

Minutes of NCWSS Board of Directors Meeting

Date: Nov 30, 2020

Place: Virtual meeting via Zoom

Time: 9.00 to 11.30 am Central Time

Roll Call:

Officer	Name	Roll Call
President	Stott Howard	X
President Elect	Harlene Hatterman-Valenti	X
Vice President	David Simpson	X
Secretary-Treasurer	Amit Jhala	X
Editor-NCWSS Proceedings	Joe Wuerffel	X
Editor- Communication/Newsletter	Joe Ikley	X
WSSA Representative	Greg Elmore	X
CAST Representative	Reid Smeda	X
Past President	Aaron Hager	X
Executive Secretary	Kelley Mazur	X
Director of Science Policy	Lee Van Wychen	X
Strategic Planning	Sarah Lancaster	X
Extension	Parminder Chahal	X
Industry	Lowell Sandell	X
Resident Education	Garrison Gundy	X
Graduate Student	Milos Zaric	X
Central Region	Mike Weber	X
Western Region	Trevor Israel	X
Eastern Region	Erin Haramoto	X

President – Stott Howard

Motions:

- **Motion 1:** Include WSSA harassment language in the NCWSS MOP.
Action: *It was decided to send this document to BOD members a month before the next BOD meeting so they can read and then vote. Amit to follow up.*

- **Motion 2:** Add 'proposal' category to student video contest? Moved: David Simpson, Second: Amit Jhala. Unanimous 'Yes' vote. Budget of \$200 for first place and \$100 for the second place is approved.
Action: *Amit will work with Parminder to finalize information for the 'NCWSS Student Video Contest' and then circulate to BOD for suggestion before including in MOP.*

- **Motion 3:** Approve minutes from Columbus and Summer Board of Directors meeting; Moved: Stott Howard, Second: Amit Jhala. Unanimous 'Yes' vote.
Action: *Meeting minutes will be circulated by secretary/treasurer to NCWSS BOD. Comments received within 30 days will be considered and then minutes will be uploaded on NCWSS website.*

President Elect – Harlene Hatterman-Valenti

An interest group committee and standing committee (Extension and Invasive Plants) seem to have little merit as a separate committee and have been joined with the section business meeting the past couple of years. I would like Stott Howard to review their need along with inconsistencies in the MOP and to bring forward recommendations.

Action:

- This will be discussed in March BOD meeting

Resident Education Committee Chair – Garrison Gundy

Dissolve the separate subcommittee regarding contest rules and move duties over to the Resident Education section in MOP. This is one of the responsibilities of the Resident Education Committee and currently creates confusion regarding Chair responsibility (Garrison).

Action:

- *Garrison to discuss with incoming chair of Resident Education Committee (Devin Hammer) and other committees such as Extension Committee Chair (Joe Ikley) and this will be discussed in summer BOD meeting*

Vice-President – David Simpson

Action:

- Suggested to reassess investment strategy from RBC as it gives only 1% interest rate (Amit to follow up)
- Increase registration fee from next in-person NCWSS meeting as we have been trending slightly negative year over year

Executive Secretary – Kelley Mazur

Action:

- Will be providing the Executive Committee with an evaluation form to be completed within a month of delivery

- Follow up with Amway Grand Plaza, Grand Rapids, MI for the 2021 NCWSS meeting and know the policy for cancellation (in case)
- Follow up about NCWSS website redesign proposal by Apex Web Studio.

Secretary/Treasurer – Amit Jhala

Action:

- Follow up with ‘WSSA harassment language’ in the NCWSS MOP
- Add ‘proposal’ category to student video contest
- Prepare and approve minutes from Nov 30 BOD meeting
- Prepare and approve minutes from Dec 2 BOD meeting
- Provide analysis of investments to BOD during summer meeting
- Identify candidates for the NCWSS CAST Representative and work with Kelley for election

Proceedings Editor – Joe Wuerffel

Action:

- ‘Official 2020 NCWSS Proceedings’ to be posted by end of December 2020

Communications /Newsletter Editor – Joe Ikley

Action:

- Continue using social media such as Twitter to release news/information related with NCWSS meetings and activities. Call for items for next NCWSS Newsletter.
- Explore possibility of conducting 2021 Weed Contest at NDSU and discuss during March BOD meeting

WSSA Representative – Greg Elmore

Action:

- Greg’s term as WSSA representative ends in February 2021. Discuss transition of role with Brett Miller, incoming WSSA representative
- Brett Miller to discuss possibility of a joint WSSA and NCWSS meeting in 2025/26 with Mark Loux, NCWSS Site Selection Committee Chair and President Harlene. Will be discussed in March BOD meeting

Past President – Aaron Hager

Action:

- Clarifying if a subcommittee or the Chair of the DAA is responsible for the graduate student awards and travel grants
- Expanding the number of individuals serving on the DAA so there are more evaluations of nominations

Extension – Parminder Chahal

Action:

