



**WSWS Board Meeting Minutes
Tucson Marriott – Tucson Arizona
March 2, 2026**

PRE-Conference Board Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2026
Brad Hanson, WSWS Secretary

March 2 10am-3pm – Board Room

WSWS President Carl Coburn called the meeting to order at 10:02am

Welcome and Introductions: Board members and guests present included: Carl Coburn, Brad Hanson, Sandra McDonald, Liberty Galvin, Greg Dahl, Eric Westra, Eric Gustafson, Ryan Rapp, Nevin Lawrence, Breanne Tidemann, Wes Maughan, Shannon Clark, Jeanine Falk-Jones, Tim Prather, Kai Umeda, Ian Burke, Lee VanWychen, Beth Fowers, Lovreet Shergill, Byron Slough, Ola Adeyemi

- Online: Derick Sebastian, Mirella Ortiz, Elizabeth Mosqueda,

Approval of Agenda– Carl Coburn

- Carl: Instructed Board to focus on action items and board requests. No need to review reports unless needed.
- Ryan Rapp moved to approve agenda, Tim Prather second. No discussion, unanimous approval

Officer Reports

Secretary – Brad Hanson

- No requests. Report forthcoming.

Business Manager Report – Eric Gustafson

- No request.

Treasurer Report – Ryan Rapp

- No action requested. Finance/Treasurer.
- New financial advisor is working well. Rebalancing and familiarizing with WSWS funds.
- Working with tax attorney to recategorize our non-tax status (helps potential donations from estates) – is taking some time but is moving.
- S. Nissen donated \$2.5k to both Beard and scholarship fund; plans to do annually. Others may do similarly.

President – Carl Coburn

- WSWS representative to WSSA. Current rep changed career path (Alan Helm); WSSA asked for new person to reinvigorate.
 - We need to ID a new person to fill in; what is our process? Carl has a potential nominee.
 - Where is Alan in his term? He has completed a couple of terms but is probably close to being termed out. (Alan has been largely unresponsive).
 - Can we nominate a “representative-elect” then will be ready to slot in if Alan resigns or is unresponsive.
 - Carl. Pat Clay is willing to do this.
 - Pat has been WSWS president and regularly attends WSSA
 - Ryan R nominated Pat as WSSA rep elect. Tim second
 - Unanimous approval

- ACTION ITEM: Carl Coburn will contact Pat and Alan
- CAST representative. Greg mentioned to Carl that he's willing to continue to serve but also is open to giving someone else the opportunity to served. Greg is nearing the end of his second 2-yr term. Greg is willing to overlap for a year to help train-up new person.
 - Carl suggested might be good to open it up to a new person.
 - Sandra: President can nominate this person. We should think about who might be asked to serve – this takes a special kind of person.
 - ACTION ITEM: Carl and Nevin will brainstorm and come back to board.
- Diversity and Inclusion committee. This committee had an opening that Carl did not get filled. Raised it with the committee to get a new person; two people asked but declined.
 - Sandra/Elizabeth. Thought we had someone, but they must have rethought. Lisa Jones is current chair.
 - ACTION ITEM. Carl and the committee will discuss options this week to get this slot filled.
 - ACTION ITEM. Nevin should call this (and other committees) out at the business breakfast.
 - Ryan: committee members should be encouraged to suggest replacements.

Past President– Tim Prather

- No request

President Elect/Program Chair – Nevin Lawrence

- No request,
- We are roughly on track with number of paper and poster submissions.
- 171 registrations. Seems low. Probably will get a few more trickle-ins but likely to be low.
 - This might be a good test of our current size/venue.
- Discussion of new meeting software.
 - Titles and submissions etc. seemed smooth.
 - Building the program was not super-smooth (how to order talks. He ended up doing it in Excel to sort, then uploading. Suggested that all societies could press FourWaves to develop a software solution.).
 - Nevin estimated 20 hrs of excel coding to get it to upload back to FourWaves software.
 - Ideal situation would have an export of titles, that you then drag/drop or number them.
 - Was some challenge with opening/closing software for title, then abstracts, then submissions.
 - Tried to accommodate even late submissions due to poor following instructions
 - Nevin noted that 80% of late submissions were from University of Wyoming and this should be reflected in the minutes.
 - Noted that several awards not included in the program from 2019-2024. Weed manager etc.
 - ACTION ITEM. Nevin start looping Byron into this to help future navigation with FourWaves
 - Ian noted that folks didn't align how they listed their affiliations. (NDSU, ND State, NDSU research station, etc).
 - Tech support has been good, ideally will coordinate with the other societies to make similar requests. Ian and Nevin both noted that this coordination is happening.

