

Alliance of Crop, Soil and Environmental Science Societies (ACSESS)
Board of Directors Meeting
August 3, 2009
Madison, WI

The meeting was called to order by Chair William Wiebold. Board participants were:

William J. Wiebold, Chair and CSSA Past President
Paul M. Bertsch, Vice Chair and SSSA President
Gary A. Peterson, Secretary/Treasurer and SSSA Past President
Marcus M. Alley, ASA President
Francis J. Pierce, ASA President-Elect
Kenneth J. Moore, ASA Past President
Kenneth H. Quesenberry, CSSA President
Joseph G. Lauer, CSSA President-Elect
Nicholas B. Comerford, SSSA President-Elect
Ellen Bergfeld, Chief Executive Officer

Also present:

Newell R. Kitchen, Incoming ASA President-Elect
Maria Gallo, Incoming CSSA President-Elect
Charles W. Rice, Incoming SSSA President-Elect
Fran Katz, ASA-CSSA-SSSA Chief Operations Officer
Wes Meixelsperger, Chief Financial Officer
James G. Coors, ASF Vice Chair (for a portion of the meeting)
Brian Anderson, Attorney (for a portion of the meeting)
Cathy Goudreau, Recorder

Approval of Minutes

ACTION: It was moved by Ken Quesenberry to approve the June 9, 2009 ACSESS Board of Directors conference call minutes. Seconded by Nick Comerford. Carried unanimously.

ACSESS Board of Directors Website

The Board recommended several changes for the ACSESS Board website. Headquarters staff will follow up with the recommendations.

Draft Policies & Procedures Manual/Philosophical Discussions

The Board held an in-depth discussion centered around the document describing what ACSESS is, why it exists, what it will do, and how it will be accomplished. It was the consensus of the Board that the document should contain information related to operational efficiency as well as address the fact that ACSESS is a place for the three Societies to voice concerns, share goals, and work through issues. Bill Wiebold, Paul Bertsch and Nick Comerford will rewrite the document taking the Board discussions into account.

Budget and Finance (also see page 4)

Wes Mexielsperger reviewed direct and indirect costs associated with ACSESS, allocation of support service costs, and ACSESS support services expenses for 2008. Following discussions at the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Budget and Finance Committee meetings, a recommendation may be forthcoming to change the allocation of support service costs.

Replacement Headquarters Building (also see page 4)

1. Wes Meixelsperger updated the Board on progress toward possible purchase of a replacement headquarters building. Following the meeting, members of the Board toured the building.
2. Per actions of the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Boards of Directors authorizing their respective Executive Committees to make a decision on purchase of a replacement headquarters building, a Tenancy in Common Agreement was drafted by Attorney Brian Andersen and reviewed by the Board. Another draft, including recommendations from the Board, will be prepared and presented to the Board for further review.

Agronomic Science Foundation

Jim Coors provided an update on ASF including Board organization and structure, development activities, and current accounts. The ASF Board requests that the ACSESS Board:

- 1) Ask their respective Societies to contribute \$5,000 annually to ASF to provide a minimal level of funding commensurate with ASF's responsibilities to oversee the financial management of current awards/lectureships and solicit additional support for future activities, and
- 2) Support a significant ASF presence, including invitations to major past and potential donors, at the VIP reception in Pittsburgh so ASF trustees can interact with potential supporters in the absence of a formal ASF reception.

The request for funding will be carried to the August 4-5 ASA, CSSA, SSSA Budget and Finance Committee meetings by the three Presidents-Elect.

Due to budget constraints, Fran Pierce reported that a VIP reception is not being planned for the annual meetings in Pittsburgh. Therefore, the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Presidents agreed to invite an ASF Representative to speak at their respective awards programs.

Update on ASA, CSSA, SSSA Activities

1. Paul Bertsch briefed the Board on the following SSSA activities:

- Bylaws revision
- K-12 Committee activities
- Ambassadors program
- Strategic planning priorities
- Appointment of a 75th Anniversary Committee
- Outreach to organizations including Soil and Water Conservation Society, National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists, and the science communities in China and India
- Potential funding sources for international activities
- Science policy activities including Grand Challenge statements, appointment of a Policy Development Committee, Soils Caucus, and increased support staff for the Science Policy Office
- European Geologic Union meetings

2. Ken Quesenberry updated the Board on the following CSSA activities:

- Industry Relations Task Force
- Appointment of a K-12 Committee
- Golden Opportunity Scholars Institute
- Division websites
- Editorial issues including progress of *Journal of Plant Registrations*, and call for editorial positions for Editor-in-Chief, *Forage and Grazinglands* Editor, and *Applied Turfgrass Science* Editor
- Bill Wiebold and Ken Moore attended a recent meeting of the American Society of Plant Biologists and were involved in discussions centered around formation of a Global Plant Council.

3. Mark Alley highlighted the following ASA activities:

- Division Realignment Task Force and appointment of a Transition Team
- Change in *Agronomy Journal* Editorial Board structure and review process
- Farming Systems Design Conference, August 23-26, 2009
- CCA Program including activities in India and Argentina, as well as potential with cap and trade
- Science policy activities including Grand Challenge statements, Core Constituent Scientist Teams, potential NRCS Mississippi River Valley project, and discussions with U.S. AID

Election of Officers

1. Gary Peterson nominated Nick Comerford and Ken Moore nominated Fran Pierce for ACSESS Vice Chair in 2010. Following a paper ballot vote of the Board, Nick Comerford was elected.

2. Ken Quesenberry nominated Joe Lauer and Ken Moore nominated Fran Pierce for ACSESS Secretary-Treasurer in 2010-11. A paper ballot vote of the Board resulted in a tie. Following a second paper ballot vote, Fran Pierce was elected.

Future Board Meetings

The Board will be contacted to select a date/time for a conference call.

The Board agreed to meet during the annual meetings in Pittsburgh. The exact date and time will be determined in the near future.

Meeting adjourned to an executive session.

**Joint Meeting of the ACSESS Board of Directors
and the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Budget and Finance Committees
August 4, 2009
Madison, WI**

Audit Report

Discussion occurred with Sheri Springer and Jim Hartman of Clifton Gunderson regarding the 2008 audit.

Investments Report

Dave Guilieri and Mike Schmidt from Smith Barney provided the investments report.

ACTION: It was moved by Ken Quesenberry to recommend to the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Boards of Directors to remain with the 50-50 split between fixed income and equity. Seconded by Mark Alley. Carried unanimously.

Discussion occurred as to whether cash should be included. It was the consensus of the group that cash does not need to be addressed within the investment policy.

Replacement Headquarters Building

ACTION: It was moved by Fran Pierce that ASA, CSSA, and SSSA continue to move forward and pursue purchase of a replacement headquarters building. All offers must be reviewed and accepted by the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Executive Committees. Seconded by Gary Peterson.

AMENDMENT: It was moved by Nick Comerford to amend the motion to include that the Societies investigate lots on both sides of the current building of interest. Seconded by Gary Peterson. Carried.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: It was moved by Ken Moore to amend the motion to include that we pursue tax exemption in the negotiations.

AMENDMENT: It was moved by Mark Alley to include consideration of a different building and build a new building, but to keep moving forward. Seconded by Ken Moore. Amendment failed.

Original motion, as amended, was approved.