**Place:** Sterling # 6 at Hyatt Regency in St Louis, MO.

Time: 1 pm central time.

President David Simpson Call ed the meting to order at 1 pm on Dec 5, 2022.

**ROLL CALL Dec 5, 2022 NCWSS Board of Directors Meeting**

Roll call [Quorum]

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Officers** | **Names** | Dec 5 |
| President | David Simpson | X |
| President Elect | Reid Smeda | X |
| Vice President | Dawn Refsell | X |
| Secretary-Treasurer | Amit Jhala | X |
| Editor-NCWSS Proceedings | Joe Wuerffel | X |
| Editor- Communication / Newsletter | Joe Ikley | X |
| WSSA Representative | Brett Miller | X |
| CAST Representative | John Hinz | X |
| Past President | Harlene Hatterman-Valenti | X |
| Executive Secretary | Kelley Mazur | X |
| Director of Science Policy | Lee Van Wychen | X |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Directors at Large** | **Names** | Dec 5 |
| Strategic Planning | Sarah Lancaster | X |
| Extension | Prashant Jha | X |
| Industry | Ryan Henry | X |
| Resident Education | Debalin Sarangi | X |
| Graduate Student | Monica Marrs | X |
| Central Region | Dan Smith | X |
| Western Region | Trevor Israel |  |
| Eastern Region | Travis Legleiter | X |

**Minutes of Dec 5 2022 NCWSS Board of Directions Meeting**

* **2022 NCWSS annual meeting Registration Fee rates.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Member Type** | **Before Nov 1** | **After Nov 1** |
| Regular Member | $400 | $450 |
| Retired Fellow | $250 | $300 |
| Active Fellow | $400 | $450 |
| Graduate Student | $200 | $250 |
| Undergraduate Student | $150 | $200 |

* Simpson: Participation in the elections continues to remain low. Board should consider ways to enhance participation.

**Action:** How about add this with the registration link? This way, everyone registering for the NCWSS meting will need to vote in to continue their registration.

* The Resident Education Committee is asked to consider imposing penalties on students that are late in submitting presentations (posters, papers, videos) for various contests. It is important for Section Moderators as well as Judges that they have access to the presentations prior to the meeting.

**Action:** Resident Education Committee Chair will discuss with committee members and provide feedback and plan to BoD members in Jan 2023 BoD meeting.

* NCWSS net worth as of Dec 1 was $555,623 compared to last year’s $468,273. Registration income will be approximately $113,320 and $4,000 in Industry Breakfast student ticket support. NCWSS has 5 CDs with the range of 43 to 50K with the interest rates of 1.0% to 2.5%.
* 2022 NCWSS Meeting: 15 undergraduate posters, 44 graduate student posters, and 36 graduate student papers in competition. 54 volunteer judges for the contest.
* After 2021 Industry session, idea was put forth to rename Industry Breakfast as Society Breakfast sponsored by Industry. Reasoning was to make sure everyone knows they are welcome, especially students. Thoughts on this? Vote on this?

**Action:** This topic will be discussed in Dec BoD meeting.

Refer to Officers’ Reports for detail information.

President Simpson adjourned meeting at 4.15 pm.

Next NCWSS BOD in-person meeting is scheduled on Dec 8, 2022 at 10 am at Hyatt Regency in St Louis, MO. Amit will send an agenda.

NCWSS Committee and Officer Reports

President – David Simpson

**Date of Preparation: 11/28/2022**

**Officer/Committee Activities during the Year:**

The cadence of the NCWSS activities, contests, and meetings in 2022 returned to pre-Covid times with a few new wrinkles. Over the past decade, the new board meeting on Wednesday evening has been reduced in scope and been moved to Thursday morning with limited agenda items and action items to address prior to a virtual January board meeting. A key activity of 2022 was the board’s detail review and revisions of the MOP to align with the best practices of today. The number of newsletters was increased to four with the introduction the Winter newsletter in January which focuses on the recognize the DAA winners, new Fellows, and student contest winners. Additionally, we have initiated the creation of a detail workplan for board members and committees in Excel to help ensure expectations and timelines for activities are clearly communicated.

The 42nd NCWSS Summer Weed Contest was held at Corteva Agriscience in Johnston, IA. A big Thank You to Dawn Refsell, Lowell Sandell, Dave Johnson, Craig Alford, the Corteva station staff and all the industry volunteers who made this a successful contest. Congratulations to all the participants and academic advisors. The 2023 summer contest will be a National Contest hosted by Bayer Crop Science in Union City, TN July 25-27th. A host for the 2024 summer contest is still needed, so if there are any recommendations, please bring forth to the Resident Education Committee.

Joe Wuerffel will be stepping down as Proceedings Editor. On behalf of the board and myself, I would like to thank Joe for serving the society for the past 3 years as Proceedings Editor.

The Nomination committee led by Karen Renner held elections for Proceedings Editor and Vice President. Karla Gage was elected as the new Proceedings Editor. The new Vice-President in 2023 will be Mark Bernard.

The Program and Local Arrangements Committees led by Reid Smeda and Karla Gage, respectively, have put together what should be an excellent 77th NCWSS Annual Meeting.

As President, I had the privilege and opportunity to serve on the WSSA Science Policy Committee. In addition to participating on the monthly committee meetings, I would highlight the following activities.

