



**WSWS Board Meeting Notes
Monday, March 10, 2014
Hotel Elegante Conference & Event Center
Colorado Springs, CO
Rampart Room
Prepared by Andy Hulting, WSWS Secretary**

Board Members Present: Roger Gast, Andy Hulting, Joel Felix, Ed Davis, Drew Lyon, Marcel Moretti, Craig Beil, Brian Jenks, Phil Westra, Kirk Howatt, Andrew Kniss, Kai Umeda, Phil Banks, Pat Clay, Monte Anderson, Corey Ransom

Breakfast was served at 7:30am in Rampart Room.

Roger Gast called the meeting to order at 8:07 AM and made some brief introductions and meeting setup comments.

Secretary Report

Andy Hulting discussed the draft version of the August 5-6, 2013, Summer Board of Directors meeting minutes having received comments from Roger Gast and Drew Lyon. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Phil Westra and seconded by Andrew Kniss. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimous consent. Phil Banks will post the final version of meeting minutes on the WSWS website.

BOD previous email votes for Honorary Member, WSWS Fellows and Award of Merit were reviewed by Andy.

Business Manager and Treasurer Report

Phil Banks gave the report. See Business Manager report for financial details. Phil reported that we are in good financial standing and that he is still working through the details for maintaining the tax exempt status of WSWS. Phil indicated that there is no need to reprint Weeds of the West at this time and that the number of book sales continues to decline. We need more effort on book sales. Phil also indicated that the BOD needs to address the declining annual meeting registration numbers. Breakeven point for annual meeting is ~ 300 registrations. We are below that number in recent years.

Memorandum of agreement needs to be developed and shared with both boards to work on details if we are to hold a joint meeting with WAPMS for 2017 in ID? WAPMS contact is Cody Gray. Final decision on whether to move forward needs to be made by summer BOD meeting in Portland. Does this idea need to be vetted with WSWS membership or is it just a BOD decision?

Later that afternoon when discussing New Business, Cody Gray indicated that there is strong interest on the part of their society to join our group for a joint meeting. There will be a need to work on tables

for exhibitors and the hotel room block needs to be figured out. There are also details on meeting awards banquets/meals and sponsorship/fundraising questions that need to be worked out between the two groups. RFP would then be sent to area hotels.

Phil also reported that WSWS website development continues with David Krueger.

David is working on further design refinement of website. Phil is working on updating and posting material. New website is a real opportunity for revamped Public Relations committee to take some action on promoting WSWS.

President

Roger Gast gave the report. See President report for Roger's specific activities.

Web-based committee sign-up system for membership is one suggestion for the future. This opportunity could be announced with annual meeting information. A drop down menu of committee participation interests is envisioned. We need to figure out how best to implement on new web site. Drew Lyon will continue to look into implementing this idea.

President-elect/ Program Committee Chair

Drew Lyon gave the Program report. See the President Elect-Program report for numbers of papers/posters for the Colorado Springs meeting. Drew commented on the Air Force Academy land management tie in for the meeting. Drew indicated that Brian Jenks as Member-at-Large Public is tasked to study declining paper numbers and the need to reverse this trend. Phil Westra brought up idea of moving beyond traditional weed scientist content and need to bring ideas to annual meeting to expand beyond traditional topics. Somehow we need to work on issue of expanding appeal of our society and declining membership and paper numbers. The mechanism to explore new ideas is usually the symposium idea. Phil suggested a title such as "New and Emerging Topics in Weed Science" as a way to challenge scientists who have left our discipline to come back to the WSWS and contribute. Intent is to get started on something small to make this happen. "Community" idea of the Tri-Societies was brought up. Must define and build on the unique strengths of WSWS. BOD needs to figure out mechanism to make changes happen.

Immediate Past President

Kai Umeda gave the report. See Past President report for specific activities related to his participation in several nominating committees and his suggestions for two changes to the Operating Guide. Kai also indicated that we need to do a better job soliciting retiree information so these members can be properly recognized during the annual meeting.

