WSWS Officer and Committee Report
July 2024

Office or Committee Name: CAST Representative
Officer or Chairperson Name: Gregory Dahl
Date of Preparation (include year): July 10, 2024

Activities during the year:

Represented the WSWS on the CAST Plant Working Group. Participated in most of the monthly CAST Plant Working Group ZOOM meetings. Discussed and prioritized projects and publications that are in development and identified new topics to be evaluated as projects.

Met regularly with Jill Schroeder, CAST Representative for WSSA, and other Regional Weed Society CAST Representatives Tom Peters, CAST Representative for NCWSS, Anthony Witcher, CAST Representative for NEWSS, Todd Baughman, CAST Representative for SWSS, Gray Turnage CAST Representative for APMS, and Sharon Clay, CAST Representative for ASA. This has been helpful to us in coordinating and completing our CAST Representative Efforts. Participated with the WSSA and Regional Weed Science Societies to put a CAST Poster at the NCWSS, NEWSS the WSSA/SWSS and WSWS meetings. I will be helping Gray Turnage to present a CAST Poster at the 2024 APMS meeting.

Worked with Dr. Jill Schroeder, who is the CAST Plant Working Group Liaison for creating a CAST publication about Invasive Species. I helped Jill and scientists representing WSSA and the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA). A CAST publication, titled "Preventing the next invasive plant: Opportunities and Challenges" was published in March 2024, A webinar was held on February 29, 2024. Congratulations to Jill for completing this.

I am working as CAST Liaison towards a CAST Issue Paper on "Integrated Management of Fire Adapted Invasive Plants Responsible for Changing Wildfire Regimes." This was developed based on the WSWS workshop on fire and invasives at the 2022 annual meeting organized by Matt Baur, WIPM Center Director). CAST approved the proposal to be developed into a publication. Matt Baur is the project leader. Several members of the WSWS Invasive Species Committee have volunteered to help write sections for the publication. I am serving as CAST

Liaison on this project. Most authors have written their sections. We are working to get the remaining sections completed for the publication.

Met with Dr. Chris Boomsma, CAST EVP/CEO at the Weed Science President's Fly-In to Washington DC on May 5 – 9, 2024. We all participated in a meeting of the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research. It was a great meeting. WSSA was one of the meeting sponsors. CAST has moved its headquarters to the Research Park at Iowa State University. They will be renting their new offices and have sold their current office location.

Participated in the CAST Annual Meeting and Associated Meetings at Texas A&M Hotel and Conference Center, College Station, TX on November 6 – 9, 2023. Meeting information is in my previous report.

Other publications or items of interest that can be found at the CAST Web Site:

CAST Put out a FIFRA/ESA Six Session Webinar Series and CAST Issue. Webinars dates were between November 28, 2023 and March 12, 2024.

CAST Issue Publication: Impacts of Soil Health Practices on Hydrologic Processes, May 2024.

CAST Issue Publication: FIFRA, ESA, and Pesticide Consultation: Understanding and Addressing Complexities, April 2024.

CAST Issue Publication: Preventing the Next Plant Invasion: Opportunities and Challenges, March 2024.

CAST Issue Publication: Applications, Benefits, and Challenges of Genome Edited Crops, March 2024.

CAST Issue Publication: State Regulatory Agencies as Conduit for Informing Local Conditions in Federal Pesticide Processes, March 2024.

CAST Issue Publication: FIFRA, ESA and Pesticide Consultation: Identifying and Overcoming the Complexities from a Growers Perspective, February 2024.

CAST Issue Publication: Developing and Adopting Economically Effective Pesticide Mitigation Strategies: Critical to the Survival of Agriculture and Endangered Species, January 2024.

CAST Issue Publication: RNA Interference in Agriculture: Methods, Applications, and Governance, January 2024.

CAST Issue Publication: Improving the FIFRA/ESA Process by Addressing Key Obstacles and Incorporating Better Data and Tools, January 2024.

CAST Issue Publication: A Legal Discussion of the FIFRA/ESA Consultation Process Over Time, December 2023.

CAST Issue Publication: FIFRA and the Endangered Species Act: Finding a Balance between Agricultural Efficiency, Environmental Sustainability, and Regulatory Stability, November 2023.

CAST and IFT Collaborate on Traceability Issue Paper to Help Improve Food Safety and Security in the Food and Agricultural Community, September 2023.

I plan to attend the CAST 2024 Annual Meeting on November 18 -22, 2024.
We will meet at the University of Florida-Gulf Coast Research and Education Center in Wimauma, Fl.

Recommendations for Board Action:

Thank you to the Western Society of Weed Science for supporting and working with CAST. Please keep our support for CAST strong. Thank you for the opportunity to serve WSWS and CAST.

Budget Needs:

No additional needs at this time.

Name of Person Preparing This Report: Gregory Dahl