



## Soil Science Society of America Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Thursday Jan. 19, 2023, 11:00am-Noon (Central)

SSSA President Carrie Laboski called the meeting to order.

### Board members present:

President: Carrie Laboski, USDA-ARS (2023)  
Past President: Ron Turco, Purdue (2023)  
President-Elect: Michael Thompson, Iowa State (2023)  
Agricultural Soil and Food Systems Group: Jane Johnson, USDA-ARS (2023); Maysoon Mikha, USDA-ARS (2024); Hero Gollany, USDA-ARS (2025)  
DEI Member-at-Large: Xia Zhu-Barker, UW-Madison (2025)  
Education & Practicing Professionals Group: Clay Robinson, CRC Consulting (2025)  
Early Career: Dianna Bagnall, Soil Health Institute (2025)  
Grad Student Rep: Elizabeth Bradley, Auburn (2023)  
Fundamental Soil Science Group: Mary Stromberger, Ohio State Univ. (2023); Maxine Levin, USDA-NRCS-retired (2024); Rebecca Lybrand, UC-Davis (2025)  
Soil & Ecosystem Processes Group: Daniel Markewitz, Univ. of Georgia (2023)

Ex-officio: CEO Jim Cudahy; Editor-in-Chief Craig Rasmussen, Univ. of Arizona (2024); Program Planning Officer Aaron Daigh, Univ. of Nebraska (2024)

### Unable to attend:

CPSS Rep: James Hartsig, CPSS (2023)  
Soil & Ecosystem Processes Group: Ronald Reuter, Oregon State (2024)  
ASF Chair Samantha Miller, Corteva Agriscience (2023)

### Also attending:

Chris Boomsma, Education Director  
Susan Chapman, Member Services Director  
Wes Meixelsperger, CFO & Meetings Director  
Ian Popkewitz, IT & Operations Director  
Luther Smith, Business & Professional Dev. Director  
Sara Uttech, Governance Director  
Susan Varghese, People & Culture Director  
Matt Wascavage, Publications Director

### S101 Board of Directors

1. The board meeting opened 15 minutes for optional networking.
2. President Carrie Laboski provided a special welcome to new SSSA Board members:
  - President-Elect Michael Thompson, Iowa State Univ.
  - Agricultural Soil & Food Systems Group Board Representative Hero Gollany, USDA-ARS, Adams, OR
  - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Member-at-Large Board Representative Xia Zhu-Barker, UW-Madison
  - Early Career Board Representative Dianna Bagnall, Soil Health Institute
  - Education & Practicing Professionals Group Board Representative Clay Robinson, CRC Consulting
  - Fundamental Soil Science Group Board Representative Rebecca Lybrand, Univ. of California-Davis
3. ACTION: The following Consent Agenda items were approved.
  - Jan. 19, 2023 SSSA Board Meeting Agenda
  - Dec. 20, 2022 SSSA Board Meeting Minutes
4. 2023 Board-Level Committees with openings were reviewed and volunteers from the board came forward.
  - CEO Jim Cudahy is seeking additional volunteers for an ASA-CSSA-SSSA Workforce Development Task Force
  - President Carrie Laboski reported that appointments are being made to the Ethics Task Force
5. Member Services Director Susan Chapman requested that Board Members encourage Award nominations by March 9 via Discussion Boards, including self-nominations for awards except Fellow: [www.soils.org/awards](http://www.soils.org/awards) - SSSA Board Members can only participate in ASA and CSSA Awards.
6. CEO Jim Cudahy reported that Department Directors are holding a retreat on Jan. 24 in preparation for Strategic Planning and announced that Luther Smith was promoted to Chief Administrative Officer.
7. Request by member Jim Tiedje for two experts for an American Academy of Microbiology Soils-Methane Colloquium.
8. ACTION: Motion by Rebecca Lybrand, seconded by Elizabeth Bradley, to support grad student SSSA members presenting at the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative March 13-15 in Dublin at \$500 per student up to \$2,500. Motion carries, 6-2-1.

### ACS598 Carbon and Ecosystem Services Education Project Advisory Committee

Education Director Chris Boomsma provided an update on the Decode 6 Platform [www.decode6.org](http://www.decode6.org), including partnerships, funding, and communication. Board members are encouraged to visit the website and sign up for the newsletter.

### ACS732 Program Planning Committee

Apply by March 30 to serve as the DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) Representative on ACS732 Program Planning Committee.

#### ACS321 Editorial Policy Coordination Committee

Publications Director Matt Wascavage posted the January 2023 Publications Update, including Peer Review Mentorship, New Wiley Transformational Agreements, and Wiley's Research Exchange Tool.

#### S711.19 SSSA 2024 Program Planning Task Force

CFO/Meetings Director Wes Meixelsperger discussed the potential of holding the Summer Board Meeting during the SSSA Summer Conference, June 10-12, 2024, San Juan, Puerto Rico: [www.sacmeetings.org](http://www.sacmeetings.org).

#### ACS528 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in ASA, CSSA, and SSSA Committee

DEI Member-at-Large Xia Zhu-Barker provided an update on the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Committee:

- Annual meeting programming: Diversity Summit that includes student poster contest, speaker, and roundtable discussion; plans for a Meeting ombuds; support Bridge Scholars mentoring program
- Mentoring and Education/Training are top priorities for working groups, including Society-wide DEI training
- Identify a contact for progress on the Ethics Committee Task Force

#### S673 American Geosciences Institute

Consider applying/nominating/promoting American Geosciences Institute (AGI) Awards & Officers by Feb. 1:  
[www.americangeosciences.org/nominations](http://www.americangeosciences.org/nominations)

Consensus to adjourn.