Research Section Chair

Andrew Kniss gave the report. See Research Section Chair report for breakdown of paper/poster numbers by section. Technology and Teaching section is very small this year. Andrew commented that the Discussion Section topics are in place and should be interesting for members and that emails have been sent to Project Chairs detailing their responsibilities pre, during and post meeting and for submitting reports. He also reported that there were few problems with uploading presentations to the WSSA sponsored meeting site. One suggestion would be to potentially add an "upload progress bar" to the upload site so that people are less frustrated with the process? Andrew will check on the possibility of adding such a tool.

Education and Regulatory Chair

Joe Felix gave the report. See the Education and Regulatory report for details. Joel indicated that he had worked with Drew on the planned symposium and the program. Joel recommended having symposium topics approved one year in advance with formal approval needed by summer board meeting or by email vote. There were varying opinions offered on which day of the meeting week the symposium needs to occur. Preferably not on Monday or Thursday. Joel indicated that he had contacted some individuals in various states to secure continuing education credits. Credits from some states will be available during this meeting.

Member-at-Large Public

Brian Jenks gave the report and provided the BOD with a handout of relevant data on the declining membership/paper-poster issue. Membership is down, but student numbers remain good. Both paper and poster numbers are down. Federal, state and county memberships are trending down. These trends will result in our budget being a continual issue unless trends are reversed. The following questions were posed:

Why are there western weed scientists not coming to WSWS?

What is our new normal attendance? 250 vs. 300?

How do we get WSWS back into top tier of meetings attended?

How are other regional societies dealing with this issue?

Would letters of invitation to federal employee members allow them to travel to WSWS?

Are there grant opportunities that could be explored that would help members travel?

How do we advertise to the various state departments of agriculture and state weed control associations-posters and advertising issues?

Brian will continue to work on this issue and will look deeper into the recent membership data to identify opportunities for increasing participation/travel to annual meeting.

Member-at-Large Private

Monte Anderson gave the report and indicated that he had worked with several organizations to provide information on GMO food labeling initiatives. See Member-at-Large report for specific organizations and their websites.

WSSA Representative

Pat Clay gave the report. See the WSSA Representative report for details. Pat indicated that the WSWS is well represented in the leadership of WSSA and that the WSSA is in a solid financial position. Several publications of interest are forthcoming including Research Methods in Weed Science and a new edition of the Herbicide Handbook. Pat also indicated that a new WSSA weed science advocacy award has been approved. There is discussion within WSSA to have a poster grad student competition at the annual meeting. How does that interface with the current WSWS grad student competition? This will need to be addressed in the future. A replacement for Pat as the WSWS WSSA Representative will need to be made prior to the next WSSA meeting.

CAST Representative

Phil Westra gave a report on his activities as the CAST representative and indicated that Phil Stahlman would be giving presentation on CAST at this meeting. Phil mentioned various papers being developed by CAST and the costs associated with publication. Phil asked the BOD to consider contributing

WSWS funds to cover cost of publications in addition to our society membership in CAST. Several questions were raised including:

What is the impact?

Is it a good use of our membership dollars to support these publications?

No action was taken on this issue.

Contact Phil if you have ideas for CAST publications.

Student Liaison

Craig Beil gave the report. See Student Liaison report for specific activities and list of suggestions completed by the students. Craig indicated that they are utilizing the WSWS Facebook page. Student Night Out is organized with 15 groups planned. The Silent Auction is organized with a goal of generating 3K to pay for student scholarships. One suggestion is to have a student on the new Public Relations committee and to be diligent on the idea of making sure that all students in paper/poster contests receive some feedback (preferably at the conclusion of the Thursday business breakfast meeting).

Constitution and Operating Guide Representative

Corey Ransom led the discussion. His goal is to update the Operating Guide based on previous discussions as detailed in the 2013 Summer Board Meeting minutes. Another idea is to develop best management practices for judges helping with student paper/poster contests (in collaboration with Student Paper/Poster Judging Chair) and instructions for moderators of the various sections during the annual meeting.

RBC Investments Update: Stan Cooper (via telephone at 11:30am)

Stan Cooper provided the BOD with various handouts and gave a short presentation on current investments and strategy. The BOD took no action, but will follow up with him in terms of actions to be taken on investment strategy. Current low risk strategy seems appropriate, but most agree that a slightly more aggressive strategy (with more risk) may be warranted. Much discussion on the appropriate strategy to provide Stan with this direction. BOD will work with Phil Banks and Finance committee to provide this direction. Topic of discussion for 2014 Summer Board Meeting.

