

## **WSWS Board Meeting Notes**

**Thursday: Meeting Wrap-Up Session**

**Prepared by Andy Hulting, WSWS Secretary**

**March 15, 2012**

**Peppermill Resort**

**Reno, NV**

### **Board Members Present:**

Phil Banks, Joe Yenish, Pat Clay, Andy Hulting, Kai Umeda, Pete Forster, Joe DiTomaso, Andrew Kniss, Phil Westra, Roger Gast, Monte Anderson, Vanelle Peterson, Corey Ransom, Tim Prather, Brad Hanson, Student Liaison Elect, Bob Stougaard, Cameron Douglass

- Call to Order: Kai Umeda
- Kai Umeda thanked and acknowledged outgoing board members and welcomed the new board members to the meeting.
- A motion was made by Vanelle Peterson and seconded by Pat Clay to approve the following appointees to the Board. There was no discussion and unanimous consent by voting members.

Member-at-large: Monte Anderson (appointed by Roger Gast)

Education and Regulatory Section Chair-Elect: Joel Felix (appointed by Vanelle Peterson)

- Discussion/Review of good aspects of the WSWS Annual Meeting and those aspects that need change/improvement.

Student Paper and Poster contest discussion: Vanelle Peterson reminded Board members that when scheduling student papers it would be best to have space between papers (to help out the judges) and that session moderators (not necessarily the judges) need to recognize a Student Paper contest presentation and be prepared to ask questions if time allows. Brad Hanson suggested that an alternative scheduling model is to place all the Student Paper contest presentations in one session. The pros and cons of such a model were discussed. Such a model would probably work should we decide to pursue it in the future. In terms of acknowledging the Student Paper and Poster participants, Phil Westra indicated that all students should be recognized by having them stand during the Thursday morning Business Breakfast. Joe DiTomaso indicated that he thought the awards presentation went well this year and that we should keep a similar model in future years.

Venue discussion: Phil Westra commented that the rooms/technology were good, but indicated that we should always check on the position of the podiums. Some of the podiums this year were placed in such a location that it was difficult for author to refer to slides with laser pointer. Roger Gast indicated that he heard many good comments on the

poster session and program in general. He suggested that keeping extra tables and chairs in the poster session should be continued at future meetings if space allows.

Scheduling discussion: Vanelle Peterson indicated that Tuesday of this meeting was perhaps too long and that we should try, if at all possible, to not schedule papers for that late in the day. She also indicated that membership should be reminded to review the rules regarding presentations, so that the quality of papers can be maintained. Cameron Douglass indicated that if possible, the student activities (luncheon, reception, Student Night Out) should be scheduled over multiple days. The feeling was that there was too much student activity for a single day and then not enough scheduled for other days.

Recognition of committees in program: Pat Clay suggested that committees and perhaps a short description of the committee and current chairs/members could be included in the meeting program so that the general membership knows about each committee and might therefore be more interested in potentially volunteering to serve on a committee. Phil Banks indicated he would work on this idea in future programs.

Silent auction discussion: Joe DiTomaso commented on the success and value of the silent auction organized by the students on Monday night. Approximately \$600.00 was made this year and this amount could be improved upon in future years by being more proactive. For example, thinking about items for auction (dinners, hotel rooms, etc.) that could be used at the followings years meeting venue may increase participation. Overall, the activity was viewed as a very positive addition to the annual meeting.

- Preparation for 2013 Meeting-Kai Umeda

Summer board meeting date in San Diego at the Catamaran Resort and Spa meeting site was set for **August 22-23, 2012**. Goal is for a noon start on 1<sup>st</sup> day and noon end on 2<sup>nd</sup> day. Phil Banks is checking on room rates before and after these meeting dates for those who may wish to come early or stay later.

Poster session material transport issues are being handled by UC Davis group with plans already underway with Phil Westra's CSU group to get equipment to Colorado Springs for 2014.

There was much discussion on the need for WSWS to purchase more poster easels because renting them from the hotels is very expensive (we used about 30 from the hotel for 2012). If we buy more easels we need to build/purchase another box for carrying them. If we did that we could purchase 15-25 easels (at a cost of approximately \$50.00/easeal) which would pay for themselves in approximately 2-3 years. Andrew Kniss indicated a tech in his program may be willing to put together a bid/purchase materials and then build the transport box.

A motion was made by Phil Westra to approve the construction of the new transport box as well as to buy the additional poster easels (final number TBD by transport box space constraints). Roger Gast seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

- WSWS Committee Activities-Kai Umeda

Kai Umeda led a discussion on committee appointments and on individual committees themselves. The following represent individuals who have been appointed to the various committees and related discussion items:

*Awards*-Rick Arnold

*Fellows and Honorary Members*-Rick Boydston

*Finance*-Marvin Butler

*Herbicide Resistant Plants*-Brian Jenks

*Legislative*- Julie Kraft

*Local Arrangements*- Tim D'Amato or Gustavo Sbatella

*Necrology* - Rob Wilson

*Nominations*- Pam Hutchinson

*Poster*-Alan Helm

*Program*-

*Discussion on Public Relations Committee*- There was discussion on reorganizing this committee. The general feeling was that this committee needs to take a much more active role in promoting and marketing the activities of the society. This would be a modification/addition of duties from current work related to securing the CEU's from each state for the WSWS annual meeting. For example, they could have done a better job of promoting the *Bromus* symposium at this meeting or could work on marketing books and other publications in the future. We need to appoint three people for this committee, but maintain local state contacts to facilitate the CEU work.

*Publications*- Status quo for now, with Carl Libbey taking on greater role with WSWS Newsletter responsibilities based on Cheryl Fiore's final retirement date. Tony White has new/different responsibilities with his employer and will work with Phil Banks to improve Phil's access to the website so that he can modify content in a timely manner.