- Work with Amit to finalize the text for the ‘NCWSS Student Video Contest’ as this is not in MOP

Industry – Lowell Sandell

Action:

- Continue updating contact list for NCWSS Industry Sustaining Membership

Graduate Student – Milos Zaric

Action: Discuss transition of role with incoming Chair of Graduate Student Committee: Edinaldo Borgato

NCWSS Committee and Officer Reports

President – Stott Howard

Date of Preparation: 11/23/2020

Officer/Committee Activities during the Year:

Most activities involved adjusting plans to ensure the health and safety of our membership as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic:

- Cancelled the student weed contest. North Dakota State University and Corteva agreed to delay their hosting of the contest by one year. Thank you to both organizations for their flexibility!
- Conducted a membership survey (thanks to the 250 that participated!) that indicated the ‘preference’ was to have a face-to-face meeting, but there were significant concerns regarding personal health & safety, travel authorization and the risk of planning a face-to-face meeting that could be cancelled days before it was scheduled to start. At the summer board meeting, based upon survey results and board member feasibility investigations the BOD voted in favor of a virtual format for our 75th annual meeting.
- Switching to a virtual format did bring some financial risk to the NCWSS.
 - Mark Loux and Tina Nebuloni negotiated a settlement with the Minneapolis Hyatt for our 2020 hotel contract: cancellation fee of \$10,814.20 plus agreeing to have our 2023 NCWSS annual meeting at the Minneapolis Hyatt.
 - We set meeting registration fees at \$300 for regular members, \$170 for Fellows and \$100 for students (not a significant reduction). Ideally, we need at least 250 participants to defray the costs associated with the virtual meeting service provider (the BOD approved the estimate of \$55,000 for ‘In House’).
 - We also needed to maintain our present level of income from sustaining members.
- The Program and Local Arrangements Committees led by Harlene Hatterman-Valenti and Eric Spandl, respectively did an excellent job of reconfiguring the traditional face-to-face meeting to a virtual format! We hope that the society can learn from this experience methods to broaden participation in future annual meeting for those that are not able to travel to a face-to-face meeting.
- Thank you to the Board of Directors and all the past presidents (especially Aaron Hager) from whom I sought counsel for navigating the challenges associated with this annual meeting!

Held two elections during the year:

- Special election for the roles of Communications Editor and Secretary-Treasurer, which were filled by Joe Ikley and Amit Jhala, respectively.
- General election for the roles of Vice-President and WSSA Representative, which were filled by Reid Smeda and Brett Miller, respectively. As Reid was already a member of the NCWSS BOD he resigned as CAST Representative. This role will need to be filled ASAP following the annual meeting.
- Unfortunately, society membership participation in elections is not impressive (approximately 30%). This is disappointing when one considers how easy it is to vote.
- Thanks to Amit Jhala and the nominations committee for presenting excellent candidates to the society for these society offer positions.

WSSA activities:

- Science Policy Committee meetings including virtual ‘Washington Week’ with the other weed society presidents. Lee Van Wychen organized Zoom calls with approximately fifteen House and Senate offices to discuss topics of concern to the society. These were very enlightening and productive conversations.
- WSSA Nominations Committee

Motions/ Action Items:

- Include WSSA harassment language in the NCWSS MOP
 - Add ‘proposal’ category to student video contest
 - Approve minutes from Columbus and Summer Board of Directors meeting
 - Election for CAST Representative
-

President Elect/Program Chair - Harlene Hatterman-Valenti

Date of Preparation: 11/24/2020

Officer/Committee Activities during the Year:

Most of my time after the summer Board of Directors Zoom meeting and follow-up Zoom meetings has been devoted to planning the program for the 75th annual meeting. I am grateful for all the assistance from Local Arrangements Chair Eric Spandl, Executive Secretary Kelley Mazur, and especially President Stott Howard. Much of this would not have been accomplished without their help.

There were 75 posters and 85 papers submitted, excluding General Session and Symposia paper, for the meeting as of November 20 when the final program was submitted to the Executive Secretary. Since this is the 75th anniversary of NCWSS, the General Session has two Past-Presidents give presentations that encompass this historical event. Dr. Cal Messersmith will present: NCWSS past, present, and future: An academic perspective, while Dr. Tom Peters will present: NCWSS past, present, and future: An industry perspective.

All paper and poster titles and abstracts were submitted through the new Weed Science Society of America Abstract submission site. I am extremely thankful to David Krueger and Joyce Lancaster of Apex WebStudio for their assistance on program operations and for addressing all my email questions. To be proactive for graduate students unknowingly not entering the contest, I contacted all graduate students that did not enter the contest and were not winners from last year’s competition. There was only one student that needed his submission changed to be in the contest. In contrast, there were at least 20 changes to presentation titles and authors. There was also one person that wanted his poster switched to an oral presentation and vice versa and one person that wanted her oral presentation switched to a poster due to COVID. The Excel spreadsheets of poster and paper contestants were provided to the Chair of the student contest in advance to assist with the judging assignments.