Director of Science Policy

Lee Van Wychen provided the BOD with a handout on approximately 12 policy updates/issues and is also planning on updating membership during the general session of this meeting.

Committee Reports:

Most committee reports are posted on the WSWS website. See these posted reports for details. Some additional information from BOD discussion is provided below when applicable.

Publications Committee (Drew Lyon – board contact)

Proceedings – Bill McCloskey still working on various formatting issues, but process is improving.

Research Progress Reports – *Traci Rauch*

WSWS Newsletter – *Carl Libbey*

Weeds of the West – Phil Banks reported on Weeds of the West sales and the need to keep selling books. E-version of this book seems cost prohibitive at this point.

Biological Control of Invasive Plants in the U.S. – Phil Banks indicated that WSWS receives a small amount of royalties each year from this publication.

Website – Phil Banks indicated that a website content committee may be needed perhaps consisting of 2-3 people. Could be a subset of Public Relations committee. Things that may be useful to the membership need to be identified and added to the website.

Local Arrangements – *Tim D’Amato* (Drew Lyon – board contact)

Tim D’Amato indicated that hotel rooms and meeting accommodations are in order.

Discussion on the poster supplies issues and cost effectiveness of shipping these supplies to the various meeting locations. Should we explore other options for our poster session in the future? No BOD action was taken at this time.

Finance – *Marvin Butler* – chairperson (Brian Jenks – board contact)

See RBC Investments Update notes above. BOD asset allocation discussion and clarification needed on whether we are all in bonds or stocks before we make a recommendation to get more aggressive with strategy. Need clarification from Stan Cooper on definition of what “growth” is. There was discussion on whether or not to raise registration fees with no action taken by BOD.

Nominating – *Rick Zollinger* – chairperson (Kai Umeda – board contact)

Need to address the public/private 10 year tradition of alternating candidates. This tradition is not mandatory. Should we be prepared to break tradition in near future to find suitable candidates?

There is a need to engage private industry people to serve on the board. Include industry members/students in committees to keep them engaged.

Public Relations – *TBD* – chairperson (Joel Felix – board contact)

This is a dormant committee. No report. Student involvement needed.

Need modifications to the Operating Guide as previously discussed. Roger will work with Corey on this.

Fellows and Honorary Members – *Rick Boydston* – chairperson (Kai Umeda – board contact)

Site Selection – *Pete Forster* – chairperson (Roger Gast – board contact)

As previously discussed, 2017 meeting details need to be worked on soon if a joint meeting with WAPMS is to occur.

Awards – *Rick Arnold* – chairperson (Roger Gast – board contact)

Some Operating Guide language needs to be updated with respect to scholarship eligibility and voting members of the committee. There are no limitations currently, but the BOD feels that students should be eligible for scholarships once in any degree program. Corey will work on modifying the Operating Guide. Continuing questions as to why scholarship awareness may be low. Information should be sent to advisors with students.

Poster – *Dirk Baker* – chairperson (Drew Lyon – board contact)

Corey Ransom will take poster session materials to Logan and transport to Portland meeting.

Student Paper/Poster Judging – *Kelly Young* – chairperson (Drew Lyon – board contact)

Twenty two judges have volunteered to help in contests. Monetary awards totaling \$1,325 needed. Every effort will be made to get comments to students at this meeting.

Necrology – *Greg Dahl* – chairperson (Andy Hulting – board contact)

See report for complete obituaries of members who have passed away.

Sustaining Membership – *Dennis Tonks* – chairperson (Kai Umeda – board contact)

Sixteen current members have renewed their Sustaining Memberships. Five new companies have been contacted with 1 new membership resulting.

Legislative – *Julie Kraft* – chairperson (Pat Clay – board contact)

Still some feeling that this committee is lacking direction.

What is the function of this committee? Developing a list of key state contacts is first step in helping this committee complete its mission.

Herbicide Resistant Plants – *Andrew Kniss* – chairperson (Monte Anderson – board contact)

No report.

No mission, unless there is some new issue that arises in the future.

