



**WSWS Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Prepared by Andy Hulting, WSWS Secretary**  
**March, 11<sup>th</sup> 2013**  
**Catamaran Resort Hotel and Spa**  
**San Diego, CA**

**Board Members Present:**

Phil Banks, Pat Clay, Andy Hulting, Kai Umeda, Jesse Richardson, Andrew Kniss, Roger Gast, Monte Anderson, Corey Ransom, Craig Beil, Cameron Douglass, Joel Felix, Brad Hanson, Tony White, Vanelle Peterson, Phil Westra, Bob Stougaard, Chuck Rice

**8:15 am Call to Order Kai**

**Introductions**

**Secretary – *Andy Hulting***

Approval of minutes of the August 22-23, 2012, Board of Directors meeting.  
Phil Westra moved to approve the minutes and Tony White seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Business Manager and Treasurer Report – *Phil Banks***

Financial report- Phil indicated that in terms of net worth we are in good standing. Assets, book sales, and investments are strong.

Society budget is in good standing because of the excellent hotel deal from Peppermill Reno at the previous meeting and this underscores why site selection is so important in terms of society resources. Other budget items are similar. A loss will be shown for supporting the noxious weed short course one final time. A zero balance will eventually be shown for assisting in transactions related to supporting logistics of the National Invasive Species Awareness Week.

Meeting registrations are below average ~250 paid. Longer term average is closer 280. Registrations are trending the wrong way. Membership may or may not be trending down (~380). Lower attendance likely because no federal travel is being allowed due to budget constraints. Informal survey by Phil indicated this to be the case...around 20-30 people who have normally attended.

Phil indicated he has been working with Jesse Richardson on local arrangements

2016 site selection – Phoenix and Tucson are too expensive and there is no room.  
Four bids from Albuquerque and one from Santa Fe.  
Site selection will meet during the week to consider bids.

Recommendations from Phil include: Society needs more activity on sales effort to sell books and materials. Every state needs to get on board. Orders should be made through WSWS. Weeds of the West still sells around 2500 copies per year and we are selling other materials and books including Weed Control in Natural Areas.

### **President-elect/ Program Committee Chair – *Roger Gast***

Roger indicated that overall we are down a few papers for this meeting which reflects a similar trend in registrations. One symposium was deferred to the upcoming Colorado Springs meeting. Three workshops will fill that symposium void at this meeting. At this meeting there are 94 oral papers, 60 posters and general session and workshop presentation resulting in a total of 159 total presentations. This is down slightly compared to previous meetings. Roger then talked about the details of the general session including background on the three speakers and the budget needs/travel expenses for Ian Heap.

Roger brought up the idea of creating a guide to help future program chairs navigate the online submission system to put together the program. Perhaps a FAQ guide and step by step guide? Is it possible to work with WSSA and webmaster to do that? Is there a formal way to do that? Vanelle, Kai and Roger informally worked with Krueger and currently this service is free to the society. It was suggested that we write a letter to WSSA requesting some help/a framework for this process acknowledging that there may be a fees associated with this request.

Other suggestions for future regarding online submission and program development: Fixing titles is a big hassle and in terms of style they remain all over the board. Can we improve the submission instructions? Is there a programming fix? Can we ask people to resubmit? Can we provide an example? Trade names issue also comes up continually. Perhaps providing a pop up window with an example during the submission process would improve the consistency in style and format. Roger will work on some of these issues.

Grad students continue to fail to understand how to sign up for the paper contests. Can we provide further instructions and link to the grad student Facebook page. Work on external communication with student liaison.

### **Past President – *Vanelle Peterson***

See Vanelle's full report online. Vanelle indicated that she worked on the membership survey questions with Bob Stougaard. In addition she worked with the grad students in securing items for the silent auction. She indicated that feedback from the students on the student poster/paper contest is working ok, but that the feedback process can always be improved.

Vanelle expressed concern about the future leadership in the society and has spent much time trying to engage students and younger society members to take on leadership roles and to take advantage of information on leadership roles such as Phil Banks' new member and new officer training information sessions.

### **Research Section – *Tony White***

Tony indicated he needed clarification on Research Section Chairs-Andrew Kniss is co-chair.

There was discussion on making sure presentations are being uploaded to the online site and difficulties associated with making this happen. Questions raised included: Are session moderators contacting individual presenters? Can we improve this communication? Can we improve the operating guide? Do we need to formalize this more?