The 2020 program will include only two symposia since the program is virtual. Nicholas Arneson organized an extension symposium where Extension specialists from weed science and other disciplines, throughout the US, will share insights on what they have learned and what techniques have proven effective through limited direct interaction with farmers and decision influencers. Steve Valenti organized an equipment and application methods symposium that will cover the nuts and bolts of

application technology; starting with where we have been and progressing to where we are going. In addition, BASF has sponsored and organized a virtual Quiz Bowl on Monday; Anita Dille has organized the Women in Weed Science session on Tuesday; Lowell Sandell has organized the What's New in Industry session on Wednesday, and two gold sustaining members (Corteva and Syngenta) will be providing virtual tours to graduate students on Thursday.

Budget needs: None

Suggestions for future: An interest group committee and standing committee (Extension and Invasive Plants) seem to have little merit as a separate committee and have been joined with the section business meeting the past couple of years. I would like Stott Howard to review their need along with inconsistencies in the MOP and to bring forward recommendations.

Current Committee members: Harlene Hatterman-Valenti, David Simpson, and Stott Howard

Suggestions for future committee members: Stott Howard – see suggestions for future.

Motions/ Action Items:

Resident Education Committee Chair – Garrison Gundy

Date of Preparation: 11/19/2020

Officer/Committee Activities during the Year:

Worked with BOD and Eric Spandl to alter student contest at the annual meeting to be more interactive with virtual format (added audio overview for posters/ video format for papers). Adjusted the rubrics to incorporate these changes. Committee met multiple times to discuss format and to find tutorial information to help students prepare video and audio files for contest.

Motions/ Action Items:

Dissolve the separate subcommittee regarding contest rules and move duties over to the Resident Education section in MOP. This is one of the responsibilities of the Resident Education Committee and currently creates confusion regarding Chair responsibility.

Proceedings Editor – Joe Wuerffel

Date of Preparation: 11/19/2020

Officer/Committee Activities during the Year:

- New abstract submission tool was excellent to use. Many thanks to David at Apex for his flexibility and excellent support.
 - Several new features worth noting:
 - Word count feature on the submission page seemed to help keep abstracts short
 - New author batch editing tool is a major time saver for the program chair
 - Output options are fantastic - they create an excellent, heavily formatted report in very little time
 - Challenges
 - Must install on local machine... challenging for industry sometimes
 - Long lead time for any major changes
 - Issue with access for 2 members... David quickly resolved and is aware
- Better abstract participation over last year... only 5 authors did not submit abstracts this year out of 162 presentations! Last year was around 10 or so...
- Joe committed to deliver 'Unofficial Proceedings' by Nov 23rd, at least a week before the meeting. Many still seem to find this useful and with the new reports it's simpler to do so than ever.
- 'Official Proceedings' to be posted by end of December

Motions/ Action Items:

Communication Editor – Joe Ikley

Date of Preparation: 11/19/2020

Officer/Committee Activities during the Year:

- Call for items for Summer Newsletter went out July 6th. Summer newsletter distributed via e-mail and Twitter on August 25th.
- Call for items for Fall Newsletter went out on October 12th. Fall Newsletter distributed via e-mail and Twitter on November 3rd.
- Summary of 75th Annual Meeting created for advertising purposes and sent for distribution to the BOD and Extension Weed Scientists on November 4th.
- Regular updates on deadlines for talks, abstracts, and registration sent via Twitter (24 Tweets since late summer).

Motions/ Action Items:

Vice President – David Simpson

Date of Preparation: 11/29/2020

Officer/Committee Activities during the Year:

It has been my pleasure to serve on the society as Vice President during the challenges presented by Covid-19 in 2020. As part of the Program committee, I would like to commend the Program committee in their commitment to deliver a virtual program to meet the needs of our society. As Vice-President, I have represented the NCWSS on the WSSA Public Awareness committee to promote Weed Science through press releases. In 2020, WSSA press release topics included recognition of WSSA honors award winners, National Invasive species, IR-4, support for FIFRA, and weed genomics. Has there been consideration for NCWSS to use WSSA Public Awareness committee as another means for promoting the student and honor award winners? In the coming days, I will be attending committee meetings during the NCWSS meetings to understand the committee makeups and challenges.

Motions/ Action Items:

Past President – Aaron Hager

Date of Preparation: 11/20/2020

Officer/Committee Activities during the Year:

It was a pleasure to serve the NCWSS as Past President in 2020. I was able to participate in most Board of Director virtual business meetings and was grateful to assist President Howard with many thoughtful questions and conversations. Another activity for 2020 was to serve as Chair for the Distinguished Achievement and Outstanding Graduate Student awards. A call for Distinguished Achievement Award and Outstanding Graduate Student award nominations appeared in the summer newsletter. The DAA committee evaluated seven nominations for DAA and three nominations for Outstanding Graduate Students. The DAA committee selected five DAA recipients and one Outstanding Graduate Student recipient. The Board of Directors approved all proposed award recipients. Two DAA nominations will carry over for consideration in 2021.