* The NCWSS along with the other national and regional weed science societies provide letters of support for the following
  + The Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) notice of intent to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for approval and use of the following herbicide active ingredients for use in vegetation treatments on public lands: aminocyclopyrachlor, clethodim, fluozifop-p-butyl, flumioxazin, imazamox, indaziflam, oryzalin, and trifluralin.
  + Senate Ag Appropriators supporting the FY 2023 ag research budgets
* In spring of 2022, participated on virtual meetings with congressional staffs to engage them on the contributions of weed science to their constituents and to support weed research.
* In November of 2022, I joined NCWSS Science Policy Director Lee Van Wychen, WSSA President Stanley Culpepper, SWSS President Darrin Dodd and WSSA Science Policy Fellows for three days of meeting with House and Senate staffs to promote support for weed management research.

As I reflect on 2022 as well as past presidents’ reports, I would like to highlight some areas in which the board and respective committees should consider evaluating and taking actions.

* Consideration for growing the NCWSS membership. Over the past decade, the number of students attending the annual meeting has ranged from 80-100 students, yet the number of NCWSS members have not been increasing. How do we retain more members? Where do the female students go? Should we consider a cross society engagement to compare memberships and trends?
* Volunteers are key to the success of the society. How does the society ensure its members are active and routinely volunteering to give back to the society? Do we need to be more proactively engaging key company leaders to discuss the importance of volunteering and commitment to having members volunteer?
* The Resident Education Committee has been asked to consider creating a subcommittee to evaluate the rules for the summer weed contest to address some of the grading issues that seem to arise each year such as rounding in sprayer calibration exam, spelling in herbicide id, spelling in weed id particularly for undergrad vs graduate. The academic advisors should be the core members of the sub-committee.
* Extension committee along with the Resident Education Committee should consider whether to continue with the Video contest. Despite efforts over the years to increase participation, less than 15% of the students are participating with some of the sections having only 1-2 entries.
* Program Committee should consider engaging the Extension committee and the broader Extension scientists to discuss either how to increase talks in the Extension section or to discontinue the Extension section in favor of Extension symposia on topics of interest.
* Symposia proposals have been very limited for the last couple of years resulting in the Program Chair having to developed some of the symposiums. Should the Board or Program Committee be more engaged in identifying topics for symposia? Should the Graduate Students Committee in collaboration with Resident Education Committee be responsible for bringing forward on symposia topic each year?
* Participation in the elections continues to remain low. Board should consider ways to enhance participation.

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**Motions/ Action Items:**

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**President Elect – Reid Smeda**

**Date of Preparation:** 12/03/2022

**Officer/Committee Activities during the Year:**

The 77th annual meeting of the NCWSS will be held December 5-8 in the shadow of the St. Louis Arch at the Hyatt Regency. Our 2022 meeting will be the first where Covid-19 was only given passing mention during the planning process. I don’t think anyone will miss the constraints placed on our society over the past 2+ years. For this year, we will continue to put the posters on-line prior to the meeting and continuing up to 30 days thereafter. This makes the responsibilities of the poster judges easier and is a benefit to our members. However, for 2022 we are not going to record any of the oral papers, so be sure to attend the papers on your must-see list.

The Local Arrangements Committee (LAC), led by Karla Gage has been busy over the past 7 months in planning our meeting. Despite the NCWSS being in St. Louis in 2017, several looks to the Hyatt Regency have changed. Our poster session will be held in the foyer outside the Regency ballrooms, and this was renovated. Bayer Crop Science was very welcoming by offering a tour of their facilities on Monday, December 5. They were also generous in offering to pay student hotel stays on December 4. Our deepest thanks to Bayer Crop Science and the efforts of Greg Elmore and Devin Hammer. Also, there is a tour available of the Arch on December 5, including a tram ride to the top of this American landmark and also a tour of the Williams and Clark Museum underneath the Arch (newly renovated). Please thank a member of the LAC if you see them at the meeting.

2022 Program highlights

The 2022 program has 90 oral presentations and 95 oral presentations with 36 graduate student papers, 44 graduate student posters, 16 undergraduate posters, and 5 videos.

General Session

The General Session will again be the opening for our NCWSS meeting. This allows us to get everyone together initially and provide an update on any program changes. Our headline speaker with be Dr. S. Alan Walters from Southern Illinois University. His address, “Horseradish; the Spicy Root Condiment of Southern Illinois” will highlight a crop that grows in the shadow of the Arch on the Illinois farmland across the Mississippi River. Lee Van Wychen, NCWSS Executive Director of Science Policy, will provide an update on policy issues and activities from a busy 2022. NCWSS President David Simpson will deliver his Presidential Address to the NCWSS members.

**Symposia**

Two symposia are scheduled for Wednesday afternoon:

1. The first symposium “New Frontiers in Application Technology” will focus on evolving technology that will transform our approach to applying herbicides as part of weed management. Special thanks to Greg Kruger for organizing this symposium and lining up a diverse set of speakers.
2. The second symposium “Impact of the Endangered Species Act on Herbicide Registration and Regulation” will involve speakers from academia, industry, ag retail, and state and federal governments. The focus is on the impact that the Endangered Species Act has on the process of herbicide registration but also on regulating herbicide use. Thanks for Reid Smeda and Bill Johnson for organizing this symposium.

