

Alliance of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Science Societies (ACSESS)
Board of Directors Meeting
July 12, 2010
Madison, WI

The meeting was called to order by Chair Paul Bertsch. Board members present were:

Paul M. Bertsch, Chair and SSSA Past President
Nicholas B. Comerford, Vice Chair and SSSA President
Francis J. Pierce, Secretary-Treasurer and ASA President
Newell R. Kitchen, ASA President-Elect
Marcus M. Alley, ASA Past President
Joseph G. Lauer, CSSA President
Kenneth H. Quesenberry, CSSA Past President
Charles W. Rice, SSSA President-Elect
Ellen Bergfeld, Chief Executive Officer, ex-officio

Also present:

Kenneth A. Barbarick, Incoming ASA President-Elect
Gary M. Pierzynski, Incoming SSSA President-Elect
Wes Meixelsperger, Chief Financial Officer
Cathy Goudreau, Recorder

Approval of Minutes

ACTION: It was moved by Ken Quesenberry to approve the March 24, 2010 ACSESS Board of Directors conference call minutes. Seconded by Chuck Rice. Carried unanimously.

Budget and Finance

1. Wes presented an overview of ACSESS budget and finance issues. In addition, the Board reviewed the Support Services Statement of Revenue and Expenses for the five months ending May 31, 2010 and the Summary of All Units Balance Sheet for the five months ending May 31, 2010.

2. ACTION: It was moved by Nick Comerford to establish a 20% permanent reserve of prior year's budget for ACSESS. Seconded by Chuck Rice. Carried unanimously.

3. ACTION: It was moved by Nick Comerford that the discretionary/unrestricted reserve be available for the CEO to spend at discretion, up to \$25,000 for a single item. Seconded by Chuck Rice.

AMENDED MOTION: It was moved by Fran Pierce that the discretionary/unrestricted reserve be available for the CEO to spend at discretion, up to \$50,000 for a single item. Seconded by Chuck Rice. Carried unanimously.

Headquarters Conference Room Endowment Proposal

The Board reviewed Gary Peterson's headquarters conference room endowment proposal. It was the consensus of the Board to appoint a committee to develop a plan for naming and endowing various rooms in the headquarters building, including a call for proposals in *CSA News*.

Fran Pierce, Chuck Rice, and Newell Kitchen will work with Ellen and appropriate staff to develop the plan.

ACTION: It was moved by Nick Comerford to not approve the headquarters conference room endowment proposal presented by Gary Peterson, with an explanatory note. Seconded by Ken Quesenberry. Carried with 2 opposed.

ACSESS Structure – staffing/capacity and needs

The Board addressed the need for balance in the CEO's role between managing operations and external interactions. It was the consensus of the Board to continue discussions in the Executive Session.

ACSESS Board of Directors

In reference to the composition of the ACSESS Board of Directors, the Bylaws state “Additional individuals with desired qualifications/expertise, if any, as deemed beneficial to the Corporation by the Board of Directors and elected by the Members, which individuals would serve without vote for one year terms.” It was the consensus of the Board to investigate and prepare a proposal for adding additional members to the Board.

Election of Officers

Nick Comerford nominated Maria Gallo and Fran Pierce nominated Newell Kitchen for ACSESS Vice Chair in 2011. Following a paper ballot vote of the Board, Maria was elected.

Future Board Meeting

The Board agreed to meet during the annual meeting in Long Beach. Ellen will contact the Board with possible dates/times.

Update on ASA, CSSA, SSSA Activities

1. Joe Lauer briefed the Board on the following CSSA activities:
 - Strategic planning and 2010 Board priorities
 - Bylaws revision

2. Fran Pierce briefed the Board on the following ASA activities:
 - Strategic planning
 - Division realignment
 - Bylaws revision
 - ICCA program expansion in India and Argentina

3. Nick Comerford briefed the Board on the following SSSA activities:
 - Strategic planning
 - Graduate Student/Early Career Task Force meeting – outcome will be summarized
 - Accreditation

Meeting adjourned to an executive session with Ellen.