Motions/ Action Items:

Currently, there exists the DAA committee and a subcommittee for Outstanding Graduate Student and Travel Awards chaired in 2020 by Christy Sprague along with Bruce Ackley. Because our annual meeting in 2020 became virtual, there were no Graduate Student Travel Awards awarded. I owe an apology to Dr. Sprague and Bruce in that I failed to ask them to handle the Outstanding Graduate Student award; rather, I received these nominations and forwarded them to the DAA for their respective evaluations.

Possible action items include: 1) clarifying if a subcommittee or the Chair of the DAA is responsible for the graduate student awards and travel grants, and 2) expanding the number of individuals serving on the DAA so there are more evaluations of nominations.

Executive Secretary – Kelley Mazur

Date of Preparation: 11/21/2020

Annual Meeting:

Due to COVID-19 and travel restrictions, the in-person meeting in Minneapolis, MN was postponed, and a virtual format was constructed to take its place. NCWSS paid \$10,814.20 in penalty fees to the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis and the budgeted expense to the virtual meeting is estimated at \$50,470.00 to InHouse Media. The Program Committee has worked tirelessly to keep the annual meeting as traditional as possible, including events for the graduate students and the Women in Weed Science meeting. A big thank you goes to Stott Howard, Eric Spandl, Harlene Hatterman-Valenti, Milos Zaric, and Joe Wuerffel for their dedication and hard work in the creation of this unprecedented event. Below is a summary of past meeting preregistration and statistics:

Registration as of November 20, 2020 at 7:55am MST

Fellows: 22

Regular Members: 177

Students: 68

Total: 267

	<i>Virtual</i>	<i>Columbus</i>	<i>Milwaukee</i>	<i>St. Louis</i>	<i>Des Moines</i>	<i>Indianapolis</i>	<i>Minneapolis</i>
	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2014</i>
Members	222 + 25 (fellow)	249	257	347	284	273	270
Students	88	106	89	115	107	88	90
Total	334	355	346	462	391	361	360
Final	TBD	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
>60 days	58	0	0
>45 days	52	76	55
44-30 days	68	72	41

29-15 days	114	129	83
14-3 days	46	37	88
Onsite	37	41	-
Total	375	355	267

Officer/committee Activities during the Year:

Much of the latter part of the year has been laser focused on producing the virtual annual meeting and disseminating meeting information to attendees and membership. Sustaining Membership renewals were solicited heavily. To get an idea of the communication involved, last year there were 30 emails total, that were sent to membership regarding the 2019 Annual Meeting. To date, there have been over 40, with planned communication ramping up in the coming weeks. *(These numbers do not include newsletters)*

The attached financials show NCWSS net worth at \$471,096.45 with the RBC Account valued at \$117,674.42. The comparison from this year to last year can be found in the attached Balance Sheet.

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

10000 AHB - Checking - 739	45,378.23
10010 AHB - MM - 705	79,463.31
10020 AHB - CD3 - 1.2 - 8/24 - 5yr	47,595.52
10030 AHB - CD4 - .902 - 8/22 - 4yr	47,404.92
10040 AHB - CD5 - 1.3 - 9/20 - 5Yr	42,851.29
10050 AHB - CD6 - 1.45 - 9/21 - 5YR	42,892.97
10060 AHB - CD7 - 1.45 - 9/22 - 5YR	42,787.08
10070 RBC Account	117,674.42

RBC Report by Stan Cooper:

TBD

Action/Discussion Items:

IMI Evaluation

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: 11/23/2020

Officer/Committee Activities during the Year:

- Assume position of secretary/treasurer in May 2020 and participated in NCWSS survey, most zoom meetings for organizing 2020 NCWSS Virtual meeting
- Developed agenda for the July 2020 NCWSS BOD meeting, prepared and circulated meeting minutes
- Provided registration fee model for the virtual meeting. Regular Member: \$300 (last year \$325); Student Member: \$100; Fellow & Honorary member: \$170

Prepared following motions, received votes, and circulated results to BOD:

- NCWSS MOP edits in the duties of Communications Editor
- NCWSS MOP edits in the duties of Executive Secretary
- NCWSS Contract with Interactive Management Incorporated (IMI) for next five years
- Budget for 2020 virtual NCWSS meeting
- NCWSS paid \$10,814.20 in penalty fees to the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis

Budget update for 2020 NCWSS virtual meeting compared with no meeting and 2019 meeting

Cost Item	No Meeting	Virtual Meeting	2019 Meeting
NCWSS operating cost	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$73,000 ^a
Hotel penalty/cost	\$10,800	\$10,800	\$69,700
Virtual service provider (InHouse Media, MN)	0	\$55,000	0
Sustaining membership ^b	\$16,000 ^b	\$30,000 ^b	\$34,000
Revenue generation estimate	0	\$83,750 ^c	\$87,300
Bottom line ^d	-\$49,800	-\$7,050	-\$21,400

\$55,000 NCWSS operating cost + \$18,000 for Weed Contest in 2019. Weed Contest in 2020 was canceled.

