



**WSWS Board Meeting Minutes
Post-Conference Board Meeting, March 13, 2025
Seattle, WA**

Post-Conference Board Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2025
Brad Hanson, WSWS Secretary

WSWS President Carl Coburn called the meeting to order at ~11:45am

Board members and guests present included: Nevin Lawrence, Tim Prather, Ryan Rapp, Ian Burke, Greg Dahl, Alan Helm, Beth Fowers, Mirella Ortiz, Carl Coburn, Brad Hanson, Eric Gustofson (business manager), Hillary Sandler (WSSA president), Wes Mann, Albert Adjesiwor, Erik Lehnhoff, Eric Westra (guest).

- Meeting debrief, comments, suggestions: (no agenda; free-flowing discussion)
 - Eric – meeting attendance. 213 registered.
 - Noted that the hotel waived the attrition penalty.
 - General comments/suggestions
 - Facility was generally good and staff were responsive
 - BoD thought the meeting went relatively well
 - Eric Westra commented on one of the breakout rooms was very small, but hotel accommodated by the second day.
 - Tim: If attendance continues to decrease, should we go to 20 minute talks?
 - Carl: Marcelo Moretti suggested we consider a 2-day mtg (instead of 2.5) to save members money
 - Eric: could we wait until we see how many submission and then decide 20 min vs 2 d?
 - Question: do we want to have an ad hoc committee explore this and report to the summer board meeting?
 - Suggested that Carl could appoint Marcelo to lead this.
 - Ian: noted that IWSS empowers the session chairs to have a longer “keynote” in some/all of the sessions.
 - Canadian Society and SRM do something similar.
 - Could be a way to engage session chairs in the program, and develop location-related topics and speakers of interest.
 - Sandra: we (BoD) told Carol M-S and Sandra that WSWS was doing an ESA symposium so Carol did not put in a symposium request. But, this did not happen. Need to communicate better about symposia and symposia goals.

- Greg: TeeJet (exhibitor) felt isolated from the action of the meeting due to the location. Should think about this so the vendors get better traffic at future locations. (partially a function of this hotel layout).
- Comment: we had a sit down meal at business breakfast (vs normal buffet). Interesting that sit-down was actually cheaper than buffet at this location.
- Albert: commented that the discussion sessions were all pretty late in the program. Carl noted that it kind of had to happen that way this year to accommodate the program and avoid key overlaps.
- Mirella: Why was student silent auction so light this year? Of ~\$1350 raised, \$1000 was a single donation, so auction only raised \$3-400.
 - Needs more reminders to membership. **Note for Wes: needs more proactive outreach** to potential donors, not just listserv emails
 - Eric noted that the NCWSS uses some kind of action software that can also take donations. Software might be called “Better World”. **Student Liaisons should investigate.**

Old Business:

- Summer board meeting date needed. Will need to coordinate with Kai Umeda as local arrangements chair for Tuscan.
 - **Carl will send out a meeting schedule poll soon.**
 - Aim for: travel Tuesday, meeting Wednesday, site visit and travel Thursday
 - Greg noted to avoid dates of summer weed contests.
- Finance Committee (Ryan Rapp)
 - Will link Marty Schrar (Sustaining Members) with Finance Committee
 - Committee recommended that WSWs move financial management from current company to the same service that WSSA uses.
 - Feeling was that the current provider has not been doing a good job and is not responsive to WSWs needs and committee communications.
 - Current provider is also more expensive than the alternative
 - Some benefit to having service (not the funds) for WSWs “lumped” in with other weed societies since the financial goals are similar.
 - Ryan outlined the committee’s recommendation as:
 - Move all WSWs investment funds to Holloway Harmon and Associates; handled by managing partner, Jeff Holloway (<https://www.raymondjames.com/hollowayandharman>).
 - The committee recommends that all current investment accounts be transferred as it makes sense based on market conditions based on consultation with Holloway.
 - The funds that are currently held in CD’s would be moved to the new provider as they mature or cashed-in if funds are needed for current WSWs operations.
 - The checking account would remain with American Heritage Bank.
 - Greg Dahl moved to accept this recommendation and Alan Helm seconded
 - Vote called and passed unanimously.

