



WSWS Board Meeting Minutes

Prepared by Curtis Rainbolt, WSWS Secretary

March 9, 2015

Portland Hilton

Portland, OR

Board Members Present: Drew Lyon, Roger Gast, Dan Curtis, Marcello Moretti, Mike Hubbard, Brian Jenks, Carl Coburn, Sandra McDonald, Ed Davis, Jane Mangold, Joe Yenish, Kirk Howatt, Corey Ransom, Curtis Rainbolt, Marty Schraer, and Phil Banks

Breakfast was served at 7:30 am.

Drew Lyon called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

Dallas Peterson, WSSA President, began the meeting with a few words. He thanked WSWS for cooperation on the Director of Science Policy and working to make sure there was a unified message from the societies. He gave a brief preview of the items that EPA subject matter expert Mike Barrett would present at the WSWS general session. He discussed the recent WSSA meeting in Lexington, Kentucky. The meeting was smaller than some previous meetings, but was profitable. The 2016 meeting will be a joint meeting with the Southern Weed Science Society in San Juan, Puerto Rico. WSSA executive secretary Joyce Lancaster will be retiring and the society will be looking for a new business manager. There was some discussion if the WSWS should submit a symposium proposal for the 2017 WSSA meeting in Tucson, AZ. At this point, it is a little early to submit a symposium proposal to WSSA.

Marty Schraer was introduced as the new WSSA representative replacing Pat Clay.

Secretary Report

Curtis Rainbolt discussed the minutes from the 2014 summer board meeting. Kirk Howatt made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Sandra McDonald seconded and the motion passed. It was suggested that an Action Items section be added to the minutes.

Business Manager and Treasurer Report

Phil Banks gave the report. See the Business Manager report for financial details. Taxes have been filed. The membership list is up to date. Financially the society is in good shape. Net worth has been increasing, but income is down due to declining attendance. Net worth increase has been largely due to sales of Weeds of the West and about 2500 copies were sold the past year. The society has 4650 copies remaining, which is about 2 years of inventory. This is the longest it has taken to go through a printing of 10000 books. An ad hoc committee was appointed to look at sales and other opportunities

for the future of the book. The book is an aging product and is largely sold by its reputation. The cost to print 10000 more copies is about \$120k, which is a large portion of the society's net worth.

The society's net worth is changing daily as meeting expenses are coming in and registrations continue. Preregistrations for the meeting are 232. That is 190 regular registrations and 42 student registrations. The society loses money on the student registrations. The registration numbers are similar to recent years.

The separate Monday symposium needed to be advertised earlier. The announcement went out only about 3 weeks ago. No one preregistered for the symposium, but walk-ins are expected.

Phil worked with the site selection committee to get requests for proposals from potential meeting sites in CA and Las Vegas. They received 7 proposals: 3 from San Diego, 1 from Orange County, 1 from Sacramento, and 2 from Las Vegas. Many hotels are reluctant to give an RFP for meetings 3 years out because they anticipate the economy will improve. Hotel rates are somewhat higher than in past years.

Phil thanked Dan Curtis for his great efforts on local arrangements. The Hilton Portland has been mostly responsive. They did not inform us of the construction going on in the hotel.

President's Report Report

Drew Lyon gave the report. Please refer to the report for specifics. Drew appointed new committee members. He made a total redo of the publication committee and made time appointments on the education committee so that members could rotate off. The public relations committee and legislative committees have been very active. Drew appointed and the board approved Marty Schraer as the WSWs representative. Drew signed an MOA for the joint WAPMS meeting. He signed a contract with the Coeur D'Alene Resort for the 2017 meeting. Drew reported on award members for the year and noted that the society needs to do a better job of getting people nominated so that all awards can be given.

President-elect/Program Committee Chair Report

Joe Yenish gave the report. Please refer to the report for specifics. 140 papers (54 poster and 86 presentations) were received, which is 2 more than last year, but some cancellations made it almost equal to last year. However there is a decline in the number of papers compared to the prior years. There were some issues with students making 2 submissions. The rules for student contest entries need to be clarified and made easier to find. Also there was some confusion regarding poster sizes, since it was not listed in the student criteria.