Perhaps it is time to reconsider a phone meeting prior to online submission to review the responsibilities of the research chair and section moderators and to describe responsibilities for those people that are new to these roles.

### **Education and Regulatory – *Brad Hanson***

Brad described his efforts to put together the data management mini symposium and biofuels presentations at this meeting. We will save the statistical analyses symposium ideas for future dates.

The idea to have the symposium efforts work through the Education and Regulatory chair was brought up. Can we make proposed symposia into a 2-3 year planning effort to improve the quality of symposia and to target them to specific meetings/regions?

We need to define what a standalone symposium is. The society offers an opportunity. How do we advertise? Make this the responsibility of the symposium and the revitalized/refocused public relations committee? How do we market these symposia? We have draft wording in the operating guide already. Dan Ball was the lead on this draft operating guide language.

There was much discussion on whether this formal arrangement is appropriate...or is the immediate past president a better point person to be the liaison to those proposing symposia ideas?

Corey, Brad, Joel and Vanelle will discuss further on how proceed. Status quo for now.

Email exchange vote or vote on at the summer board meeting was proposed to continue to work on this issue.

### **Member-at-Large Public – *Bob Stougaard* - Member Survey Project (old biz)**

Bob indicated he was involved with surveying the membership. Larger survey initiated with demographic questions. Brad Hanson helped with developing those questions. Tony White put the survey out on SurveyMonkey and compiled all the information. Kai Umeda has the survey results and presented them later in the meeting.

Bob worked with the finance committee to help bring Stan Cooper to the board meeting to report on Society financial information.

### **Member-at-Large Private – *Monte Anderson***

Monte indicated that he worked with the graduate students to secure silent auction items. He secured a number of items and donations from various sources.

### **WSSA Representative – *Pat Clay***

Pat indicated that Kai Umeda attended the WSSA meeting. WSSA has set future meeting locations. WSSA has been in contract negotiations with Allan Press. WSSA is also upgrading their website and has hired a web content manager. There is discussion on the Herbicide

Handbook reprint and e-versions of that publication. Plans are also in the works to hire a new subject matter liaison with EPA. Membership of WSSA is stable. There are some WSSA constitutional changes that have recently passed including a reduction from 4 to 2 Members at Large on the WSSA board.

Phil Westra commented on meeting with Sonny Ramaswamy (NIFA) at WSSA. It was a positive meeting leaving NIFA with appreciation for WSSA and research interests. Weed scientists will need to stay active on the national front to make their voices/issues known.

Joint WSSA and WSWS meeting in the future? (See new business)

### **CAST Representative – *Phil Westra***

Phil gave the CAST report. He indicated that because of Phil Stahlman's work at CAST that WSWS is well represented and we have a presence at CAST. Phil discussed the recent leadership changes at CAST and their budget issues.

Phil indicated that training graduate students and leaders in the agricultural sciences is a key issue. He asked for suggestions for authors to work on CAST commentary papers, including those on animal science, plant science, how will we fund all these needed grad students, etc.

Other paper topics at CAST were mentioned by Phil. All of these topics are of interest to WSWS.

Contact Phil Stahlman if you have suggestions for authors. If you have information on trends for supply and demand of PhD students in agricultural sciences send that info to Phil Westra.

There was then discussion on capacity funding brought up by Kai. Kai proposed the idea of a summit with industry leaders and university people ...can we provide leadership as WSWS? How do we fund and train the needed graduate students? Tony White indicated that he sees value in this idea from an industry perspective. Perhaps this is a symposium committee idea that could involve our student membership. Phil Westra indicated that it should be proposed as a future symposium idea.

### **Student Liaison – *Cameron Douglas***

Cameron indicated that a WSWS student Facebook page has been developed with "11 likes". Email is not effective for communicating with students so some social media methods are being pursued including Twitter. Cameron also reported that he worked with the student awards committee and student scholarship committees. He worked with Craig Beil on the silent auction effort and perhaps if this continues to grow it could be viewed as an alternative method for funding student scholarships. The students are still working on the silent auction process and they were not overly successful in reaching out to companies who are outside sustaining members. Cameron expressed thanks to Vanelle and Monte who worked with companies to secure items for the silent auction. One recommendation will be to develop database for personal contacts. The students will work with Monte to develop this database of personal contacts with industry. Need to enlist help of other students and other society members in general.