On Thursday morning, the annual “What’s New in Industry” symposium will take place. Here, new products or technologies will be highlighted. This symposium will be held from 8:30 – 10:15 a.m. Ryan Henry is organizing the symposium and will communicate with each company concerning presentations

**Student Activities**

The NCWSS prioritizes opportunities for students during the meeting. All students are urged to gain knowledge, build professional networks, and bolster presentation skills through these opportunities.

* Monday, December 5th, Bayer Crop Science will host the Graduate Student Chesterfield Tour from 10 am to 4 pm (registration for this event was required during the NCWSS registration process).
* Monday evening, December 5th, BASF will sponsor a Student Mixer from 6:30 - 10 pm.
* Tuesday Lunch, December 6th from 12:00 to 1:15 pm. Corteva Agriscience will sponsor the Graduate Student Luncheon and Business Meeting. All graduate and undergraduate students are invited.
* Tuesday, December 6th will be the undergraduate and graduate poster sessions with a morning session from 10:00 - 11:50 a.m. and evening session from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Students must be present at both sessions.
* Graduate student paper contest will occur during the Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning paper sessions.
* NCWSS Awards Luncheon (noon to 1:15 pm) will recognize the new NCWSS Fellows and Distinguished Achievement Award winners on Wednesday, December 7th.
* Contest winners will be announced at the Society Social on Wednesday from 5:30 - 7 p.m. in Regency C. This event is sponsored by our sustaining members and is open to all.
* Industry Breakfast on Thursday morning at 7:00 – 8:15 a.m. in Regency AB. A special thanks to Syngenta for sponsoring graduate students to attend the breakfast.

**Motions/ Action Items:**

The Resident Education Committee is asked to consider imposing penalties on students that are late in submitting presentations (posters, papers, videos) for various contests. It is important for Section Moderators as well as Judges that they have access to the presentations prior to the meeting.

**Resident Education Committee Chair – Debalin Sarangi**

**Date of Preparation:** 11/28/2022

**Officer/Committee Activities during the Year:**

* Discussed summer Weed Contest rules with the local arrangement committee
* No change in the poster and paper competition rubrics as last year
* Call for volunteer judges went out in November
* Contacted local arrangement committee (Bayer) for the 2023 Weed Olympics and provided all the materials from previous Weed Olympics – not much update from them yet!
* In 2022, we have a total of 15 undergrad posters, 44 graduate posters, and 36 graduate papers in competition. Also, we have 54 volunteer judges for the contest.
* Next chair: Dr. Travis Legleiter from UKY

**Motions/ Action Items:**

**Proceedings Editor – Joe Wuerffel**

**Date of Preparation:**

**Officer/Committee Activities during the Year:**

**Motions/ Action Items:**

**Communication Editor – Joe Ikley**

**Date of Preparation:** 11/28/2022

**Officer/Committee Activities during the Year:**

Call for items for Winter Newsletter went out January 10th, with a deadline of January 31st.

Call for items for Spring Newsletter went out March 16th, with a deadline of April 1st.

Call for items for Summer Newsletter went out July 14th, with a deadline of July 29th.

Call for items for Fall Newsletter went out on October 3rd, with a deadline of October 24th.

Ran Twitter feed:

January-May: Normal messages to society and Retweeting relevant info from society members and Weed Science community

June-August: Passed around the Twitter handle to a different society member each week (This has been replicated by NEWSS, and APS).

September-December: Normal messages to society and Retweeting relevant info from society members and Weed Science community

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Month | Tweets | Impressions | Engagements |
| January | 0 | 1,954 | 63 |
| February | 0 | 836 | 39 |
| March | 0 | 889 | 16 |
| April | 1 | 3,325 | 90 |
| May | 0 | 498 | 31 |
| June | 56 | 52,199 | 3,056 |
| July | 67 | 57,415 | 3,087 |
| August | 97 | 86,220 | 4,397 |
| September | 12 | 77,525 | 497 |
| October | 1 | 1,741 | 68 |
| November | 8 | 10,693 | 308 |
| December | . | . | . |

**Motions/ Action Items:**

**Vice President – Dawn Refsell**

**Date of Preparation:**

**Officer/Committee Activities during the Year:**

**Motions/ Action Items:**

**Past President – Harlene Hatterman-Valenti**

**Date of Preparation:** 11/22/2022

**Officer/Committee Activities during the Year:**

Reminded NCWSS members during the year through newsletter articles and on the website to consider nominating a peer for the distinguished achievement awards. Received three nominations for DAA in education, early career, and professional staff. However, one nomination was incomplete, and another was voted to be insufficient in several areas. Nine travel award applications were received. One was withdrawn shortly after receiving. Six travel awards were approved. Two outstanding graduate award nominations were received. Both applicants had excellent nomination packages but only one student received the award.