Immediate Past President Report

Roger Gast gave the report. Please see the report for specific details. Roger worked with the nominations committee. They need to start earlier in the year. He served on the WSSA nominations committee. Rick Boydston was elected to the WSSA Board. Roger suggested that the operating guide be updated to make sure the past president knows to solicit for the names of retirees in January. Also to make sure the past president knows they are on the WSSA nominating committee.

Research Section Chair Report

Ed Davis gave the report. Please see the report for specific details. Also note that 19 papers are in the Range section rather than the 9 listed in the report. Very similar number of papers compared to last year. 48 of 73 papers were uploaded to the website. Only 1 PDF format was submitted. He only had trouble with one older version of a PowerPoint file. He recommends that the Chair elects be given access to the paper online downloads so that they can gain familiarity with the system the year prior to being chair. The project chairs did a good job on subjects for the discussion sections. He hopes to get discussion section reports in earlier than last year.

Education and Regulatory Chair Report

Kirk Howatt gave the report. Please see the report for specific details. Kirk worked with Bill Cobb and Joe Yenish on the Monday Symposium. Following the meeting the change of format to a Monday Symposium will be reviewed. CEU's are being handled by people who had worked on them for their state in the past and were willing to continue helping. The biggest reason that some states don't offer CEU's is that we do not monitor the rooms for attendance. In the future we may want to consider offering CCA credits.

Member at Large- Public Report

Brian Jenks gave the report. He gave an in depth report on WSWS membership and annual meeting attendance. Attendance was high in 2008-9 but this was driven by symposia. Student attendance is up the last 5 years. The poster number has been relatively constant the last few years, but paper submissions are trending down. Membership has been affected by the loss of government attendees who have had travel restrictions because of budget cuts. It appears that this situation is not improving for government employees. It is also difficult for Canadian government employees to attend. Discussion was held on the trends and what they mean for the long term health of the WSWS. Industry participation may be down due to conflicting meetings. The society may need to consider more joint meetings in order to maintain attendance and manage meeting costs. The concern with bringing in other groups is that it will dilute the scientific content of our meeting. It was suggested to identify groups we'd like to have joint meetings with such as invasive weed groups and biocontrol groups. The society may need to be more flexible for meeting dates in order to accommodate joint meetings. Moving the date may open up more hotel venues because our meeting often conflicts with spring break.

Member at Large- Private

Mike Hubbard gave the report. Mike plans to conduct an industry survey to see what would improve attendance from groups like Wilbur Ellis, McGregor, Helena, etc. Discussion on why industry attendance is down centered round why there are more basic and less applied weed science papers at the meetings.

WSSA Representative Report

Marty Schraer gave the report. Please see the report for specific details. Marty attended the WSSA meeting in Lexington and presented a summary from the WSSA BOD meeting.

CAST Report

Phil Westra was not present. Please see the report for specific details.

Student Liaison

Report was presented by Marcelo Moretti. Please see the report for specific details. The student auction received \$600 in cash but fewer items were donated than in the past. They continue to have difficulty getting applicants for student scholarships. The idea of a student video contest was suggested. Marcelo was going to survey student interest.

Constitution and Operating Guide Representative.

Report was presented by Corey Ransom. Please see the report for specific details. Corey asked that BOD members review the online operating guide sections under their responsibility and provide feedback. Specific areas of focus are the Best Practices guide for moderators and student paper contest judges. He is also working to refine the symposia committee responsibilities and interaction with the education and regulatory chair. Language to remove the website editor from the BOD will be presented for vote at the Thursday morning business meeting. The operating guide also lists the education committee as being ad hoc in some sections and needs to be corrected by Corey. Also a CEU subcommittee is no longer needed since this is now part of the education committee.