^b Sustaining membership is industry sponsorship to NCWSS which is about \$35,000 per year. We are expecting \$30,000 for virtual meeting by Dec 1, 2020. If no annual meeting is conducted in 2020, sustaining membership would reduce to about \$16,000 as sponsors will not have opportunity to present/advertise their products.

^c Revenue generation is estimated based on 350 total attendees. Registration fee of 235 regular members (\$300/member X 235 = \$70,500); 90 students (\$100/student x 90 = 9,000); 25 fellows (\$170/fellow member x 25 = 4,250), so a total of \$83,750 from registration.

^d Other income of NCWSS such as interest, dividend, etc. is not included.

Update on NCWSS Budget (Documents attached)

- NCWSS Balance Sheet Comparison as of 11/21/2020
- NCWSS Profit and Loss statement (Dec 2019 to Nov 2020)

Motions/ Action Items:

Update in criteria for NCWSS fellow awards suggested by fellow awards committee

Add a sentence “Nominator should have been or a current member of the NCWSS at the time of submission of nomination package” and “NCWSS Fellow Award Committee members are not eligible to nominate or write support letters”.

WSSA Representative– Greg Elmore

Date of Preparation: November 20, 2020

Officer/Committee Activities during the Year:

- Attended WSSA Science Policy meetings bi-monthly
- Attended WSSA Board of Director (BOD) meetings
 - o The BOD voted to pass code of conduct language (this covers all functions of the WSSA and all conduct during and around the annual meeting)
 - o The BOD voted to authorize the use of \$10,000 to create a more responsive website.
 - o Shared NCWSS annual (virtual) meeting ideas
 - o Edited the WSSA “COVID-19 Snapshot Poll: WSSA Meeting in February” that was sent to the membership then reviewed the results with the WSSA BOD
 - o The BOD discussed annual meeting plans and voted to hold the meeting virtually
- Reviewed the WSSA EPA Liaison and NIFA Fellow role description modifications in the MOP
- Reviewed excellent candidates for the WSSA Outstanding Research Award
- Agreed to serve on the WSSA Strategic Planning Committee to set the framework for the WSSA for the next five years
- Agreed to run for WSSA Treasurer position
- Upcoming WSSA meetings:
 - o Virtual - February 2021
 - o Vancouver Sheraton Wall Center Feb 21-24, 2022 Joint meeting with CWSS
 - o January 30 to Feb 2, 2023 Arlington, VA, joint meeting with NEWSS
 - o The plan in 2024 is a joint meeting with SWSS
- My term as NCWSS representative to the WSSA ends in February 2021

Motions/ Action Items:

CAST Representative – Reid Smeda

Date of Preparation:

Officer/Committee Activities during the Year:

Motions/ Action Items:

Director of Science Policy – Lee Van Wychen

Date of Preparation: 11/28/2020

Yellow Highlight = input/feedback appreciated.

2020 Elections will Bring Leadership Changes in Congress and Federal Agencies

- House Ag Committee will have **new chair and ranking member**. Since the Chair and Ranking Member hire all the committee staff, this will likely mean a major turnover in committee staff expertise. Top candidates for chair are David Scott-GA and Jim Costa-CA. Ranking member candidates include GT Thompson-PA and Austin Scott-GA.
- Senate Ag Committee will have a new chair. Depending on which party controls the Senate, the Chair will either be John Boozman-AR or Debbie Stabenow-MI.
- USDA Secretary: top candidates include former ND Senator Heidi Heitkamp, Rep. Marcia Fudge-OH, and outgoing House Ag Chair Rep. Collin Peterson-MN
- Interior Secretary: top candidates include retiring NM Senator Tom Udall, Rep. Deb Haaland-NM and Sen. Martin Heinrich- NM.
- EPA Admin candidates include Mary Nichols-CA Air Resources Board and WA Gov. Jay Inslee

Weed Science/Aquatic Plant Management “Virtual” Congressional Visits:

Held 22 visits with staffers in GA, IA, IN, LA, MN, MT, NC, PA, UT & VA. Top issues:

- Oppose H.R. 7940 and S. 4406, the “anti-FIFRA” legislation introduced by Rep. Neguse-CO and Sen. Udall-NM. We also joined 300+ societies in a [letter to every member](#) of Congress and also issued a separate [press release](#).
- Support USDA IR-4 funding at President’s request of \$17 million for FY 2021. The House passed an FY 2021 appropriation of \$15 million. FY 2020 funding was \$12 million and has been stuck at the level for over a decade. The Senate stayed with the FY 2020 number.
- Glyphosate is safe and is often referred to by weed scientists as a “once in a century herbicide”. IARC decision is flawed. Opposed to HR 1783 sponsored by Rep. DeLauro (CT).
- Support funding for the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Aquatic Plant Control (APC) program at the Senate level of \$7 million for FY 2021.
- Support the Senate’s version (S. 3591) of the 2020 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), which includes \$25 million for a Harmful Algal Bloom demonstration program and funding for various invasive species pilot programs that the House version (HR 7575) does not contain.