**Motions/ Action Items:**

**Executive Secretary – Kelley Mazur**

**Date of Preparation:** 11/29/2022

**Officer/Committee Activities during the Year:**

**Annual Meeting:**The Program and Local Arrangements Committees have done an excellent job in planning this year’s Annual Meeting, and I have appreciated working with them. A big thank you goes to Karla Gage, Aaron Hager, Ryan Henry, Reid Smeda, and Joe Wuerffel for their dedication, as well as Devin Hammer, Greg Elmore, and the Bayer crew who coordinate the Grad Student Tour. Below is a summary of past meeting preregistration and statistics:

**Registration as of November 23, 2022, at 8:34am MST**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *St. Louis* | *Grand Rapids* | *Virtual* | *Columbus* | *Milwaukee* | *St. Louis* | *Des Moines* | *Indianapolis* | *Minneapolis* |
|  | ***2022*** | ***2021*** | ***2020*** | ***2019*** | ***2018*** | ***2017*** | ***2016*** | ***2015*** | ***2014*** |
| Members | 203 | 183 | 253 | 249 | 257 | 347 | 284 | 273 | 270 |
| Grad Students | 76 | 75 | 92 | 106 | 89 | 115 | 107 | 88 | 90 |
| Undergrad | 23 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Retired Fellow | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Active Fellow | 16 | 20 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total | 320 | 288 | 267 | 355 | 346 | 462 | 391 | 361 | 360 |
| **Final** |  |  | **345** | **355** | **360** | **486** | **426** | **402** | **401** |

*2019\* 43 registered for the Invasive Plants Symposium*

**Pick-up Rates from past 3 years:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Days out** |  | **2018** |  | **2019** |  | **2020** |  | **2021** |  | **2022** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| >60 days |  | 58 |  | 0 |  | 0 |  | 26 |  | 9 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| >45 days |  | 52 |  | 76 |  | 55 |  | 37 |  | 60 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 44-30 days | | 68 |  | 72 |  | 41 |  | 152 |  | 130 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 29-15 days | | 114 |  | 129 |  | 83 |  | 28 |  | 116 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 14-3 days |  | 46 |  | 37 |  | 88 |  | 20 |  | 5 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Onsite |  | 37 |  | 41 |  | 78 |  | 25 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total** |  | **375** |  | **355** |  | **345** |  | **288** |  | **320** |

**Membership:**NCWSS currently has 585 members – 356 Regular members, 170 students, 59 Fellows. I ask that the Resolutions and Necrology Committee help with identifying Fellows who have passed in the last few years to keep data up to date.

**Website:**NCWSS has begun using the new member database as well as its even registration functions. Please share any feedback you have about your online registration process. Beginning January 2023, the website will get its much-needed overhaul.

The attached financials show NCWSS net worth of $555,623.10 compared to last year’s $468,273.43. Registration income is approximately $113,320 and $4,000 in Industry Breakfast student ticket support.

The accounts and 5 CDs are listed below with their maturity dates:

Graphical user interface, text, application, email

Description automatically generated

**RBC Report by Stan Cooper:**

$130,757  12-31-21 Year end value

$124,294  11-22-22 Current value

* **6,463   -4.94% Year to date**

For a year to date comparison of the stock market indices:

-15.81%  S&P 500

-28.21%  NASDAQ

Current Allocation:

45.7%  Stock

37.0%  Bonds

16.6%  Hedge

    .7%  Cash

This is a defensive allocation and has protected the account during this difficult year in the markets.  The forecast for the next year or so is somewhat murky and not entirely encouraging.  I think it would be prudent to stay the course until the markets and the economy find a bottom.

**Action/Discussion Items:**

***IMI Evaluation***It’s that time of year and I will be providing the Executive Committee with an evaluation form to completed within a month of delivery. The evaluation will be kept on file with NCWSS.

**Secretary-Treasurer – Amit Jhala**

**Date of Preparation:** 11/29/2022

**Officer/Committee Activities during the Year:**

* Took minutes of all the NCWSS BOD meetings and provided to board members. They are available on NCWSS website.
* NCWSS budget update (see attached: NCWSS Balance Sheet Comparison; NCWSS Profit Loss Statement; and Balance Sheet)
* NCWSS Investment Plan: Finance Committee had 3 meetings with our financial advisor Stan Cooper. The plan was to invest $40,000 in summer 2022; however, due to current situation of market, the plan is to hold on for now. Invested $18,000 and $22,000 moved to T-Bill.
* Total registration for annual meeting is 320 as of Dec 1.

**Motions/ Action Items:**

**WSSA Representative– Brett Miller**

**Date of Preparation:** 12/14/2022

**Officer/Committee Activities during the Year:**

* Attending WSSA Science Policy Committee Meetings organized by Director of Science Policy as well as all scheduled WSSA BOD meetings.
  + WSSA BOD meeting in August in Arlington, VA was very successful and included a visit of the WSSA BOD to the EPA in Washington DC.
* WSSA is meeting jointly with the NEWSS in Arlington, VA Jan 30-Feb 2 at the Crystal Gateway Marriot
* 2024 in San Antonio joint with SWSS on Jan 22-25
* 2025 the WSSA will return to Vancouver in a joint meeting with CWSS on Feb 24-27
* Attended all the NCWSS BOD meetings during 2022.
* Attended the NCWSS summer contest and served as a volunteer for the farmer problems.