Education and Regulatory – Lovreet Shergill

- No request. Mainly assisted Nevin with program development. No other action.

Member-at-Large Public – Breanne Tideman

- No request. Assisted with program.
- Intended to setup dine-arounds but it did not happen due to extenuating circumstances. Will pick this up in 2027

Member-at-Large Private – Derek Sebastian

- No request.

Research Section Chair – Beth Fowers

- No request.

WSSA Representative – Alan Helm

- No report submitted. No discussion

CAST Representative and WSSA President – Greg Dahl

- Will have symposium and discussion section on invasive weeds. We need our state and federal partners involved in this society and these discussions.
- Involved in a CAST paper on surfactants in agriculture.
- Appreciates WSWS and all societies support of CAST. Lots of changes going on w CAST.
 - Lots of non-ag voices in hot topics, need to ensure ag and weed science represented in getting our story out. Ag has been taken for granted for ~25 years; need to change that and get our story out.
 - Great meetings and cross pollination to AnSci and FoodSci issues.
 - ACTION ITEM: Greg should mention at business breakfast that potential for expressions of interest for new CAST rep

Student Liaison – Wes Maughan

- No request.
- Several committees have reached out looking for student reps.
- Student night out is happening. About 40 students signed up; maybe 20 hosts.
 - ACTION ITEM – Wes should reach out today to make sure groups get numbers to facilitate reservations etc.
 - 5 or 6 groups at this time. Tried to group appropriately.

Director of Science Policy – Lee Van Wychen

- Seven items.
 - Support letters for appropriations. 30 or more organizations submitting organized support letters. Request 6 weed societies sign on (coordinates dollar asks and details among all supporters. Will request this of WSWS).
 - Rebuilding Federal agencies. Lots of positions.
 - One is national program lead for Weed Sci (vice S. Young who left).
 - Pest Program service (vice Cameron Douglass).
 - Science Policy Fellows
 - Next application deadline March 27. Student must be WSSA member.
 - Regenerative Ag Pilot Program.
 - Was in MAHA etc. Lots of jockeying for helping shape this.
 - Will be meeting with head of NRCS soon.
 - Please share ideas with Lee how to make weed science a part of this.
 - Two states have program (VT and CA) CA program is probably not our preferred model.
 - Some discussion of where various Fed programs will be consolidated. Several major cities are Raleigh, Fort Collins, Indianapolis, Kansas City.
 - Invasive Species
 - President's visit to Capital Hill. DC fly-in. Will discuss more under New Business
 - This is important and makes a difference. Ensure WSWS participation.
 - Tim: can we coordinate with NCFAR? That group has a lot of power.
 - Is this a forum for us (Weed Sci) to raise stature with political leaders?
 - Yes, coordinating similar asks from several groups
 - Lunch-and-Learn. Hot topic lunches with staffers. Could be a way to get in front of these groups.
 - Presidents fly in April 21?
 - Lee: comment about how can we team up with Society for Range Management?
 - Shannon. Noted newly established Invasive Plants Committee. Happy to be a resource to Lee and to national level society

- Ian. Noted that NCFAR board has a lot of directors of extension, etc, who can speak on our (WSSA/WSWS) behalf. These site visits build relationships and helps us learn how things get done in WDC.
 - Tim thought staffers paid more attention when we were part of NCFAR, more-so than when we were just weeds.
 - Ian, noted WSSA has a good “two-pager” that includes WSWS info to congressional visits. Brings baseline info about our discipline.
- Carl: is there opportunity for larger group in DC? Lee indicated probably don’t want more than 10 or so – that is large enough to divide if needed but small enough to have all together.
- Ian – look at our leadership and used their direct congressional reps. Really powerful if they align with current leadership (society and congress).

Constitution and Operating Procedures Representative – Sandra McDonald

- No request. Will interject during committee reports.

Committee Reports

Publications Committee (Nevin Lawrence – board contact)

- No reports received.
 - Proceedings – Carl Libbey**
 - WSWS Newsletter – Carl Libbey**
 - Website – Eric Gustafson**
- Erik notes that website has had ADA updates completed.

Local Arrangements – Kai Umeda – chairperson (Nevin Lawrence – board contact)

- No request. Erik G. does a lot of this. Seems like it’s going ok. Erik is happy to continue to support society.
- Kai noted that many committee chairs contact Erik directly. Kai’s job was pretty easy.
 - Beth is going to meet with committee chairs about who to be point person on room issues. ACTION ITEM: Beth should coordinate and have Kai be the point person for this.
- Discussion of poster boards. Posters will be here later this evening; could use some help setting them up after the reception. (would be good for students who are nervous about getting posters set up).