Some key questions remain regarding the silent auction. How do we acknowledge corporations to offer some sort public relations benefit? Thank you letters, poster acknowledgement, could put some things on the website? Should we put together a solicitations committee to have the structure needed to pull off a silent auction each year? There are always requests from students on how to be involved in the Society. This could fill that need. Are “vintage/historical” items from industry or older members of interest as silent auction items? Should there be more items of interest for students?

Board recommendations are needed in terms of providing additional avenues for student involvement in committees. What type of committees would be appropriate for student involvement? Develop a student list that could be given to president/board members as a means of identifying students interested in participating on committees...have a signup sheet at the registration desk. Work on the communication. We need to think critically about what committees would be beneficial for students.

### **Constitution and Operating Guide Representative – *Corey Ransom***

Corey indicated that updates have been made including those to student scholarship dates and application deadlines as well as proceedings editor changes. An updated version is online in PDF format.

### **Director of Science Policy – *Lee Van Wychen***

Lee provided a 2-page detailed report to the board on many issues playing out at the federal level. Key points included updates on budget cuts due to sequestration, EPA rulings on biomass crops including *Arundo* and *Pennisetum*, the PCAST report and issues with competitive vs. capacity funding, climate change issues, the NPDES legislative fix, Pesticide Safety education program funding, Farm Bill discussions, the weed science subject matter expert position at EPA and a federal travel requirements discussion which is ongoing and impacting all regional societies.

### **Committee Reports**

**Publications** Committee (Roger Gast – board contact)

#### **Proceedings – Bill McCloskey**

Bill indicated that electronic formatting of the proceedings seems to be going well. He continues to work with David Krueger on formatting issues. Bill worked with Corey to make changes to operating guide language.

#### **Research Progress Reports – Traci Rauch**

Research progress reports are uploaded. Progress report numbers continue to be low.

#### **WSWS Newsletter – Carl Libby**

Cheryl Fiore has retired. Carl Libby is now the sole editor of the newsletter. Could someone be found to help work with Carl if needed? Could a student help with Carl? Board will talk with Carl about how long he would like to continue in this capacity and to determine if he would like assistance.

**Weeds of the West** and other books – **Phil Banks** (see Phil’s report above)

**Website – Tony White**

Statistics indicate website traffic numbers are down. No major updates are planned. Tony will continue to improve website with content in the store and with student related content.

There was discussion about accurate information on alternative weed management in general on the Web. Would our website be a place to house such information? Could this be Education committee project work with Tim Prather? But we need to think about the mission of the website...content vs. a site mostly directed towards members and membership services.

**Local Arrangements – Jesse Richardson** – chairperson (Roger Gast – board contact)

Jesse indicated that the hotel appears to up to speed on meeting/society requirements and that the meeting should go well.

**Finance – Brian Mealor** – chairperson (Bob Stougaard – board contact)

Stan Cooper from RBC Wealth Management was present to report on Society investments. He provided summary statistics of the Society’s portfolio as well as other investment insight and urged us to maintain a cautious approach with no recommendation for changing our portfolio. He recommended we continue to aggressively market Weeds of the West and to recruit and maintain new members.

**Nominating – Dan Ball** – chairperson (Vanelle Peterson – board contact)

Vanelle gave the report and indicated that a phone conference was held to develop a slate of good candidates for officer positions. In the future we may need to solicit input from general membership about slate of candidates. Improvement in voter turnout for officer elections is badly needed.

**Public Relations – TBD** – chairperson (Brad Hanson – board contact) –

There was much discussion about the role of this committee moving forward and about the marketing of WSWS in general. Kai has organized an open brainstorming session at this meeting scheduled for Wednesday morning to talk future directions for this committee. Will be discussed further at summer board meeting.

Andrew Kniss suggested that we start by identifying the purpose/issue and then build the committee to work on that particular issue.

“Society business” committees seem to function well, but others like this one are lacking direction. Could instead build some small ad hoc committees to work on specific issues

**Fellows and Honorary Members – Scott Nissen** – chairperson (Vanelle Peterson – board contact)

Five fellow nominations were received. Tim Miller and Tom Lanini will be awarded.