New Business:

- Future meeting location(s).
 - Nevin: can we get back on a more formal regional rotation (e.g. CA, PNW, Southwest)?
 - Carl: we should try to get back on a two-year lead time for meeting locations

- Q: Should we ask Tina if there is an advantage to two-year lead vs flexibility?
- Reminder: Craig Alfred is the new site selection committee chair.
- Hillary Sandler (WSSA president): Raised the idea of a 2027 joint meeting with WSSA. WSSA is exploring locations in Hawaii for 2027.
 - Ryan: last time we had joint Hawaii meeting with WSSA, it was a money-maker for WSWS
 - Hillary: alternatively, could WSWS accommodate joint WSSA/WSWS in the California location in 2027?
 - Carl: hesitant to change on CA location since we agreed as BoD on Monday on this location recommendation. Could Irvine handle a couple hundred more attendees if we were joint with WSSA?
 - Sandra: WSWS generally does not favor joint meeting with WSSA. However, WSWS membership does favor Hawaii and understands that a joint meeting might be our best bet to go to that location due to costs constraints to WSWS.
 - Tim: could WSSA delay HI by a year to 2028? Hillary: WSSA is focused on HI (or western) in 2027 because they'll be in the east in 2026 (Raleigh) and then probably back to DC area in 2028.
 - Greg: is interested in the joint meeting with WSSA in either HI or Irvine. Noted that we had back-to-back meetings in the west this year with WSSA in Vancouver BC and WSWS in Seattle two weeks apart. Sense was that this probably hurt WSWS attendance.
 - Ian noted that WSSA in 2028 is likely to be a joint meeting with IWSS in Washington DC
 - Tim: What are/were the friction points if we do a joint meeting with WSSA? How do we have a "joint" meeting rather than "two co-located" meetings?
 - Several BoD members noted that WSWS members expressed feeling "taken over" last time we were joint with WSSA.
 - Hillary noted WSSA has made more efforts to highlight the uniqueness of the regional societies in more recent joint meetings.
 - Mirella: was student rep at last joint WSSA/WSWS meeting. Sense was that WSWS student night out got swamped by WSSA students.
 - Sandra: WSWS is great at mentoring and supporting students, we could/should highlight this.
 - Sandra: noted that the WSWS retirees reception got swamped by the WSSA at the 2020 joint meeting.
 - **Action: we need more info from WSSA to make a final decision.**
 - Might need a zoom meeting if we learn from WSSA if they are definitely going to Hawaii in 2027.
 - Hillary added that WSSA is looking at Maui or Kauai (not the big island).

Lunch break at 12:25. – restarted at 12:40

- Other topics:
 - Nevin (president-elect) will appoint Breanne Tideman as his Member-at-Large, Public Sector. She agreed to serve but will not attend the summer 2025 board meeting.
 - Carl: revisited the issue of declining involvement of Federal and State employees
 - Do we have an ad hoc committee on this? Answer: no, we dissolved it previously.

- What tangible actions can we work towards to reverse this?
 - Tim Prather agreed to continue to pursue this as Past President
 - Comment was made to either find some action to take or stop raising the issue.
 - Suggestions and discussion
 - Think about program changes such as plenary sessions and symposia specifically to appeal to fed/state folks.
 - Could bring some focus to engage the fed/state offices in the region where the meeting is being held.
 - Nevin: Could use plenary session to bring in local land management agency speakers.
 - Sandra: could encourage local weed management areas to hold their meeting in conjunction with WSWS. (e.g Colorado weed management areas).
 - She also noted this was a particularly bad year due to political and funding challenges at the federal level.
 - Ryan: politics should stop outreach to regional offices though.
 - Carl: do we want to explore Zoom-in workshops? Would be extra costs and logistics at the venue. Is it worth it?
 - Tim: Does President Coburn want to appoint an ad hoc committee? Who should be on it? (Tim, Erik Lehnhoff and ????)
- Still more other topics:
 - Albert: noted that we used to get more undergrad students than we do now.
 - Nevin: from Awards Committee perspective, noted that all three Sanchez travel awards went to PhD students due to fatter CVs. Should we reserve one for MS?
 - Discussion was that this is normal ebb and flow. No action needed after this discussion
 - Sandra: WSWS needs to introduce new Board members. Maybe an email blast after the meeting.
 - Noted comment from membership that “not many women on the board” but we actually have several joining now. Making the board more visible might help this perception.
 - The website now has a full list and photos of the BoD
 - She also noted that Tim’s effort to shorten the business breakfast was appreciated but that not having all the board members and committee chairs in front of the membership might also be a lost opportunity for the membership to see established and upcoming leaders in the society.
 - Albert: question about WSWS voting. How many members actually vote?
 - Erik: it’s low but in line with other societies.
 - Suggestion made to ensure voting goes out in both the newsletter and via email blast; emails get read “slightly” more than newsletter according to stats.
 - Tim: a question was raised as to how WSWS “sunset” a committee. Lisa Rew from the Legislative Committee might suggest that one be ended.
 - Sandra. Sunsetting steps are the reverse of setting up a new committee. Committee can tell the BoD they think the committee is no longer effective or needed and recommend they be dissolved. Then BoD can vote on the recommendation.

- Ryan: Steve Valenti's HRW committee completed the HRW trifold and needs direction what to do with this? (who is the BoD contact for this committee?)

President Coburn called for a motion to adjourn

- Moved by Tim Prather and seconded by Nevin Lawrence
- Motion passed unanimously.
- **Meeting adjourned around 1:50pm March 13, 2025**