Finance – Cody Creech – chairperson (Ryan Rapp - board contact)

- No request. Already shared important info during treasurers report

Nominations – Breanne Tidemann – chairperson (Tim Prather – board contact)

- No request. Corey Ransom will be next chair. Went well, was a little late communicating to Board, but good success filling nomination slots and getting bios and headshots.

Public Relations – Gino Graziano – chairperson (Lovreet Shergill – board contact)

- Erik shared Amy’s report on social media (followers, posts, etc).
 - Breanna noted that interacting (follows, likes, etc) helps drives algorithm success.
- Tim asked if we could post on website how to get info to Amy.
- Eric W. Do we have an official photographer? Andre is willing to do it again but will graduate in a year or so.

Fellows and Honorary Members – Andrew Kniss – chairperson (Tim Prather – board contact)

- Fellows voted upon and obtained. No honorary member nominees this year.

WSWS Rep to WSSA Finance Committee – Ryan Rapp

- No report submitted but Ryan will get one post hoc.
- WSSA has a financial strategic plan overview (Lauren did a great job on this).
 - Ryan recommends a similar plan for WSWS based on the roadmap that WSSA prepared.

Site Selection – Craig Alford – chairperson (Tim Prather – board contact)

- No request.
 - Discussion of potential 2028 site; Salt Lake vs Reno (preferred SLC)?
 - Have Tina focus on SLC and Reno with SLC preferred
 - Since aiming for smaller venues, we need to get further in advance. So, we need to get direction for our consultant (Tina) working on SLC (2028) and whatever region we decide for 2029
 - Sandra. We should decide today on preferred region for 2028.
 - ACTION ITEM: Need to get 2027 location on the website
 - Tim moved to have Tina focus on Reno and SLC for 2028. Nevin seconded.
 - No discussion
 - Unanimous approval. ACTION ITEM: Tim will tell Tina to look into SLC and Reno for 2028
 - Next discussion topic
 - We should get a regional rotation plan for future meetings. We used to have a OP direction to be 3 years in advance; should try to get back on this
 -
 - Greg Dahl proposed having a joint meeting with WSSA (pref Hawaii) between 2029-2032
 - Ryan; joint meetings make a lot of financial sense for WSWS, especially as we get smaller.
 - For example, could meet with Southern in TX or OK.
 - Not just WSSA, could also think about other societies to hold joint mtg
 - Question from Beth. How many years to we want between joint meetings? Will discuss in followup meeting.
 - Unrelated discussion
 - Sandra will take on the task of updating committee membership and terms. The program is not fully accurate and this info does not exist.
 - ACTION ITEM. Sandra will followup

- **BREAK FOR LUNCH** at 12:00. Meeting resumed at 12:45

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

- No request.
- Did not have nominees for all awards (Roland Shirmin grant was not awarded this year).
- Tim said he pushed hard in 2024 and was successful but did not push as hard this year. How to get this engrained.
 - ACTION ITEM. Sandra will put in OP to remind this committee to solicit nominations.

Poster – Shannon Clark – chairperson (Nevin Lawrence – board contact)

- No request.
- Shannon says there was an error; she should not have been listed as chair. Marcelo M is the current chair. MM did submit a report.

- Unrelated discussion

- Who's is responsible for keeping the lists of committee members?
 - Is presidential responsibility. Should have a drop box or live document that resides somewhere
 - Should get passed to Secretary by president.
 - Ryan – could be a Members at Large task.
 - Carl – the president could/should delegate this to Member at Large
 - This person can then ensure the website gets updated.

Student Paper/Poster Judging – Jake Courcamp – chairperson (Nevin Lawrence – board contact)

- No request.
- No report submitted. Judit Barruso is organizing.
 - Judit had suggestion for OP and shared with Nevin/Sandra.
 - Raised question of the roll of the student member on the committee.
 - Is it an issue if the student member knows who the judges are? We don't think this is a concern.

- Discussion of whether the abstract word counts could be automated or streamlined?
- Eric W: Did we have enough judges?
 - Yes, there is enough; can join the judge meeting this afternoon if interested in joining in.

Necrology – Earl Creech – chairperson (Brad Hanson – board contact)

- No request.
- Eric Westra will follow up with Earl.
- Carl – Earl had reached out to Erik and Carl.
- ACTION ITEM: Brad will follow up with Earl before tomorrow.

