise and wear at retiree reception

Director of Science Policy – Lee Van Wychen

- Lee was not present, no report submitted.
- Discussion of how Lee contacts regional presidents for input. Sometimes short notice. Tim asked for Board input on how to handle these short notice requests.
 - o If more than 6 days, Tim will seek Board input. If less than 6 days, Tim will contact an “advisory group” that includes Past President, Secretary, President Elect/Program Chair, and Treasurer for limited input.
 - Sandra will add to Operating Procedures

Constitution and Operation Procedures Representative – Sandra McDonald

- Actively cleaning up operation procedures and filling in gaps
- Communication with new committees (DEI) about drafting their OP info; DEI’s draft is ready for Board input (draft in Committee’s report)

Committee reports:

- **Publications Committee** – Carl Coburn, board contact
 - o Carl Libby is working on both proceedings and newsletter on normal timeframe.
 - Discussion of dedicating the proceedings. This is not required and has no formal process. Is at discretion of the president
 - o Website. Nothing to report
- **Local Arrangements Committee** – Rui Lui chairperson (Carl Coburn, board contact)
 - o Not a lot of activity so far. Meeting with Westin staff at this meeting.
- **Finance Committee** – Ryan Rapp, chairperson (Ryan Rapp, board contact)
 - o Report submitted. Discussed most of this earlier.
- **Nominations committee** - Caleb Dalley, chairperson (Curtis Rainbolt, board contact)
 - o Report submitted.
- **Public Relations Committee** – Mirella Ortiz, chairperson (Albert Adjesiwor, board contact)
 - o No report
 - o Mirella agreed to be the chair again due to some gaps in filling this committee
- **Fellows and Honorary Members Committee** – Rich Zollinger chairperson (Curtis Rainbolt, board contact)
 - o Report submitted

- Taking more active role in soliciting nominators
 - Andrew Kniss agreed to serve on the committee
- **WSWS rep to WSSA Finance Committee** – Rich Zollinger, chairperson
 - Discussion that WSWS Treasurer should be the WSWS rep on the WSSA finance committee
 - Sandra will put this in the Operating Guide
- **Site Selection Committee** – Kyle Roerig, chairperson (Curtis Rainbolt, board contact)
 - Report submitted
 - Committee recommended to accept the Tucson Marriott for the 2026 meeting
 - Moved to accept (Curtis), Second (Alan)
 - Discussion about specific dates for this meeting and more generally. Sandra will insert language in OP to target dates last week of Feb to second week March with a preference for second week March.
 - Unanimous vote to accept motion. Tucson 2026 agreed.
 - Discussion of 2027 site. Previously talked about Albuquerque but this isn't much of a regional rotation.
 - Tabled for now. Will discuss service to help with site selection during New Business. 2027 site not decided at this point.
 - Greg Dahl noted that WSSA is interested in joint meeting possible in 2028 or 2029
- **Awards Committee** – Drew Lyon, chairperson (Tim Prather, board contact)
 - Report submitted
 - Tim noted that this committee has been taking a more active role in soliciting nominations and has been successful getting full slates of awards.
- **Poster Committee** – Lovereet Shergill, chairperson (Carl Coburn, board contact)
 - No report submitted
 - Discussion of transporting boards and easels from Utah to Seattle. Rui will check on storage
 - Need to get new number cards printed for the poster boards. Do we need new boards?
 - Discussion of whether we want to abandon providing/storing/transporting our boards and easels around the western US. That is logistically challenging and does have a cost, even if not to the WSWS.
 - Hiring this out to meeting-local providers would likely cost \$2-4k per year. (was \$2k when we were in SoCal in 2022)
 - Tabled for now. Will have email vote.
- **Student Poster Judging Committee** – Alix Whitener, chairperson (Carl Coburn, board contact)
 - Discussion about some judge feedback following 2024 meeting (some positive some neutral)
 - Could consider a judge's breakfast meeting to discuss judging standards and practices to get some greater consistency.
 - WSSA does this. Marty Schraer does this for WSSA and could be asked to do it for WSWS too.