Weed Science Policy Fellows- Our 2020 Science Policy Fellows are Camp Hand at the University of Georgia (advisor: Stanley Culpepper) and Vasiliy Lakoba at Virginia Tech (advisor: Jacob Barney). Instead of trips to Washington DC for meetings and networking, everything has been virtual. Both of them will be finishing their Ph.D. programs in spring 2021.

WSSA- EPA Liaison & NIFA Fellow

The WSSA Board approved updates on the MOP's for both positions (as well as my position).

- Greg Kruger will be stepping down from the EPA Liaison role in 2021 and will be helping mentor the new liaison. [Candidates should apply by Feb. 1, 2021.](#) Please direct prospective applicants to WSSA President Bill Curran and myself.
- Our WSSA NIFA-Fellow, Jim Kells, has had limited opportunities to interact with NIFA staff because of NIFA's move to Kansas City in 2019 and Covid in 2020. Jim will be **renewing** his role for three years.
- The WSSA webinar: Federal Funding Opportunities for Weed Science Research and Extension on Oct. 28 was well received. The next WSSA webinar on **Grantsmanship** is Wednesday, December 16 at 3:00pm ET.

Weed Genomics Conference: A USDA-NIFA proposal from weed scientists for funding a Weed Genomics conference has been approved. Submitted by Tranel/Gaines/Patterson/Jugulam. Tentative conference date is April 7-9, 2021 in Kansas City.

Genetic Mapping of Weeds Fact Sheet: The WSSA Public Awareness Committee, chaired by Carroll Moseley, has worked hard to publish this [fact sheet](#) and an accompanying [press release](#) that explores the status of weed genomics, what weed scientists are learning, and the potential impact on future weed control.

FY 2021 Appropriations:

There is currently a continuing resolution funding the government at FY 2020 levels until Dec. 11, 2020. The House has passed 10 of their 12 appropriations bill, while the Senate just released their FY 2021 appropriations numbers. A lame-duck session deal is expected.

USDA Program	FY19 Final	FY20 Final		FY21 President	FY21 House	FY21 Senate	FY21 Final
	-----Millions -----						
ARS	\$1,303	\$1,414		\$1,368	\$1,452	\$1,510	?
NIFA	\$1,471	\$1,527		\$1,591	\$1,574	\$1,539	?
AFRI Competitive Grants	\$415	\$425		\$600	\$435	\$435	?
Hatch Act (Exp. stations)	\$259	\$259		\$243	\$259	\$259	?
Smith Lever (Extension)	\$315	\$315		\$299	\$315	\$315	?
IR-4 Program	\$12	\$12		\$17	\$15	\$12	?
Crop Protection and Pest Management (CPPM)	\$20	\$20		\$20	\$20	\$20	?

Note- For FY 2021, both the House and Senate provide \$3 million to APHIS to partner with State departments of agriculture and forestry commissions in States considered to be the epicenter of **cogongrass** infestations to assist with its control and treatment.

USDA-ARS: Expect an announcement in late December 2020 about USDA hiring a new National Program Leader (NPL) for weed science in the ARS Crop Protection and Quarantine program (NP 304). The best part is that this individual is actually a weed scientist!

USDA Ag Innovation Agenda comments: We submitted comments based on [WSSA's 2018 Research Priorities](#), but adjusted them to fit the requested format.

EPA's Final Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ) Requirements:

The National and Regional Weed Science Societies [submitted comments](#) on EPA's proposed Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ) requirements in Jan. 2020. EPA finalized their AEZ requirements in October 2020. The AEZ is the area surrounding pesticide application equipment that exists during outdoor pesticide applications. Below are some of the improvements made:

- AEZ requirements only apply within the boundaries of the agricultural establishment, removing off-farm responsibilities that were difficult for state regulators to enforce.
- Immediate family members of farm owners are now exempted from all aspects of the AEZ requirements. Farm owners and their family are now able to shelter in place inside closed buildings, giving them flexibility to decide whether to stay on-site.
- New clarifying language has been added so that applications that are suspended due to individuals entering an AEZ may be resumed after those individuals have left the AEZ.
- Simplified criteria to determine whether applications are subject to the 25- or 100-foot AEZ.

Dicamba:

In Jan. 2020, Greg Kruger and I worked with EPA to host a meeting for weed scientists to present their dicamba research. Controversy still remains in the courts and with EPA's decision to re-register.

