

**DRAFT for approval at October 31 Board meeting**  
**Alliance of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Science Societies (ACSESS)**  
**Board of Directors Conference Call**  
**September 14, 2010**  
**(Call started at 10:00 AM CDT; ended at 11:00 AM)**

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  
Maria Gallo, CSSA President-Elect  
Kenneth H. Quesenberry, CSSA Past President  
Charles W. Rice, SSSA President-Elect  
Ellen Bergfeld, Chief Executive Officer, ex-officio  
Also present:  
Jeffrey J. Volenec, Incoming CSSA President-Elect  
Gary M. Pierzynski, Incoming SSSA President-Elect  
Cathy Goudreau, Recorder

**Approval of Minutes**

The July 12, 2010 ACSESS Board meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

**Defined Benefit Pension Plan**

The defined benefit pension plan has been of concern for the past couple years. The two major issues with the current plan are financial and it is somewhat of an impediment in terms of recruiting young talent. Ellen and Wes have met with Kelly Financial and will be gathering more data for options to consider. A representative from Kelly Financial and an actuary will join the October 31 ACSESS meeting in person or via phone to present their reports. It is anticipated that the Board will come away from the October 31 meeting with a specific plan of action to bring this to closure.

**Tenancy in Common Agreement**

The Tenancy in Common Agreement will be amended, signed, and dated to reflect the July 12, 2010 Board action regarding discretionary spending. Headquarters will revise the appropriate pages of the agreement and forward to the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Presidents for signature.

**Naming/Endowment Plan**

Action was taken at the July 12, 2010 ACSESS Board meeting to not approve the headquarters conference room endowment proposal presented by Gary Peterson. It was the consensus of the Board at that time 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 were to work with Ellen and appropriate staff to develop the plan. Fran will work with the committee and present a report at the October 31 Board meeting.

**Headquarters Building Art**

An SSSA member has expressed interest in doing a commissioned piece of soil art for the headquarters building. SSSA is willing to cover the costs - approximately \$10,000 - as a portion of their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and requests that such a work be agreed to by the ACSESS Board.

It was the consensus of the Board that Fran Pierce, Nick Comerford, Joe Lauer and appropriate staff serve on a committee to develop a plan for artwork at the headquarters building, both internal and external, ensuring that ASA, CSSA, and SSSA are represented. The committee will provide initial recommendations at the October 31 Board meeting.

**ACSESS Board of Directors**

ACSESS Bylaws state that the Board of Directors can include “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 at the July 12, 2010 meeting to investigate and prepare a proposal for adding additional members to the Board.

Paul Bertsch will work with Ellen to obtain legal counsel on liability issues with the composition of the ACSESS Board being all stakeholder members. A report will be provided at the October 31 Board meeting.

**Next Board Meeting**

The ACSESS Board will meet during the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual Meeting in Long Beach on October 31, 2010 from 7:30 – 10:30 AM.

Meeting adjourned.