- Tim suggested the committee should be more proactive in recruiting judges beforehand to reduce the scramble.
- Question about whether previous student poster contest winners could serve as judges since they can't participate. Quickly agreed this was too great of a potential conflict of interest and decided "no".
- **Necrology Committee** – Lesley Beckworth, chairperson (Brad Hanson, board contact)
 - No report.
 - Brad will coach the chair to remind the membership that the necrology poster has detailed obituaries. The reading at the reception is to be BRIEF – point out the poster but don't read obit.
 - Necrology Chair should submit a Poster title so there is a placeholder in the program and proceedings
 - Program chair can insert the title
 - Committee chair needs to make the poster. Brad will remind
- **Sustaining Membership Committee** – Ben Westrich, chairperson (Curtis Rainbolt, board contact)
 - Report submitted
 - Discussion about whether membership could/should include a registration.
 - Decided at this point to make no changes. (WSSA is the only weed society that currently does this and may change)
 - Discussion about how we solicit sustaining members and how we solicit sponsorship for the meeting
 - Should these be rolled together? Decided these are separate "asks" and better to keep separate.
- **Legislative Committee** – Ryan Edwards, chairperson (Alan Helm, board contact)
 - No report submitted
- **Herbicide Resistant Plants Committee** – Stephen Valenti, chairperson (Derek Sebastian – board contact)
 - No report submitted
- **Diversity and Inclusion Committee** – Elizabeth Mosqueda, chairperson (Tim Prather, board contact)
 - Report submitted
 - Drafted language for Operating Procedures
 - Motion made and seconded to move from an ad hoc to a standing committee
 - BoD voted unanimously to accept. Will move this to a Society vote at the next business meeting
- **Invasive Species ad hoc Committee** – Mirella Ortiz/Lisa Jones, cochairs (Tim Prather, board contact)
 - No report submitted
- **ESA ad hoc Committee** – Brad Hanson, chairperson (Tim Prather, board contact)
 - No report
 - Discussion about how this WSWS committee can provide input to WSSA ESA committee. Particular focus on rangeland, pastures, etc that are major areas of the west (in contrast to the "crops focus" of much of the WSSA effort to date)
 - Discussion of how WSWS can provide information to our members and stakeholders. Symposia? Webinars?

Unfinished Business

- Site Selection

- Generally
 - Discussion of site selection criteria. Some sense that we have criteria that are out of date given current market conditions (number comp rooms, summer board meeting comp, etc)
 - Do we want the site selection committee to continue the solicitation and bid process or turn over to a service (and then “select” from the bids the service gets on behalf of the WSWs membership)
 - Would we get more “bites” with a professional service requesting bids? Probably “yes” as it’s easier for the venues
 - Tim and Eric will meet this week with Tina from HPN Global to discuss
- Site Selection re Albuquerque 2027
 - Do we really need to schedule 3 years out?
 - Not much benefit to 3 years (may lose some options); but 2 yrs ok.
 - If not Albuquerque, then where?
 - Denver, Reno, Salt Lake, Sacramento?
 - What about “Tier 2” cities? Might not reduce total costs to members if rooms are cheaper but travel is more expensive or difficult.
 - We should leave this to the Site Selection Committee, not BoD.
 - Curtis will followup with committee.
 - General discussion of what drives attendance at meetings. Room rates, registration costs, locations, etc all play in but hard to pinpoint to what extent (probably varies among members).
- Tim noted that the **International Weed Science Society** is considering a US location in the future. Possibly a joint meeting with WSSA or WSWs?
 - Frank Dayan is working on this but we’ll need more information as it develops.
- Resumed **tabled discussion on endowment funds**
 - Suggestion to have “bins” of funds with general areas of support (students, sponsoring early career professionals, society operations, etc)
 - Ryan – preference to have as few accounts as possible to ease handling and transparency.
 - We want to honor the wishes of the donor but our accounting and tax issues play into this
 - Moved (by Ryan and Finance chair?) to require a minimum initial endowment of \$15k to start each endowment bin. Seconded by Eric.
 - Unanimous BoD vote to support this.
- Sandra previously noted an **error in the award section of the program** at the March post conference board meeting
 - Vanelle Peterson was listed as receiving the Presidential Award of Merit in 2022. However, what Sandra (as 2022 president) actually presented was a Presidential Recognition of Service as special recognition of her effort on the WSWs history project. This was included in Sandra’s award writeups for the 2024 proceedings accurately but listed inaccurately in the meeting program.

- The BoD should discuss how to remedy this inaccuracy since it was not an actual Award of Merit and is not one of our standing awards.