- Several states that wanted the flexibility to address their own cutoff dates and temperature restrictions are upset that EPA took away the FIFRA Section 24(c) process from them after more than two decades of precedence. **This was a major regulatory change and no public comments were allowed.**

Paraquat:

EPA issued a [proposed interim decision \(PID\) for paraquat](#) re-registration on Oct.22, 2020.

Comments are due Dec. 22, 2020. WSSA has requested a 90-day extension. WSSA has previously submitted comments on EPA's draft human health and ecological risk assessments for paraquat in 2016 and 2019. The proposed interim decision contains the following measures:

- **Prohibiting aerial application for all uses** and use sites except cotton desiccation;
- Prohibiting pressurized handgun and backpack sprayer application methods on the label;
- Limiting the maximum application rate for alfalfa to one pound of active ingredient per acre;

- Requiring enclosed cabs if area treated in 24-hour period is more than 80 acres;
- Requiring a 48-hour REI for all crops and uses except cotton desiccation (7 day REI);
- Adding mandatory spray drift management label language.
- More permissive: Truck drivers who are not certified applicators can transport previously opened paraquat containers.

Triazines:

On Nov. 5, 2020, EPA issued its [draft Endangered Species Act Biological Evaluations](#) for atrazine, simazine and propazine. **Comments are due Jan. 5, 2021.** WSSA has requested a 90-day extension.

- These are the **first herbicides** to go through EPA's Revised Method for Species Biological Evaluations of Conventional Pesticides.
- The biological evaluations (BE's) make effects determinations for 1,795 listed species and 792 designated critical habitats
- EPA models predict that:
 - Atrazine is likely to adversely affect 54 percent of all species and 40 percent of critical habitats
 - Propazine is likely to adversely affect 4 percent of all species and 2 percent of critical habitats
 - Simazine is likely to adversely affect approximately 53 percent of species and 40 percent of critical habitats.
- EPA's ecological risk assessments of the triazines from a couple years ago had several issues with their models and data quality, which has yet to be fully addressed. This has led to a larger number of "likely to adversely effect" determinations.
- Hawaii is a hot spot for endangered species, so modeling of application buffers there will be important for determining risk and appropriate use.
- The new endangered species act assessments may serve as a precedent for future evaluations.

Glyphosate:

On Nov. 27, 2020, EPA issued its [draft Endangered Species Act Biological Evaluations](#) for glyphosate. **Comments are due Jan. 26, 2021.** WSSA will likely request an extension of this comment period as well. EPA determined that 93% of the endangered species it considered could be negatively affected with plants accounting for more than half of them. EPA also concluded that 96% of the critical habitats it considered could be at risk from glyphosate as well. If this draft conclusion is finalized as is, EPA will have to consult with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service to figure out how best to protect these species and habitats in its registration decisions for glyphosate.

Comments on Interior's Draft Invasive Species Plan: The National and Regional Weed Science Societies [submitted comments](#) on the Department of the Interior's efforts to develop a comprehensive Invasive Species Strategic Plan. Invasive weeds in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems are estimated to cost nearly \$30 billion per year.

2021 National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW):

Working with Belle Bergner, Exec. Director for NAISMA, to help coordinate. Tentative dates for a “legislative week” are Feb. 22-26, 2021. Any input on invasive weed policies and funding is welcome. The traditional NISAW with awareness activities and “in the field” events at the state and local levels will likely be in May 2021.

Aligning USDA Plants Database with WSSA Composite Lists of Weeds:

The USDA Plants Database is now considered the official source of weed taxonomy for the WSSA journals. However, there are still many weed common names in WSSA Composite List of Weeds that do not match up with USDA’s database. Karla Gage, chair of WSSA’s Standardized Plant Names Committee, Carroll Moseley, and I have been meeting with Gerry Moore, the USDA Plants Database team leader, to address these issues. The Standardized Plants Name Committee will be going through the 3,000+ weeds in WSSA’s database to address mismatches and report to the WSSA Board.

National Survey of Common and Troublesome Weeds: The 2020 survey results for weeds in grass crops, pastures & turf are posted at <http://wssa.net/wssa/weed/surveys/>. Weeds barely mentioned in 2017 that **increased in 2020**: medusahead, ventenata, dogfennel, Scotch thistle, vaseygrass, Lehmann lovegrass, milkweed spp., and Lepidium spp.

- Top 3 most **common** weeds in **all** grass crops: 1) pigweed spp., 2) foxtail spp., and 3) crabgrass spp.
- Top 3 most **troublesome** weeds in all grass crops: 1) pigweed spp., 2) Cirsium/Carduus spp., and 3) bluegrass spp.

Motions/ Action Items:

Strategic Planning Committee Chair – Sarah Lancaster

Date of Preparation: 11/19/2020

Officer/committee Activities during the Year:

The committee met in Columbus, where the primary discussion concerned the communications/newsletter editor position. The committee drafted necessary documents, which were reviewed and amended. Dr. Joe Ikley was elected to fill the position.

