



Soil Science Society of America Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Thursday Jan. 18, 2024, 11:00am-12:15pm (Central)

Board members present:

President: Michael Thompson, Iowa State
President-Elect: Samira Daroub, U of Florida
Agricultural Soil and Food Systems Group:
Maysoon Mikha, USDA-ARS; Hero Gollany, USDA-ARS;
Dorivar Ruiz Diaz, K-State
DEI-at-Large: Xia Zhu-Barker, UW-Madison
Education & Practicing Professionals Group:
Clay Robinson, CRC Consulting
CPSS Rep: Jacob Berkowitz, U.S. Army Corps of
Engineers
Early Career Rep: Dianna Bagnall, Soil Health Institute
Grad Student Rep: Megan Bourns, K-State
Fundamental Soil Science Group: Maxine Levin, USDA-
NRCS-retired; Rebecca Lybrand, UC-Davis; Ganga
Hettiarachchi, K-State

Soil & Ecosystem Processes Group: Thorsten
Knappenberger, Auburn
Ex-officio without Vote: CEO Jim Cudahy; Editor-in-
Chief Craig Rasmussen, Univ. of Arizona; Program
Planning Officer Aaron Daigh, Univ. of Nebraska

Unable to attend:

Past President: Carrie Laboski, USDA-ARS
Soil & Ecosystem Processes Group: Ronald Reuter,
Oregon State
ASF Chair Stella Salvo, Bayer CropScience

Also attending:

Susan Chapman, Special Projects Director
Dawn Gibas, Certifications Director
Luther Smith, Chief Administrative Officer
Sara Uttech, Governance Director
Susan Varghese, People & Culture Director

S003 SSSA Board of Directors

1. The meeting opened 15 minutes early for networking and article discussion:
 - CSA News article on AI, "[Change Is Upon Us, and We Need to Adapt](#)":
 - Seeking volunteers for upcoming months to select article/podcast/video/discussion topic
2. ACTION: The following Consent Agenda items were approved:
 - Jan. 18, 2024 SSSA Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
 - Dec. 19, 2023 SSSA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
3. CEO Jim Cudahy update:
 - New Director of Finance & Accounting Sheri Springer beginning Feb. 12
 - Progress on Operationalizing the SSSA Strategic Plan following Department Directors Retreat
 - Internal IT Assessment
 - Websites Redesign Project
 - New logos and branding
4. Next Meeting Date Thursday Feb. 15, 11:00-12:15pm (Central) & Agenda Preview:
 - Results of Vote: ACSESS Publishing Partner Vote
 - Report from Meeting: American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
 - Introduce: New Director of Finance & Accounting Sheri Springer
5. ASA, CSSA, SSSA Awards & Scholarships Open: www.soils.org/awards - board members to encourage colleagues and students to participate via Discussion Board posts
 - Award Nominations close **3/12/2024** | Submissions due **3/19/2024**
 - Scholarship Applications close **3/19/2024** | Submissions due **3/27/2024**
 - Reminder: SSSA Awards Policy – board members cannot participate in SSSA Awards
 - Reminder: All awards (except Fellow) allow for self-nominations; you complete the award nomination and invite reference writers via the online award system

S201 SSSA Organization, Policy, & Bylaws Committee

1. Board members to sign updated Conflict of Interest Policy and send to Governance Director Sara Uttech
2. Board-Level Committee Members appointed:
 - S211 SSSA Budget & Finance Committee:
 - Thorsten Kanppenberger, Fundamental Soil Science Group

- S201 SSSA Organization, Policy & Bylaws Committee:
 - Megan Bourns, Grad Student Board Rep.
 - Dorivar Ruiz Diaz, Fundamental Soil Science Group
 - S592 SSSA Science Policy Committee:
 - Jacob Berkowitz, CPSS Board Rep., ex-officio
 - Megan Bourns, Grad Student Board Rep.
 - Any other board members encouraged to volunteer as policy experts, contact CAO Luther Smith, lsmith@sciencesocieties.org
3. Save the date: **Friday June 14** SSSA Board Meeting in Puerto Rico (with virtual option), following SSSA Bouyoucos Summer Conference June 10-12: www.sacmeetings.org
- Register on your own
 - Do not reserve hotel, we will make all reservations at Caribe Hilton. Enter arrival/departure dates:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1zRDc0H5TZf-g47yxUWYu8bA7qpTJk-svPIZvEJukXI0/edit#gid=523548710>
 - SSSA will reimburse your airfare and last 2 nights hotel (Thursday & Friday)

ACS321 Editorial Policy Coordination Committee

Vote by Jan. 19 ACSESS Publishing Partner on the SurveyMonkey link distributed.

ACS732 Program Planning Committee

The revised Invited Speaker Complimentary Registration Policy was returned to the ACS732 Committee for further consideration.

Consensus to Adjourn.