Education – *Tim Prather* – chairperson (Joel Felix – board contact)

No report.

Communicate the responsibilities of securing the CEU credits to this group in the future.

Ad hoc Ethics – *Ralph Whitesides and Frank Young* – co-chairpersons (Kai Umeda – board contact)

See Old Business notes below.

Kai Umeda moved to terminate this as hoc committee. Pat Clay seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Pat Clay moved to accept all Board and Committee reports as submitted. Andrew Kniss seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Old Business

- Proposal to change the name of the student scholarship to “*Elena Sanchez Memorial WSWS Outstanding Student Scholarship Program*”

Drew Lyon moved to change the name to that stated above. Craig Beil seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

- Proposed WSWS Ethics Statement

A vote of affirmation by WSWS membership is planned on Thursday morning. There is currently no plan in place to deal with actual cases or a mechanism for enforcement. These statements are to be viewed as guiding principles.

- Status Operating Guide changes:
Education & Regulatory Section Chair duties expansion

- 1) Move continuing education credits/state contacts onto this education committee
- 2) Move symposium committee responsibilities under the direction of chairman Education & regulatory Chair
- 3) Student judging “best practices” in operating guide
- 4) Incorporation of “moderator instructions/best practices” in the Operating Guide” research section chairs project directors include in the Appendix and link back into operating guide vote on at the summer board meeting proposed guidelines

As discussed previously, Corey Ransom will be working on these changes to the Operating Guide

- Public Relations committee future mission / marketing of WSWS; identification of chair

Discussion on potential chairperson. Don Morishita and Phil Stahlam were names that were mentioned.

Advertise in the WSWS newsletter –this chair needed with these responsibilities.

Names needed by Thursday wrap up session. Drew Lyon will put together a committee of 3 to start process.

- Legislative Committee future mission

See notes above.

New Business

- Renewal of Business Manager Service Agreement

Compensation for Phil Banks was discussed. Phil’s increased responsibility of taking on website issues was noted.

Andrew Kniss moved to renew the Business Manager Service Agreement for Phil Banks. Phil Westra seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Follow up discussion:

Do we need to have web editor position description? How do handle duties in the operating guide? Most feel we should leave guidelines as is.

Webmaster Constitution issues. Work with Corey Ransom to clarify. Non-voting board member and also a member of the Publications Committee?

Setup should actually reflect the Constitution which is not actually the case currently.

- CAST Representative for new term starting Nov 2015 (succession planning)

Need to have a new person named by early 2015.

- New Website: suggestions for any improvements

Suggestions for improvements:

Make sure awards winners list is present on the website

Public relations committee –promotion of events or noxious weed short courses

Sort of a “:What’s coming” page Upcoming events or annual meeting and other events

Font size is too small

New images need once in a while. Pictures too big on the home page? Can’t find information. Text needs to stand out.

Chat or blog function for members only -discussion on research threads

Utilize the wsws list serve. Wsws-members@googlegroups.com

Links to weed science programs,look at WSSA site as an example

How do we get WSWS up higher on Google search

Do not use the “Learn more” tags in terms of the design.

Work on the mobile version

Fix the member directory

Combine Constitution and Bylaws tabs in the drop down windows

- Herbicide-resistant weed management workshops – discussion of future funding

Feedback to WSWS BOD for providing funding:

Andrew Kniss gave the report. Social science needs to be developed more in the next summit. Several members were disappointed in the workshop. Membership would like some kind of report/summary. We may be asked to fund the next meeting. What is the return on investment for the WSWS...we need voice at the table in terms of our diverse cropping systems.

- Proposal for combined meeting with WAPMS-Cody Gray

See notes above.

- Proposal for a Herbicide Resistance Symposium with a western focus at Tucson WSSA meeting

Planning should start now if we want to participate in the 17 meeting

Task for the Education Committee or Herbicide Resistance Plant Committee

Doesn’t have to be limited to resistance

Has to have broad appeal, not just to the west

- Discussion concerning trend in quantity of paper/poster submissions (Brian Jenks)

See notes above.

There was no additional new business. Roger Gast thanked everyone in attendance for their efforts on the BOD. Kai Umeda moved to adjourn the meeting. Pat Clay seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 5:10 PM.

DRAFT