Director of Science Policy – Lee Van Wychen

Lee is working with WSSA and regional societies on the correct definition of a “super weed.” The definition will be posted on the WSSA website and sent to dictionaries. The President’s budget looks good for research. Spending is up for agricultural weeds at extension and experiment stations. There is also a competitive matching grant fund. He discussed environmental regulations such as the effect of the “Waters of the US” on EPA and NPDS. He expects a legislative fix to the issue. He also discussed concern over Scott’s having a glyphosate resistant tall fescue and the potential for gene flow. A Foundation for Food and Ag Research program is expected to have \$200M in 1:1 matching funds.

Committee Reports:

Publications Committee (Joe Yenish – board contact)

Proceedings – Bill McCloskey successfully compiled abstracts. One of the slow parts is getting the abstracts from symposia and discussion sections. The proceedings process is improving each year.

Research Progress Reports – Traci Rauch the 2015 report was compiled. The number of reports has dropped down to 34 from the mid 50’s in recent years. If the number of reports doesn’t increase the future of the research progress reports may need to be reconsidered.

WSWS Newsletter – Carl Libbey newsletters went out in a timely format. It was suggested that publication dates be moved up 1-2 weeks to better accommodate meeting presentation submission deadlines. This will require changing the publication dates in the operating guide.

Weeds of the West – Phil Banks –covered in business manager’s report. By the summer 2015 meeting the board hopes to have a decision on how to move forward with weeds of the west.

Biological Control of Invasive Plants in the U.S. – Phil Banks was at the registration desk so this was not discussed.

Website – Phil Banks was at the registration desk so this was not discussed.

Local Arrangements – Daniel Curtis printed new conference signs. Poster easels will be stored in Corvallis until the Coeur D’Alene meeting. They will be rented in Albuquerque.

Finance – Fara Brummer – chairperson (Brian Jenks – board contact). See report for full details. The committee reports that the society is in solid financial condition and the books are in good order. Per Stan Cooper, the committee recommends exchanging the bond funds, Mainstay and Virtus, into the higher yielding bond fund, Riverfront. Stan’s recommendation for adding money to the growth side is into the Swan Defined Risk Fund. If the Board chooses to do so, he would suggest 20% or \$40,000, with equal amount from the bonds and global growth position. The board wanted to know what Swan Define Risk is exactly and was okay with the move if it results in less than 60% of the portfolio being in equities. The bank of the west account will be closed for convenience of the business manager.

Nominating – Pam Hutchinson – chairperson (Roger Gast – board contact). The next president-elect rotation is from industry, but if suitable candidates are not found WSWS may need to move away from the rotation tradition. The past president will work with the incoming chairperson to start the process earlier.

Public Relations – Stott Howard – chairperson (Kirk Howatt – board contact). See the full report for details. The committee has been very active. They reached out to other societies to gain information about how they handle public relations. A survey was considered but postponed since they were not sure it would generate useful information.

Fellows and Honorary Members – Tim Miller – chairperson (Roger Gast – board contact). Two Fellows were selected from 3 nominees. Need to continue to encourage nominees for honorary members.

Site Selection – Stephen Colbert – chairperson (Drew Lyon – board contact). Some hotels do not want to make a commitment 3 years out. The board suggests that hotel cost (within reason) shouldn’t be the major factor in choosing a site. Access to dining and other activities should be highly considered.

Awards – Carol Mallory-Smith – chairperson (Drew Lyon – board contact). The committee selected 3 scholarship winners from 9 applicants. The committee suggests that the board name an Awards Nomination Committee to make sure that names are put forward for all awards.

Poster – Harry Quicke – chairperson (Joe Yenish – board contact). Graduate students from Corey Ransom’s program brought boards and easels to Portland. They will be stored in Corvallis until the 2017 Coeur D’Alene meeting. They suggest a link on the annual meeting website that provides instructions for poster displays.

Student Paper/Poster Judging – Don Morishita – chairperson (Joe Yenish – board contact) see the full report for details. Since Don Morishita is unable to attend the meeting, Ryan Rector will act as Chair.