**Motions/ Action Items:**

**CAST Representative – John Hinz**

**Date of Preparation:** 11/21/2022

**Officer/Committee Activities during the Year:**

Attended 10 of the monthly meetings. Attended the 50th CAST annual meeting in Ames, IA. The Plant Working Group is currently working on 9 issue papers and commentaries. The next paper that will come out of CAST is entitled “RNA interference in Agriculture: Methods, Applications and Governance.” There are also paper in the works for the benefits of gene editing, harmful algal blooms, ROI of soil health, and invasive species regulation.

**Motions/ Action Items:**

**Director of Science Policy – Lee VanWychen**

**Date of Preparation:** 11/29/2022

**Science Policy Fellows**

Anita Dille, Janis McFarland and I reviewed and selected two Science Policy Fellows for 2022-2023. **Taylor Randell** is a third year Ph.D. student at the University of Georgia studying under the direction of Dr. Stanley Culpepper. **Navdeep Godara** is a first-year Ph.D. student at Virginia Tech, pursuing his doctorate degree with Dr. Shawn Askew.

**Weed Science Congressional Visits**

I organized and conducted 28 Congressional meetings on weed science issues with the Weed Science Society Presidents and Science Policy Fellows. This included Stanley Culpepper (WSSA), David Simpson (NCWSS), Jacob Barney (NEWSS), Darrin Dodds (SWSS) and Joel Felix (WSWS) as well as Taylor Randell and Navdeep Godara. Half the meetings were conducted via Zoom in April and the other half were in person on Capitol Hill in November. The three main issues we focused on were:

* Support USDA NIFA IR-4 Project funding at $25 million in FY 2023. There is a phenomenal need for specialty crop protection products to help feed the world. The IR-4 Project provides an incredible return on investment as it contributes $9.9 billion to the annual U.S. GDP and supports more than 123,260 jobs.
* Support the USDA NIFA Crop Protection and Pest Management (CPPM) program at $25 million in FY 2023. This highly effective “applied” grant program available to public researchers tackles real world weed, insect, and disease problems with applied solutions through the concepts of integrated pest management (IPM).
* Amend the Plant Protection Act in the 2023 Farm Bill so that definition of a “Plant Pest” includes “noxious weeds”, not just parasitic plants. (7 USC 104, S.7702 (14)). USDA-APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) spends less than 1% of their $360 million plant protection budget on noxious weeds because the definition of “plant pest” only legally includes “parasitic plants”.

Other issues that were discussed included:

* Support for the Senate appropriations report language on **cogongrass** that directs $3 million to APHIS to partner with State departments of agriculture and forestry commissions to assist with cogongrass control
* Supporting appropriations for the $50 million per year “Invasive Plant Elimination Program” for managing weeds along rights-of-way that’s authorized in the 2021 Infrastructure Law. This program is authorized at $50 million/yr for FY 2022 to FY 2026, but has not been appropriated any funding in the first two years, FY 2022 or 2023. This funding would go to the Department of Transportation (DOT) and be administered through the Federal Highway Administration to “carry out a program to provide grants to States to eliminate or control existing invasive plants or prevent introduction of or encroachment by new invasive plants along and in areas adjacent to transportation corridor rights-of-way”. I’ve also tried to make this program known to several other lobbying groups. We need to get state DOT’s to ask their members of Congress for funding.

**A group of people standing in a room

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceWeed Science Presidents and Fellows meet with the Chairman of the House Agriculture Appropriations Committee, Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-GA) on November 16 in Washington DC during their Congressional visits week.**

*Pictured (L to R): Taylor Randell (UGA), Science Policy Fellow; Navdeep Godara (VTech), Science Policy Fellow; Representative Sanford Bishop (D-GA), Reid Smeda, NCWSS President; Darrin Dodds, SWSS President; Stanley Culpepper, WSSA President; and Lee Van Wychen, WSSA Executive Director of Science Policy.*

**APMS Congressional Visits**

I organized and conducted 11 Congressional meetings on aquatic plant management issues with House and Senate staffers in member’s offices as well as on relevant authorizing and appropriations committees. Many thanks to APMS leadership for participating in these virtual meetings including Mark Heilman, Rob Richardson, Ryan Wersal, Ryan Thum, Jay Ferrell and Carlton Layne.

Main issues included seeking the full $25 million appropriation for the Army Corps Aquatic Plant Control Research Program (APCRP), discussing the potential impacts of the new strain of hydrilla in the Connecticut River basin, and supporting authorization and funding of invasive species provisions in the 2020 and 2022 Water Resources Development Acts (WRDA).

We’ve made excellent progress on these issues including initial funding for the Army Corps Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) demonstration program, $1 million increases for the Aquatic Plant Control Research Program, and new language in the FY 2023 Senate appropriations bill that recommends **$6 million in additional funding** “for hydrilla control, research, and demonstration work in the Connecticut River basin”.

**FY 2023 Ag Appropriations**

The House and Senate passed a continuing resolution (CR) at the end of September to fund the federal government at FY 2022 levels through December 16. The federal fiscal year begins on October 1st of each year. Funding the federal government for FY 2023 will be one of the major tasks facing the outgoing 117th Congress.