Motions/Action Items:

Extension Chair – Parminder Chahal

Date of Preparation: 11/20/2020

Officer/Committee Activities during the Year:

Student Video Contest was organized again this year at the NCWSS 2020 meeting. The rules and instructions regarding the participation were emailed to the students and faculty registered at NCWSS with the help of Kelley Mazur and were also published in the 2020 summer and fall newsletter. A third new category “Project Proposal” was created besides Extension/Education and Research in 2020 which resulted in greater number of video submissions received compared to the previous years. There were 3 videos submitted under Extension/Education, 3 videos under Research, and 5 videos under Project Proposal category by students this year. Three judges for each video category have been assigned to score the videos and winners list will be sent to Eric during the week of November 23rd.

Nick Arneson (University of Wisconsin, weed science outreach specialist) submitted the extension symposium idea and will be the chair/moderator to organize the symposium. The symposium is scheduled from 2 to 5 pm on Wednesday December 2nd. As per my communication with Nick, there are 5 speakers, Dr. Abbey Wick + Dr. Joe Ikley from NDSU. Dr. Stanley Culpepper from UGA. Dr. Damon Smith from UW-Madison, and Laura Thompson from UNL. Each speakers will have around 20 minutes for presentation and have been asked to keep the symposium under 3 hours. Nick and I will get together next week and will discuss some guiding questions for the panel discussion after the speakers have presented in the extension symposium.

Motions/ Action Items:

Industry Chair – Lowell Sandell

Date of Preparation: 11/24/2020

Officer/Committee Activities during the Year:

The Industry Committee had a successful year soliciting Sustaining Membership support for the meeting/Society. 21 companies provided support across three levels (5 Gold, 3 Silver, and 13 Bronze), contributing approximately \$30,500. With Kelley’s help, we invested quite a bit of time in September and October updating the Sustaining Membership contacts list. For the 2020 Virtual meeting we will have 9 companies providing updates in the “What’s New in Industry” session.

Motions/ Action Items:

Graduate Student Chair– Milos Zaric

Date of Preparation: 11/21/2020

Officer/Committee Activities during the Year:

- Participated in zoom meetings to help BOD with delivery of 2020 NCWSS Virtual Meetings
- Provided materials from previous NCWSS meetings to Eric Spandl for platform testing
- Worked closely with Kelley Mazur and Joe Wuerffel to create Graduate Student Virtual Tour with Syngenta's facilities in UK and US that will be on 12/02/2020
Joe will provide link that will be distributed at day of the meeting
- Developed event that will be on 11/30/2020
NCWSS 2020 Talk to Students - What after graduate school?
This event is designed to help students to hear different experiences and perspectives and at least to think about them when deciding about what after graduate school.
Six presenters agreed to help with event and share their experience from graduate school to position where they are working right now.
Academia: Sarah Lancaster, Meaghan Anderson, and Rodrigo Werle
Industry: Zahoor Ganie, Marshall Hay, and Parminder Chahal

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=rQHb_YNJbkOrNRrwQ7gYyQxcbSRQsX9FslNLxma3j7JURUU1QzQyTDE0V1VZVlFMEpOMEI1UEU0VC4u

- Organized all graduate student meetings and provided Zoom links for them for upcoming 2021 Graduate Student Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson Nominations (will be sent to graduate students ahead of time). The idea is to see how many nominees will be signed for positions if too many signed three with top nominations will be chosen and if the same name appears for both position, they will be asked what is their preference. Afterwards top candidates will record 3min video that will be sent to students. Actual voting will happen during meeting and will be live on 12/02/2020
- https://forms.office.com/Pages/DesignPage.aspx#FormId=rQHb_YNJbkOrNRrwQ7gYyQxcbSRQsX9FslNLxma3j7JUN1RTUjMwRFVQRE5OMzMwRk1WU0pRMEFGVC4u

Motions/ Action Items:

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- **Change current survey approach in terms of asked question (at least for this year)**

The main goal of this would be for society to get an idea about potential hybrid versions of regular in-person meetings (just to employ zoom links for every room where presentations will go). Which can be cost effective it will attract more people to participate from different societies or worldwide. This year everyone is overwhelmed of zoom meetings but during next several years this will change.

Future Site Selection Committee Chair– Mark Loux

Date of Preparation: 11/24/2020

Officer/Committee Activities during the Year:

We have venues scheduled through 2023 now, since Hyatt Minneapolis contract was renegotiated for December 2023 due to COVID. Schedule: 2021 – Amway Grand Plaza, Grand Rapids, MI; 2022 – Hyatt St Louis, St Louis MO; 2023 - Hyatt Minneapolis, Minneapolis, MN. No action needed by the NCWSS board at this time.

Budget needs: None

Suggestions for future: None

Current Committee members: Mark Loux, Christy Sprague, Charles Slack, Greg Dahl, Eric Spandl

Suggestions for future committee members: Amit Jhala; Joint meeting with WSSA in 2025?