**Site Selection – Carol Mallory Smith** – chairperson (Kai Umeda – board contact)

See Phil Banks report above on site selection options. A recommendation will be made Thursday about 2016 meeting location.

**Awards – Jeff Tichota** – chairperson (Kai Umeda – board contact)

Kai listed the award winners. His recommendation to the board is to better define the student scholarship winner process and this will be a topic for discussion at the summer board meeting. We should not post award winners until after the awards luncheon.

**Poster – Chuck Rice** – chairperson (Roger Gast – board contact)

Chuck indicated that 25 new easels were purchased as previously approved by the board. 59 total posters will be presented at this meeting. He will work with Phil Westra's group to transport and store poster materials in Colorado for Colorado Springs meeting.

**Student Paper/Poster Judging – Guy Kyser** – chairperson (Roger Gast – board contact)

The student contest is set to run smoothly. Turnout for both students in the contest and judges has been good this year.

A motion was made by Vanelle to add a permanent student ad hoc position to the Student Paper/Poster Judging Committee. Andrew Kniss seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

**Necrology – Eric Jemmet** – chairperson (Andy Hulting – board contact)

Andy gave the report for Eric and indicated that the deaths of 3 society members had been reported and that their obituaries will be read at the business meeting.

**Sustaining Member – Pat Clay** – chairperson (Vanelle Peterson – board contact)

Pat indicated that he had contacted previous sustaining members and that had added one company to our list of sustaining members. He will continue to work on developing other members.

**Legislative – Kirk Howatt** – chairperson (Pat Clay – board contact)

Julie Kraft reported for Kirk Howatt. Primary contacts in each state are needed to work on legislative issues. This committee will continue to develop this list. Members should let this committee know if they are interested in working on these issues.

**Herbicide Resistant Plants – Sarah Ward** – chairperson (Monte Anderson – board contact) –

Monte gave the report for Sarah and indicated that Sarah continues to suggest there is limited committee activity. Future direction for the committee is needed. Andrew Kniss will be the incoming chair and will provide Roger with some suggestions for nominations to participate in this committee. Joel Felix will also work with Andrew on developing a new charge for this committee. One topic that was mentioned was herbicide resistant kochia management issues. Another idea was to propose a symposium on multiple resistance or metabolism-based resistance and also to work with Ian Heap and his new website.

**Education – Tim Prather** – chairperson (Brad Hanson – board contact) –

This committee has not been active over the previous year. There was much discussion about integrating CEU's responsibility into the duties of this committee, but no action was taken on this idea. Kai Umeda will take this idea on as a past president job. Tim Prather reported that this group will continue to work on online course offering ideas and needs increase the presence of educational materials on the WSWS website. More discussion on the role of this committee will need to take place during the summer board meeting.

***Ad hoc Noxious Weed short course*** – **Sandra McDonald** – chairperson (Kai Umeda – board contact)

Kai indicated that changes had been made to Sandra's class and that the society would continue to support her class as well as other short courses offered by society membership. Perhaps the Public Relations committee could take on this task. Phil Westra moved to dissolve this *ad hoc* committee and Roger Gast seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous vote. Changes need to be made in the operating guide to remove language related to noxious weed short course.

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

There was discussion on the continued development of an ethics statement for the WSWS. This discussion will continue to take place at the summer board meeting with newer versions of the ethics statement to be proposed then. The board will take action at the summer meeting on this issue and provide an update to membership.

### **Old Business**

A copy of the membership survey results was discussed at length with Kai leading the discussion on results. Bob Stougaard will report on results to general membership and results should be published in the newsletter. One key issue that came up was the question about the election of section chairs for discussion sections. Is there a better way to do this than what is currently being done?

There were a number of important comments that need to be explored further at a later date when the board has more time to consider the results.

### **New Business**

The main new business for the board was to consider a joint meeting with WSSA in 2017 in Tucson, AZ. Pros and cons were discussed by the board members. It was determined that membership should be consulted. The issue will be mentioned throughout the week with a straw poll planned for the business meeting. Cons included a loss of our "identity" and discussion sections and changes to our normal meeting date. Pros included greater exposure to more national/international papers and cost control.

### **5:00 pm - Meeting Adjourned**

A motion to adjourn was made by Monte Anderson and seconded by Tony White. Motion passed unanimously.