*The table below includes the House and Senate appropriations for FY 2023, as well as the final appropriations for FY 2021 and FY 2022 for various Federal programs important to weed and invasive plant research and management. If there is a difference between the House and the Senate in FY 2023, the higher amount is highlighted.*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Final** | **Final** | **House** | **Senate** |
|  | **FY 2021** | **FY 2022** | **FY 2023** | **FY 2023** |
|  | **-----------------------$ millions--------------------** | | | |
| **USDA**-ARS | $1,492 | $1,633 | $1,736 | $1,756 |
| **-**Herbicide resistance initiative | n/a | $2 | $2.5 | $1 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **USDA**-NIFA | $1,570 | $1,637 | $1,768 | $1,691 |
| -AFRI Competitive Grants | $435 | $445 | $500 | $455 |
| -Hatch Act (Exp. stations) | $259 | $260 | $265 | $265 |
| -Smith Lever (Extension) | $315 | $320 | $330 | $325 |
| -IR-4 Program | $11.9 | $14.5 | $15 | $14.5 |
| -Crop Protection and Pest Management | $20 | $20 | $20 | $22 |
| -SARE: Sustainable Ag Research & Educ. | $40 | $45 | $50 | $50 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **USDA**-APHIS: Cogongrass management | $3 | $3 | $3 | $3 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Army Corps**- Aquatic Plant Control Research | $7 | $8 | $11 | $14 |
| **EPA** - Great Lakes Restoration Initiative | $330 | $348 | $368 | $358 |
| **NOAA** - National Sea Grant College Program | $75 | $76 | $82 | $90 |

Our work on advocating for the IR-4 Project and the Crop Protection and Pest Management (CPPM) program over the past few years is starting to pay off as we see potential increases for both programs in the FY 2023 appropriations. I continue to advocate for these programs and many others through various means including coalitions and congressional visits.

Through the AFRI Coalition, the six National and Regional Weed Science Societies joined other scientific societies and organizations in [supporting](https://wssa.net/wp-content/uploads/FY23-AFRI-Coalition-Letter-final.pdf) Congressional funding for the USDA AFRI Competitive Grants Program at its authorized level of $700 million in FY 2023.

Likewise, through the Friends of ARS Coalition, the six National and Regional Weed Science Societies joined other stakeholder organizations in [urging](https://wssa.net/wp-content/uploads/FY23-ARS-support-letter.pdf) House and Senate Appropriators to provide at least $1.9 billion for salaries and expenses at USDA-ARS in FY 2023.

There is also appropriations report language in both the House and Senate for a regionally focused **Herbicide Resistance Initiative** for the Pacific Northwest. In FY 2022, $2 million was allocated to “*support research to address weed management strongly affecting the long-term economic sustainability of food systems in collaboration with USDA-ARS, research institutions, and stakeholder support”*.

**Getting APHIS PPQ to Spend Money on Federal Noxious Weeds**

Dr. Mark Davidson was appointed to lead APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) in May 2022. APHIS PPQ’s primary role is to safeguard U.S. agriculture and natural resources against the entry, establishment, and spread of pests and diseases. In July I met with Dr. Davidson and Samantha Simon to discuss APHIS PPQ’s lack of focus on federal noxious weeds. Joining me on the meeting were WSSA President Stanley Culpepper and Jacob Barney, WSSA Noxious and Invasive Weeds Committee Chair.

We kindly reminded them that widespread weeds like hydrilla and cogongrass are federally listed noxious weeds for which APHIS PPQ has responsibility for managing.We discussed the new strain of hydrilla in the Connecticut River and its potential to spread into the Great Lakes. While APHIS has active permits for two hydrilla biocontrol agents, *Hydrellia balciunasi* and *Hydrellia pakistanae*, they do not have a current program for the control and management of hydrilla.

For the time being, APHIS PPQ pointed us to funding available under the [Plant Protection Act section 7721](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/resources/ppa-projects) where you can find information about the Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program (PPDMDPP). Key contacts for PPDMDPP are Van Pichler, who is the National Policy Advisor for PPA 7721. She can advise you regarding reviewers for project suggestions for PPDMDPP. Also, Christa Speekmann, who is the Director for Pest Evaluation and Response for PPA 7721 portfolio.

**2023 Farm Bill**  
Work will progress rapidly for the 2023 Farm Bill with the 118th Congress starting in January. With the November election results giving each party a very small majority in the House and Senate in a divided Congress, passing a Farm Bill will require significant intra-party compromise.

I am working with the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NCFAR) and the Supporters of Ag Research (SoAR) on talking points for use in support of ag research in the Farm Bill. Collectively, we are recommending an **increase of $5 billion** allocated to agricultural

research in the 2023 Farm Bill.

I have also worked with NAISMA to advance [four invasive species policies](https://naisma.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/2022NISAW_positionpaper_FarmBill.pdf) for the 2023 Farm Bill. Our top recommendation is to update the definition of plant pest to include all noxious weeds, not just parasitic plants.

**WSSA Committee Work**

In addition to leading the Science Policy Committee, I continue to work with numerous WSSA committees on various weed science issues. This includes multiple press releases with the **Public Awareness Committee** (E13), updating WSSA’s composite list of weeds through the **Standardized Plant Names Committee** (P23), drafting and disseminating the weed research priorities survey through the **Research Priorities Committee** (E6), helping coordinate a CAST issue paper on invasive weeds through the **Noxious and Invasive Weeds and Biocontrol Committee** (E4), and helping assimilate information on how the Endangered Species Act (ESA) impacts agriculture, the environment, and WSSA through the new **Endangered Species Act Committee**.