Necrology – Steve Valenti – chairperson (Curtis Rainbolt – board contact). The committee only has 2 members and recommends that a third be added.

Sustaining Membership – Greg Dahl – chairperson (Roger Gast – board contact). No report was submitted.

Legislative – Chad Clark – chairperson (Marty Schraer – board contact). The committee has been very active. They have worked to find people in many states to get updates on legislative activities involving weed science. See the report for full details.

Herbicide Resistant Plants – Brian Jenks – chairperson (Michael Hubbard – board contact) The committee felt that the Herbicide Resistant Plants Summit did not offer much new information and that current suggestions aren't being practiced. The 2nd Global Herbicide Resistance Challenge is being held in Denver of 2017 and it was discussed if WSWS should try for a western region focus in one of the sections. The committee was charged with deciding if WSWS should propose a herbicide resistance symposium with a western focus for WSSA in Tucson or the Denver meeting.

Education – Ian Burke – chairperson (Kirk Howatt – board contact) The committee reported no activities and feels that the committee needs a charge in order to be effective. Some suggestions included: 1) development of MOA modules directed at a field manager level, 2) a weed science text book, and 3) researching what weed science programs are using for text books.

Ad hoc Weeds of the West Sales – Ralph Whitesides – chairperson (Phil Banks – board contact) no report.

Ad hoc Weeds of the West What's Next? – Dirk Baker – chairperson (Phil Banks – board contact) See the report for full details. The committee felt that an electronic version would be difficult due to permissions issues with the book. The price to develop a mobile application seems large considering what is already available for free or low cost. While this might be useful it is unlikely that it would be a revenue generator for WSWS. The committee recommends that WSWS discontinue reprinting Weeds of the West. The BOD feels that any efforts to create a "new" Weeds of the West will require identifying a person who is passionate and willing to lead the project.

Old Business

- Proposal for a Herbicide Resistance Symposium with a western focus at Tucson WSSA meeting
This is on hold pending decision from the Herbicide Resistant Plants committee
- Poster boards – purchase & transport or rent?
Poster boards will be rented in Albuquerque. WSWS boards will be transported from Corvallis, OR to Coeur D'Alen, ID in 2017.
- CEUs, the Education Committee, and the Education and Regulatory Chair
Seems to work well to maintain this under the Education and Regulatory Chair.

New Business

- CAST Representative for new term starting Nov 2015
This will be an agenda item for 2015 summer board meeting

- NCWSS Proposal to purchase LCD projectors for annual meetings
After discussion a motion to joint purchase projectors with NCWSS failed.
- Financial support for 2015 Weed Olympics to be held in Columbus, OH
The hosts at Ohio State University are seeking industry and society donations to help with costs of the event including travel and lodging. It was suggested that WSWS consider sponsoring travel of teams from WSWS institutions. A motion was made to donate \$1000 to the event at this time. The motion passed unanimously.
- Possible Hosting of the 2016 North American Invasive Species Forum in Albuquerque
Discussion focused on what value this would bring to WSWS. A major factor will be determining if the Albuquerque Hyatt has room for this additional group. The subject was tabled for discussion at Thursday board meeting.
- Selection of a Member at Large Public Sector for the Board.
Scott Nissen was presented as a candidate and unanimously approved by the board.

Action Items.

1. Clarification of the poster contest rules (poster size) by the poster and student contest committees. The rules should also be posted on the annual meeting webpage so that they are easy to find.
2. Chair elects should be given access to the online downloaded papers so that they can become familiar with the process.
3. Drew or Joe will assign the task of looking for other groups to partner with on future meetings to an ad hoc or possibly the public relations committee.
4. Corey asks for Board members to look at their sections in the operating guide and provide feedback for improvements.
5. Modify the operating guide to move up the newsletter publication dates so that they better align with meeting deadlines.
6. Have a potential CAST representative replacement identified by the summer board meeting.