



## Soil Science Society of America Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Tuesday Aug. 22, 2023, 10:15-11:30am (Central)

### Board members present:

President: Carrie Laboski, USDA-ARS (2023)  
President-Elect: Michael Thompson, Iowa State (2023)  
Past President: Ron Turco, Purdue (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)  
Fundamental Soil Science Group: Mary Stromberger, Ohio State Univ. (2023); Maxine Levin, USDA-NRCS-retired (2024)  
Soil & Ecosystem Processes Group: Daniel Markewitz, U. of Georgia (2023)  
Ex-officio: CEO Jim Cudahy; Editor-in-Chief Craig Rasmussen, Univ. of Arizona (2024); Incoming President-Elect Samira

Daroub, Univ. of Florida (2023); Program Planning Officer  
Aaron Daigh, U of Nebraska (2024)

### Unable to attend:

ASF Chair Samantha Miller, Corteva Agriscience (2023)  
CPSS Rep: James Hartsig, CPSS (2023)  
Fundamental Soil Science: Rebecca Lybrand, UC-Davis (2025)  
Grad Student Rep: Elizabeth Bradley, Auburn (2023)  
Soil & Ecosystem Processes: Ronald Reuter, Oregon State (2024)

### Also attending:

Susan Chapman, Member Services Director  
Dawn Gibas, Certifications Director  
Ian Popkewitz, IT & Operations Director  
Luther Smith, Chief Administrative Officer  
Sara Uttech, Governance Director  
Matt Wascavage, Publications Director

### S003 SSSA Board of Directors

1. ACTION: The following Consent Agenda items were approved:
  - Aug. 22, 2023 SSSA Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
  - June 27, 2023 SSSA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
  
2. CEO Jim Cudahy reviewed the outcomes from the ASA-CSSA-SSSA-ASF-ICCA-CPSS Strategic Planning Meeting:
  - SSSA Vision Statement: Unite a global community advocating for soils through education and science.
  - SSSA Objectives:
    - Increase, engage, and diversify our membership: Build and leverage internal and external awareness of SSSA and current resources
    - Workforce Development: Increase the awareness of the diverse career paths for soil scientists: Make the CPSS the standard of the profession (Increase # of CPSSs)
    - Ensure SSSA is position to be responsive to emerging issues: Increase collaboration with scientific societies regionally and in other countries (2 more continents)
    - Expand our economic engine: Increase revenue to support Vision & Strategic Objectives
  - Cross-Society Objectives:
    - Innovate our financial model
    - Raise the visibility of our disciplines and our members
    - Diversify our memberships
  - Next Steps:
    - Aug-Sept: Follow-up discussion and plans drafted
    - October Annual Meeting Board Meeting: Board of approval of plans
    - December: Operational plan
    - January (with sneak peek in St. Louis): Presented to members

3. President Carrie Laboski announced that she has selected the 2023 SSSA Presidential Award recipients as “SSSA Diversity Trailblazers,” recognizing the first people of color and women leaders in SSSA.
4. President Carrie Laboski is attending the Mexican Soil Science Society in October.
5. Save the date: SSSA Summer Board Meeting June 13-14, 2024 in Puerto Rico with Virtual option, held in conjunction with the SSSA Summer Conference, June 10-12: [www.sacmeetings.org](http://www.sacmeetings.org)

#### S840 SSSA-Soil Science Society of China Committee

President-Elect Michael Thompson provided an update on SSSA’s collaboration with the Soil Science Society of China, including opportunities with webinars, publications, and membership.

#### ACS732 Program Planning

Latest Registration Numbers: ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual Meeting Oct. 29-Nov. 1 in St. Louis, [www.acsmeetings.org](http://www.acsmeetings.org):

- 975 current registrants compared to 2022 Baltimore’s 698 / 2019 San Antonio’s 1,012 at this time of year
- 948 in-person registrations
- 27 virtual registrations
- 140% to 2022 / 96% to 2019 total registrations at this time of year
- We are currently 94% to San Antonio’s in-person registrations at this time of year
- 2019 San Antonio: 3,945 total in-person registrations
- Projections at this point are encouraging given the record number of submissions this year. Approximately 4,400 are expected for St. Louis in-person attendance.
- By comparison, there were 3,555 onsite attendees for Baltimore (3,695 total registrants)
- Our historical trends show that most registrations (whether virtual or in-person) come in during the final three weeks leading up to the event.

#### S211 SSSA Budget & Finance Committee

CEO Jim Cudahy reported that CFO & Director of Meetings Wes Meixelsperger is no longer employed at the organization as of Aug. 9, 2023.

#### ACS321 ASA, CSSA, SSSA Editorial Policy Coordination Committee

- Publications Director Matt Wascavage reported on progress with our consultant who is helping us make a decision on post-2024 publishing.
- Three of our journals—*Crop, Forage and Turfgrass Management*, *Journal of Environmental Quality*, and *The Plant Genome*—are taking part in a pilot program to encourage authors to submit plain language summaries.

Consensus to Adjourn.