**Endangered Species Act Compliance**

The new WSSA Endangered Species Act (ESA) Committee, chaired by Bill Chism, continues to work on a symposium/workshop at the WSSA annual meeting to determine how weed scientists can provide useful science-based information to regulators for ESA compliance. There are approximately 1,700 endangered species of which approximately 900 are plants, plus another 700 critical habitats (mostly plants). It is anticipated that glyphosate will impact almost all of those.

On November 16, the EPA released an [Updated ESA Workplan](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-11/esa-workplan-update.pdf) that provides more detail about how EPA plans to impose various mitigation measures that will be required on pesticide labels to meet its ESA obligations when registering a pesticide. There are concerns about some of the mitigation options such as “buffers to reduce pesticide drift and water runoff” or “do not use when rain is expected in the next 48 hours” -- which raises other issues such as what or how compliance might be proven or enforced.

EPA has stated previously as part of its earlier Workplan document, issued in April 2022, that using the present approaches EPA would complete only 5 percent of the ESA required reviews in about 18 years -- implying that the current approach would take about 360 years to complete. This next iteration of the Workplan, describing “early mitigation” strategies, is designed to reduce this unacceptable timeframe (360 years), but is likely to lead to fears among some stakeholders that in a “rush” to complete this work, EPA will make overly conservative label restrictions and reduce availability of the pesticide without increased species protections.

The ESA Workplan Update also describes initiatives that, according to EPA, will help it and other federal agencies improve approaches to mitigation under the ESA and improve the interagency consultation process outlined in the ESA Workplan. These initiatives include EPA’s work to [identify ESA mitigation measures for pilot species](https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species/implementing-epas-workplan-protect-endangered-and-threatened-species-pesticides), incorporate early ESA mitigation measures for groups of pesticides (e.g., herbicides), and develop region-specific ESA mitigations.

**Comments** on the proposed set of interim mitigation measures and the proposed revisions to label language included in the Workplan Update appendix are due on or before **January 30, 2023**. Comments can be submitted at [EPA-HQ-OPP-2022-0908](https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2022-0908/document).

**WSSA Comments on Atrazine Interim Registration Decision**

I submitted [comments](https://wssa.net/wp-content/uploads/Atrazine-WSSA-10.7.22.pdf) on October 7 addressing EPA’s proposed revisions for its interim registration review of atrazine. Among the various mitigation measures, EPA’s proposal calls for prohibiting applications in saturated fields, limiting annual atrazine application rates and requiring growers in watersheds with atrazine levels above 3.4 ppb to choose from a “picklist” of practices to mitigate runoff. It is estimated that the proposed changes would impact over 65 million acres of corn, sorghum and sugarcane. We expect to see similar mitigation measures as the EPA works to advance pesticide compliance for the ESA-FIFRA process.

For atrazine, we also asked EPA to schedule a FIFRA Science Advisory Panel (SAP) to seek external peer review of atrazine’s risks to aquatic plant communities, including the 3.4 ppb level of concern (LOC) since past ecological and scientific reviews have concluded higher LOC’s for atrazine.

Many thanks goes out to WSSA President Stanley Culpepper and Science Policy Fellow Taylor Randell for pulling together the comments and the literature review, as well as edits and reviews by Bill Chism, Anita Dille and Bill Curran. Thank you also goes to members of the WSSA Extension Committee for their input.

**Glyphosate Letters to US Solicitor General and Congressional Leaders**

On May 10, 2022, Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar submitted a brief to the U.S. Supreme Court advising the Court against hearing a glyphosate case, arguing that federal pesticide registration and labeling requirements do not preclude states from imposing additional labeling requirements, even if those requirements run counter to federal findings. This position was a stunning reversal from numerous past administrations, Democratic and Republican alike. On behalf of the National and Regional Weed Science Societies, we supported a [letter](https://wssa.net/wp-content/uploads/Glyphosate-Solicitor-General-Letter_May-2023.pdf) strongly urging Solicitor General Prelogar to withdraw the brief establishing this new policy. Unfortunately, Prelogar still submitted the letter and the Supreme Court did not hear the case.

In November, the National and Regional Weed Science Societies reaffirmed their position in supporting the FIFRA statutes governing state pesticide labels by joining over 300 other organizations in a letter to Congressional leaders in the House and Senate. The letter states “*The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), the primary statute governing pesticides, places EPA in the authority to make foundational, science-based decisions on how pesticides can be labeled and used. States are permitted to regulate the sale and use of pesticides under FIFRA but are preempted from requiring additional or different pesticide labels or packaging*.” In other words, California cannot require glyphosate registrants to put a Prop 65 statement on glyphosate labels because the EPA has repeatedly concluded that glyphosate is not carcinogenic.

**Support for BLM’s Intent to Approve Eight Herbicides**

On behalf of the National and Regional Weed Science Societies, I submitted a [letter of support](https://wssa.net/wp-content/uploads/Support-for-BLM-NOI-to-Prepare-PEIS-8-Herbicides_May-3-2022.pdf) to the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) “notice of intent” to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for approval and use of aminocyclopyrachlor; clethodim; fluazifop-p-butyl; flumioxazin; imazamox; indaziflam; oryzalin; and trifluralin on public lands. BLM has said they plan to release a draft biological evaluation of the eight herbicides in November or December 2022.