Sustaining Membership – Jenna Meeks – chairperson (Tim Prather – board contact)

- Request an “easy to pay” with credit card (vs filling out a form).
 - Ryan – said his “easy button” was to call Erik directly and pay by phone..
- Suggest to count Jenna’s first year as “chair” to standardize among committee.
- Suggest that we remove a meeting registration as part of the benefit. We agreed to not include the membership.
 - Byron S said he gets some pressure from his company about the value of being a sustaining member. Shannon said her company does the same.
 - Greg Dahl said this is part of the society being “taken for granted”.
 - Ryan – we as an industry (group of industry members) could get together the selling points to internal leadership. Maybe a 1-pager “return on investment”
 - Erik – could separate that low level membership from including conf registration.
 - ACTION ITEM: Ryan will coordinate an effort with current existing sustaining members to create a 1-page ROI document.

Legislative – Lisa Rew – chairperson (Alan Helm – board contact)

- No report submitted.

Herbicide Resistant Plants – Rui Liu - chairperson (Derek Sebastian – board contact)

- No report submitted.
- Recommendation: Upload the tri-fold on the website. Carl will forward to Erik. Erik asked if under Publications.

Diversity and Inclusion Committee – Lisa Jones (Carl Coburn – board contact)

- Board report posted

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

- Recommendation to approve the committees request to become a standing committee. We will address in new business.

Agency Needs Ad-Hoc committee – Tim Prather summarized

- Eric Lenhoff had a survey that he reported on previously. It’s hard for agency folks to get permission to attend this event; having workshops and symposia is helpful.
- Tim recommended ACTION ITEM: suggest moves this committee responsibility to the Invasive Species Committee once it is a standing committee. Then, this ad-hoc committee could be dissolved.
 - ACTION: membership will have to vote on the Invasive Species Committee at business breakfast.
 - ACTION: President Coburn dissolved the Agency Needs Ag-Hoc committee

New Business:

2027 Joint meeting with Western Weeds Coordinating Committee (in CA meeting)

- We’ve previously voted to approved this. WWCC is requesting feedback on next steps.
 - Carl – is an MOU the next best step?
 - Yes, Erik will draft one and share with Carl/Nevin for feedback.
- WWCC would like to start organizing. They have a fairly different format; so we need to get them in the conversation

- Sandra – could they hold much of their separate sessions on the day we do our Board meeting?
- Tim – there are some strategically important leaders (of BLM etc) who are a part of WWCC that would be good to connect.

WSSA representative

- discussed earlier. Carl has an action plan for this

Invasive Plants Committee Operating Procedures

- Breanne asked a clarifying question about the committee attending other society meeting vs being a liaison. Sandra thought it might be read as needing to find a WSSS member to represent.
 - Suggest changing wording to “encourage” attendance. Or, “attend or delegate another WSSS member to represent”
- Brenna moved to vote on this. Beth seconded
- Discussion.
 - i. Greg Dahl noted that many other societies have a similar committee. Should suggest that this committee participate in WSSA committee.
 - ii. Ian will encourage that with the WSSA committee as they are developing their mission and leadership
- Vote: unanimous acceptance of the motion.
 - i. Lisa Jones is the committee chair. She can raise this as a seconded motion at the business breakfast. Carl can call for a vote under new business
 1. ACTION. Carl will prep Lisa for this
 2. ACTION. Carl will add to business breakfast agenda

Attendance at President’s DC Fly In

- Normally, Nevin would go to this as president but he has a conflict in 2026.
- So, in 2026, president-elect will go instead of president (Byron in place of Nevin).
- In 2027, the past president (Nevin) will attend
 - This is simply a swap of Nevin/Byron for 2026/2027
- In 2028, back to the president representing WSSS at WDC fly-in

Weed Contest:

- Greg Dahl: there will be a weed contest in Gothenburg NE. July 29 and 30, 2026
 - Greg would really like to see 4-6 teams from the WSSS
 - Greg is trying to get Milos at UNL on board for a tour of the spray application lab after the contest.

Potential Joint Meeting ideas:

- Lee VW raised question about joint meeting with WAPMS.
- Carl wondered about a 3-way joint meeting with WWCC
 - This might be good in 2028 in SLC or Reno
- Sandra noted that WAPMS tends to like the western part of the west (Denver isn’t great, they tend to like Boise; maybe Reno, maybe SLC)/

Committee reports at BoD meetings

- Beth asked what committee members need to give reports at business meeting.
 - Tim noted that he tried to expedite this in previous year but it seemed like it we lost something important (visibility of society activity to membership)

**Nevin moved to adjourn at 1:55 and Ryan seconded. Unanimous agreement.
Meeting adjourned at 1:56pm.**