*Site Selection*- Pete Forster

*Student Paper Judging*-Kelly Young or Don Morishita

Vanelle Peterson commented that there are no places on committees for students to provide input to the Society. There was discussion about appointing a student to the Student Paper Judging committee and the pros and cons associated with such an appointment. Is this a conflict? Would the student be eligible for the contest? Structure of appointment needs to be worked on and ideally student would have previous Paper/Poster contest experience so that they could provide valuable feedback. Samantha Ambrose was discussed as someone who could provide this feedback. Kai Umeda will appoint her to the committee. In the future, the recommendation for a student appointment to this committee could come from the Student Liaison and student group.

Discussion on *Sustaining Membership Committee*-We need to continuously look for the opportunity to broaden the list of Sustaining Members. There was discussion on contacting different companies than have previously been contacted... for example, seed companies. Phil Banks will get the contact list of Sustaining Members to Pat Clay. If board members or other WSWS members have contact information for a company who may be interested in becoming a Sustaining Member, forward that information to Phil Banks.

#### *Education*-Tim Prather

There was discussion on the role of the Education committee in the future and the topic of the Noxious Weed Short Course came up again based on discussions that were held in the Board of Directors meeting on Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup> (see notes from that meeting for details on that discussion). Based on action taken by the Board at that meeting, Kai Umeda and Phil Banks will send a letter to Sandra McDonald explaining the Board's decision to terminate the current contract for the Noxious Weed Short Course beyond 2012. An opportunity has been extended to Sandra if she desires to comment/share a proposal on potential future of the Noxious Weed Short Course at the summer board meeting in San Diego in August.

- Old Business

Weeds of West sales/marketing discussion: There was continued discussion on how best to continue marketing Weeds of the West and whether or not some sort of sales coordination committee could be formed or if the Public Relations committee could play a role in this activity. The new printing will be complete April 1, but we can't do a press release until older books are sold. Electronic or tablet versions of the book need to be pursued, but these versions still need to make the Society money. Joe DiTomaso warned against getting involved with Amazon because there is no profit margin. Gustavo Sbatella was mentioned as someone who could potentially provide leadership for thinking about an electronic version of the book.

Review Status of Basic Biology and Ecology Project: Bob Stougaard indicated that there was discussion related to possibly renaming this project. There was no consensus on a name change. Ideas for different names including Ecology and Physiology or Integrated Ecophysiology were mentioned. This led to a larger discussion centered on the idea that it would be good to have a short description of each project so that authors know where to best place their papers for the annual meeting. Phil Westra indicated that he feels that we are still too chemical focused and that it may be time for WSWS to dedicate more time/energy to novel traits, seeds, seed science. The idea behind some of these name changes should be to actively engage and invite new people into the Society, such as crop breeders. This may be a way to slow the decline in the membership. Could we add and integrate molecular biology projects? Papers on novel traits and gene expression would be excellent for our graduate students. Vanelle Peterson questioned how this approach would differ from what is being done at ASA meetings for example. She indicated that if we go down this path that there must be a clear link back to weed

science applications. Joe DiTomaso agreed. The idea of organizing a symposium on this topic was seen as a potential starting point. The issue was tabled until the summer board meeting.

Process for Student Poster/Paper Contest judging feedback: Phil Banks and Jamshid Ashigh are working together to make sure that participating students receive copies of the judges' comments regarding their paper and poster presentations.

Ongoing survey of membership project: Bob Stougaard indicated that he will summarize the findings/results of the questions that members received during the Tuesday General Session. He will provide that information to the Board and generate a new set of questions for the Board to review at the summer board meeting.

Symposia discussions: There was discussion on developing/integrating the role of the Education and Regulatory Section Chair and those interested in developing a team approach to symposia such that two people are working with the Chair or Chair Elect to fully develop and advertise future symposia. The idea would be to plan several years in advance to develop a given symposium. Changes to the Operating Guidelines and potentially the Constitution will need to be considered as details on this idea are developed.

Joe DiTomaso book sales: Joe DiTomaso and Phil Banks will continue to work on ideas for how best to market Joe's books through the WSSWS business office to the benefit of the Society.

WSSA/WSSWS membership discussion: Rod Lym's question concerning why more WSSWS regional members are not WSSA members was discussed. Corey Ransom suggested that for some governmental agency personnel their needs for information may not be met at the WSSA level. The question about the reverse situation was asked. Are there members of WSSA who are not members of WSSWS? If so, could there be incentives, monetary or otherwise, provided for them to join WSSWS? Could people become members of the regional societies when renewing WSSA memberships? Phil Banks will look into the economics and logistics of that question.

- New Business

Ethics statement for WSSWS discussion: The Board will look into the issue of a lack of an ethics statement as suggested by Robert Zimdahl in the Tuesday General Session. We will explore what could be developed or what may already exist (for example, CAST material). Frank Young and Ralph Whitesides may be willing to help the Society with this issue.

Professional development activity discussion: There was discussion about providing a professional development activity for our membership. Ideas related to technology and data handling were brought up. Training by Gylling Data Management related to ARM software was suggested. Monte Anderson indicated that this would be a good

opportunity for membership. Details on such a session would need to be worked out. Would it be a separate session during the meeting or an add on day before or after annual meeting? What would be the incentive for Gylling to provide such as session? Do we need to survey membership to see if they are interested? Would members bring their own laptops/data to such a session? What would be the costs associated with such as session? No action was taken by the Board for the time being. This issue should be discussed again at the summer board meeting.

- Monte Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting. Pat Clay seconded the motion. There was no discussion and meeting was adjourned with unanimous consent.