**NISAW: February 20-26, 2023**

National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) will be digital again in 2023. If you have topics or issues of concern, or would like to help plan next year’s NISAW, please let me know.

**International Weed Science Issues**

There has been some discussion about getting involved with International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) on weed science issues. The IPPC is an intergovernmental treaty signed by over 180 countries, aiming to protect the world's plant resources from the spread and introduction of pests, and promoting safe trade. The IPPC introduced International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures as its main tool to achieve its goals, making it the sole global standard setting organization for plant health. Under IPPC- “Pest” is defined as “Any species, strain, or biotype of plant, animal or pathogenic agent injurious to plants or plant products”.

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Meetings of the National and Regional Weed Science Societies

Dec. 5 - 8, 2022 North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS), St. Louis, MO  [www.ncwss.org](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ncwss.org%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cerin.haramoto%40uky.edu%7C40c49a554a2c4f70422508d988ea4b9e%7C2b30530b69b64457b818481cb53d42ae%7C0%7C0%7C637691363061112613%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=nOR0mMlKMKdt%2F3cA%2BZVQkYun%2BGJgvzX5VEpwWldIlZ0%3D&reserved=0)

Jan. 23 - 26, 2023  Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS), Baton Rouge, LA [www.swss.ws](www.swss.ws%20)

Jan. 30 - Feb. 2, 2023  Northeastern Weed Science Society (NEWSS), Arlington, VA  [www.newss.org](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.newss.org%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cerin.haramoto%40uky.edu%7C40c49a554a2c4f70422508d988ea4b9e%7C2b30530b69b64457b818481cb53d42ae%7C0%7C0%7C637691363061122607%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=fgC4yERbvVVsxBrdXPtpb%2BRKZK19vzP%2F2ZbADS%2FCw9Q%3D&reserved=0)

Jan. 30 - Feb. 2, 2023  Weed Science Society of America (WSSA), Arlington, VA [www.wssa.net](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.wssa.net%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cerin.haramoto%40uky.edu%7C40c49a554a2c4f70422508d988ea4b9e%7C2b30530b69b64457b818481cb53d42ae%7C0%7C0%7C637691363061122607%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=ySRKxuVSzKxv1vJcA9QnkcHD1QjvEWr6QOSDEFC5gM8%3D&reserved=0)

Feb. 27 – Mar 2, 2023 Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS), Boise, ID [www.wsweedscience.org](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.wsweedscience.org%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cerin.haramoto%40uky.edu%7C40c49a554a2c4f70422508d988ea4b9e%7C2b30530b69b64457b818481cb53d42ae%7C0%7C0%7C637691363061132606%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=xZpNobwqaJPp77gOdxn5DsNErmSqxzN%2B9O0z%2BVPtbfY%3D&reserved=0)

Jul. 24 - 27, 2023  Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS), Indianapolis, IN [www.apms.org](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.apms.org%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cerin.haramoto%40uky.edu%7C40c49a554a2c4f70422508d988ea4b9e%7C2b30530b69b64457b818481cb53d42ae%7C0%7C0%7C637691363061142604%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=B1r2tdjnsPq1W281RW2CTqMKipotHXKqA7i3PUZruUM%3D&reserved=0)

**Motions/ Action Items:**

**Strategic Planning Committee Chair – Sarah Lancaster**

**Date of Preparation:** 12/03/2022

**Officer/committee Activities during the Year:**

After providing a survey report that indicated a desire for increased networking/mentoring, as well as other minor suggestions to improve the quality of meetings, strategic planning had a quiet 2022.

New representatives from each region were selected.

**Motions/Action Items:**

None.

We will meet on Tuesday to re-organize.

**Extension Committee Chair – Prashant Jha**

**Date of Preparation:**

**Officer/Committee Activities during the Year:**

**Motions/ Action Items:**

**Industry Chair – Ryan Henry**

**Date of Preparation:** 11/29/2022

**Officer/Committee Activities during the Year:** Together with Seth Strom (Co-chair), we identified a speaker from NCGA for the industry breakfast. Sponsorship information was mass-emailed in late July, with responses from various industry representatives over the subsequent months. At time of this report, sponsorship dollar value is $36,000, with a few contributions verbally committed but check is to arrive. This is in line with previous years.

Syngenta sponsored students to attend the industry breakfast again in 2022, and this level of support is very generous. “What’s New in Industry” session is being organized at time of this report. Speakers for 2023 and 2024 NCWSS industry breakfast have been discussed, and possibilities discussed are Dr. Robert Bertram of USAID’s Bureau of Resilience & Food Security and relevant groundskeeper at MLB stadium (e.g., 2023 try to contact Minnesota Twins).

**Motions/ Action Items:** After 2021 Industry session, idea was put forth to rename Industry Breakfast as Society Breakfast sponsored by Industry. Reasoning was to make sure everyone knows they are welcome, especially students. Thoughts on this? Vote on this?

**Graduate Student Chair– Monica Marrs/ Lily Woitaszewski**

**Date of Preparation:**

**Officer/Committee Activities during the Year:**

**Motions/ Action Items:**