New Business

- Abstract/Program Software

- Our existing software (WSSA abstracts) is clunky
- WSSA is looking at new software (CONFEX System) and regionals can follow suit if they desire.
 - Likely to be more expensive but will be routinely updated since it's a broader platform and larger software company.
 - Likely cost to WSSA will be about \$3500/yr
 - WSSA Abstracts would not go away (for now) but expect it to sunset if several regionals follow WSSA's lead to CONFEX
- Some features
 - System will be web-based (not download) which will help many company and university IT safety concerns (downloading software is a deal breaker for many, currently)
 - Does program, proceedings, and can accept presentations. Should meet our needs
 - Good dynamic scheduling which should help program development (many competitor products did not do this well)
- Motion to adopt the CONFEX system for WSSA meeting management software (Albert) and second (Alan)
 - BoD vote unanimous in favor. Will adopt CONFEX system.

- Remainder of this meeting

- Our business and reports ended for the summer board meeting. No business to conduct tomorrow.
- We'll have breakfast and a facility tour with Westin staff tomorrow morning

- Future Summer Board Meetings

- This meeting was schedule as 1.5 days (all day Wed, half day Thurs). We didn't really need the full time.
- Suggestion to change this to a 1-day meeting for future summer board meetings (afternoon of first day, morning of second day). Should allow many folks to travel on meeting day and save substantial costs by eliminating several room nights and meals.
 - BoD agreed to this change.

4:00 pm July 17, 2024. President Prather adjourned the WSSA summer board meeting



12:00 pm PT – Puget Sound Room

Onsite lunch

Welcome and Introductions

Call to order and Approval of Agenda– *Tim Prather*

Officer Reports

Secretary – *Brad Hanson*

Approval of Spring Board Meeting Minutes

Business Manager Report – Eric Gustafson

Treasurer Report – Ryan Rapp

President – Tim Prather

Past President– Curtis Rainbolt

President Elect/Program Chair – Carl Coburn

Education and Regulatory – Albert Adjesiwor

Member-at-Large Public – Erik Lehnoff

Member-at-Large Private – Derek Sebastian

Research Section Chair – Dirk Baker

WSSA Representative – Alan Helm

CAST Representative and WSSA President – Greg Dahl

Student Liaison – McKenzie Barth

Director of Science Policy – Lee Van Wychen

Constitution and Operating Procedures Representative – Sandra McDonald

Committee Reports:

Publications Committee (Carl Coburn – board contact)

Proceedings – *Carl Libbey*

WSWS Newsletter – *Carl Libbey*

Website – *Eric Gustafson*

Local Arrangements – Rui Liu – chairperson (Carl Coburn – board contact)

Finance – Scott Cook – chairperson (Ryan Rapp - board contact)

Nominations – Caleb Dalley – chairperson (Curtis Rainbolt – board contact)

Public Relations – Mirella F Ortiz – chairperson (Albert Adjewor – board contact)

Fellows and Honorary Members – Rich Zollinger – chairperson (Curtis Rainbolt – board contact)

WSWS Rep to WSSA Finance Committee - Rich Zollinger

Site Selection – Kyle Roerig – chairperson (Curtis Rainbolt – board contact)

Awards – Drew Lyon – chairperson (Tim Prather – board contact)

Poster – Lovreet Shergill – chairperson (Carl Coburn – board contact)

Student Paper/Poster Judging – Alix Whitener – chairperson (Carl Coburn – board contact)

Necrology – Lesley Beckworth – chairperson (Joseph Vassios – board contact)

Sustaining Membership – Carl Coburn – chairperson (Curtis Rainbolt – board contact)

Legislative – Ryan Edwards – chairperson (Alan Helm – board contact)

Herbicide Resistant Plants – Stephen Valenti - chairperson (Clarke Alder – board contact)

Diversity and Inclusion Ad-Hoc Committee – Elizabeth Mosqueda (Tim Prather – board contact)

Invasive Species Ad-Hoc Committee – Mirella Ortiz/Lisa Jones (Tim Prather – board contact)

4:30 pm Adjourn : Dinner 5:30 at Assaggio

8:00 AM

New Business:

- 1) Confex - should we adopt the system and how much should we contribute?
- 2) ESA/EPA is there anything else we should try to accomplish? Any suggestions from the board to our ad hoc committee?
- 3) Site selection decision
- 4) Discuss criteria for site selection, what should we modify? Do you have the existing criteria that we could display for the board? We could have a brief discussion for guidance to the site selection committee and have them revise criteria.