



**Office or Committee Name: President**

**Officer or Chairperson Name: Tim Prather**

**Date of Preparation (include year): July 8, 2024**

**Activities during the year:** Rather than chronological, I am presenting my activities topically.

**ESA/EPA:** I attended a workshop in Ellensburg Washington with Ian Burke to gain understanding of how herbicide applications are impacted by the emerging new system mitigate potential injury to endangered/threatened species. The workshop demonstrated the effort was a work in progress and the mitigation bulletins needed significant review/editing because the bulletins used in the workshop were written by people without agricultural knowledge. I created an ad hoc committee to address the issue, chaired by Brad Hansen who also is a member of the WSSA committee addressing this same issue. Others on the committee include Alan Helm, Dan Tekiela and Jolene Trujillo (US FWS). I have been involved in discussions of this topic with the

**Science Policy committee of WSSA:** Topics for the policy committee meetings included: 1) EPA Label comments submitted for WSSA and regional societies, 2) ESA updates, 3) Farm Bill Appropriations, 4) Cuts to IR-4 program and CPPM program.

**Weed Science Presidents DC visit:** Participated in the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research meeting and met with legislative staff along with coalition members in support of NCFAR appropriation requests (Agricultural Research Service (ARS): \$1.95 billion Economic Research Service (ERS): \$98 million, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS): \$241 million, National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA): provide increased support for capacity programs, Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI): \$500 million, Research Facilities Act (RFA): \$500 million, Agricultural Advanced Research and Development Authority (AGARDA): \$50 million. My groups met with staff for Hoeven, North Dakota and Heinrich, New Mexico as well as Spanberger, Virginia. With national and regional weed science presidents met with legislative staff our focus was CPPM and IR-4 cuts, visits included staff for: Senators Cruz, Cornyn, Klobuchar, Schiff Representatives Arrington, Kim, Nunn, Simpson, Pingree, Craig, Fischbach, Feenstra. We also met with Keith Jones to discuss collaborating on EPA herbicide strategy education.

**Committees:** I am still working to fill committee positions. So far this is what I have: Awards Jane Mangold (maybe), Fellows Kniss (maybe), Student Judging, Judit Barroso (maybe), Legislative Dan Tekiela (maybe), Local Arrangements not filled, Finance Dan Berans (maybe), Necrology not filled, Nominations Breanne Tideman, Poster Marcelo Moretti, Public Relations Gino Graziano, Herbicide Resistant Plants Franck Dayan, Site Selection not filled.

**Program Software:** The WSSA and regional presidents participated in a search for an alternative to the software used for our program development. Eric Gustafson also participated. The group determined the best package was submitted by a company called Confex. Recently

the WSSA board decided to utilize the company. One of the agenda items will be for us to decide if we should use the same company. <https://www.confex.com/>

**Site Selection:** I have made initial contact with Tina Nabilone with HPN Global. The Central society utilizes her company to aid in site selection. The company is compensated by conference facility owners and no charge to the society. Tina works with their site selection committee to decide on a facility for their meeting. We may want to consider discussing this option.

**Recommendations for Board Action:**

Discuss and vote on utilization of the ConFex services for our annual meeting.

Please provide input for additional committee suggestions, I am behind on that task.

Discuss HPN Global services for site selection.

**Budget Needs:** None

**Name of Person Preparing This Report:** Tim Prather