



Soil Science Society of America Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Sunday Oct. 29, 2023, 9:30-11:30am (Central), St. Louis, MO

Board members present:

President: Carrie Laboski, USDA-ARS (2023)
President-Elect: Michael Thompson, Iowa State (2023)
Past President: Ron Turco, Purdue (2023)
Incoming President-Elect Samira Daroub, U. of Florida (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 (2024); Rebecca Lybrand, UC-Davis (2025)
Soil & Ecosystem Processes Group: Daniel Markewitz, U. of Georgia (2023)
Ex-officio: CEO Jim Cudahy; Program Planning Officer Aaron Daigh, U of Nebraska (2024); Editor-in-Chief Craig Rasmussen, Univ. of Arizona (2024); ASF Chair Samantha Miller, Corteva Agriscience (2023)

Unable to attend:

Grad Student Rep: Elizabeth Bradley, Auburn (2023)
CPSS Rep: James Hartsig, CPSS (2023)
Soil & Ecosystem Processes Group: 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
Susan Varghese, People & Culture Director

Incoming Board Members:

Ag, Soil & Food Systems: Dorivar Ruiz Diaz, Kansas State Univ.; Certified Professional Soil Scientist: Jacob Berkowitz, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Fundamental Soil Science: Ganga Hettiarachchi, Kansas State Univ.; Soil & Ecosystem Processes: Thorsten Knappenberger, Auburn University; Grad Student: Megan Bourns, Kansas State Univ.

S003 SSSA Board of Directors

1. ACTION: The following Consent Agenda items were approved:
 - Oct. 29, 2023 SSSA Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
 - Sept. 26, 2023 SSSA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

2. Welcome New Board Members (terms begin 1/1/2024):
 - SSSA President-Elect: Samira Daroub, University of Florida
 - Ag, Soil & Food Systems Group Board Representative: Dorivar Ruiz Diaz, Kansas State University
 - Certified Professional Soil Scientist Representative: Jacob Berkowitz, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - Fundamental Soil Science Group Representative: Ganga Hettiarachchi, Kansas State University
 - Soil & Ecosystem Processes Group: Thorsten Knappenberger, Auburn University
 - Graduate Student Board Representative: Megan Bourns, Kansas State University

3. Thank You Outgoing Board Members (terms end 12/31/2023):
 - SSSA Past President: Ron Turco, Purdue University
 - Ag, Soil & Food Systems Group Board Representative: Jane Johnson, USDA-ARS
 - Fundamental Soil Science Group Representative: Mary Stromberger, Ohio State University
 - Soil & Ecosystem Processes Group: Daniel Markewitz, University of Georgia
 - Graduate Student Board Representative: Elizabeth Bradley, Auburn
 - Certified Professional Soil Scientist Representative: James Hartsig, Invenergy
 - Agronomic Science Foundation (ASF) Chair Samantha Miller, Corteva Agriscience

4. ACTION: Motion by Jane Johnson, seconded by Maysoon Mikha, to approve the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan as amended as presented by CEO Jim Cudahy and President Carrie Laboski. Unanimous approval.
 - Under workforce development: “New tools created to promote soil science and certification to prospective audiences.”
5. President Carrie Laboski and CEO Jim Cudahy led the following discussions:
 - Role of the SSSA Board, how to maximize Board discussions, and the frequency and duration of Board Meetings in 2024:
 - Assign time at board meetings to cover each one of the strategic objectives, use the monthly networking time in preparation for strategic discussions
 - Consider holding longer quarterly board meetings to invite committees assigned homework on the Strategic Objectives to present recommendations to the board
 - Contributions and integration of Committees to make them more effective:
 - Establish an ad hoc committee to review committees – volunteers included Samira, Diana, and Xia
 - Map the Strategic Objectives to committees and invite them to prepare recommendations to report to the board
 - Recruitment: look at ways to improve the volunteer process and develop rewards for their service
 - Increase diversity representation on committees
 - Develop a 5-minute video show how to volunteer – break through the complex structure
6. ACTION: Motion by Dianna Bagnall, seconded by Ron Turco, to support SSSA to join ASA in Engineers without Borders. Approve SSSA to join ASA in Engineers without Borders as presented by Chief Administrative Officer Luther Smith. Unanimous approval.

S733 SSSA Specialized Conferences Committee

1. SSSA Summer Conference, in Puerto Rico, June 9-13, 2024: www.sacmeetings.org
 - SSSA Board Meeting in Puerto Rico with Virtual Option, June 13-14, 2024
 - Request submitted by Ron Reuter to schedule the June 13 board meeting later in the afternoon to allow board members to participate in morning tours
2. IUSS Centennial with SSSA Session: May 19-21, 2024, Florence, Italy

S211 SSSA Budget & Finance Committee

ACTION: Motion by Ron Turco, seconded by Clay Robinson, to approve the 2024 SSSA Budget as presented by CEO Jim Cudahy and Budget & Finance Chair Mary Stromberger. Unanimous approval.

- Budget and Finance Committee members: Mary Stromberger, Diana Bagnall, Maxine Levin, Craig Rasmussen, Michael Thompson, Jim Cudahy
- 2024 SSSA Budget includes 300 attendees at the SSSA Summer Conference and Board Meeting in Puerto Rico.

ACS321 Editorial Policy Coordination Committee

1. Publications Director Matt Wascavage provided an overview and update on Publications, including the timeline for the post-2024 Publishing program initiative.
2. New virtual issue: “Advancing Resilient Agricultural Systems: Adapting to and Mitigating Climate Change” with open-access articles in several journals: acsess.onlinelibrary.wiley.com

S101 Nominations Committee

Reminder: Call for 2024 SSSA Election Candidates for President, Board Rep, Division Chair – *encourage women, minorities, to run for office* – are due by Nov. 30 to Board Rep and Governance Director Sara Uttech.

ACS732 Program Planning

Annual Meeting Program: <https://scisoc.confex.com/scisoc/2023am/meetingapp.cgi> | App: [SciSoc Mtg](#)

- 4,013 current registrations for 2023

Sunday Oct. 29 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SSSA Board Meeting• New Board Member Orientation• Agronomic Science Foundation (ASF) VIP Reception• Keynote & Reception	Monday Oct. 30 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ASA-CSSA-SSSA Awards & Networking Lunch (ticket)• ASF-SSSA Rattan Lal Climate Lecture
Tuesday Oct. 31 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SSSA Continental Breakfast & Brady Lecture (ticket)• Golden Opportunity Scholar Luncheon (ticket)• ASF-SSSA Lectures: Clark, Patrick, Walsh• Charting the Course of Soil Carbon Modeling Symposium (Decode 6)	Wednesday Nov. 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SSSA Coffee with the Presidents & CEO• ASF-SSSA Wilde Forest Soils Lecture• Closing Reception
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Division & Committee Business Meetings (Board Reps & Exec attend); Discussion Items (DOCUMENT 8, 9) Schedule: https://scisoc.confex.com/scisoc/2023am/meetingapp.cgi/Program/2108 Google Sign Up: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-UiUFguB1ay21-iiBUFznHIm0Piphibrpfhb5uCNU04• Society Center (Exhibit Hall): Demo Stage, Society info, Career Center, etc.	

Consensus to Adjourn.