WSWS Officer and Committee Report
Boise, Idaho
August 2020

Office or Committee Name: Program Committee

Officer or Chairperson Name: Sandra McDonald

Date of Preparation (include year): 7-31-2020

Activities during the year:

- Organized a Zoom Meeting with the WAPMS Executive and representatives of the WSWS – Corey Ransom, Pat Clay, Eric Gustafson, and myself. It was decided that we would proceed with the Joint Meeting in March 2021. WAPMS has cancelled their 2020 meeting.

- Worked with Local Arrangements Committee Chair, George Newberry, to assess and secure the space needs at the Boise Center for a socially distanced in-person WSWS/WAPMS Joint Meeting.

- Worked with the Research Section Chair, Mithila Jugulam, and the Education & Regulatory Section Chair, Todd Neel, to outline three different formats for conducting the 2021 WSWS/WAPMS Joint Meeting:
    1. Normal meeting – socially distanced
    2. Hybrid meeting – some people attending in person and others joining virtually
    3. Virtual meeting – everyone participates online

- Contacted the Project Section Chairs and Student Judging Chair via email and alerted them to the proposed formats. Will work very closely with them and the entire Program Committee to ensure that everyone is as updated as possible during the planning process.

- Meeting virtually, along with Corey Ransom, WSWS President, with the North Central Weed Science Society President Stott Howard and Eric Spandl to discuss their research on online platforms to support a virtual meeting.

- Drafted a survey, with input from the Research Section Chair, Mithila Jugulam, and the Education & Regulatory Section Chair, Todd Neel, to send to our membership to get their feedback on the options for the 2021 Joint Meeting.

- Participated and will continue to participate in virtual meetings held by associations/societies similar to WSWS to learn as much as possible to use to improve the WSWS meeting experience in the event we have a hybrid or totally virtual meeting.

Recommendations for Board Action:

- Provide feedback and approve proceeding with the planning of the WSWS/WAPMS 2021 Joint Meeting using the 3 potential formats

- Provide feedback on the drafted survey, provide input on the best time to send to membership, and approve sending the survey

Budget Needs:

- We will need to discuss the cost to the WSWS of the various meeting formats.

Name of Person Preparing This Report: Sandra K. McDonald