



**Crop Science Society of America Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Monday, Jan. 27, 2025 11:00am-12:15pm (Central)**

Resources: [Strategic Plan, Bylaws, Minutes](#) | [Membership Dashboard](#) | [Board Outreach](#)

President Mark Sorrells called the meeting to order.

Board members present:

President Mark Sorrells, Cornell
 Past President Kim Garland-Campbell, USDA-ARS
 C-1 Melanie Bayles, Oklahoma State Univ.
 C-2 John Snider, University of Georgia-Tifton
 C-3-Elect Laura Lindsey, Ohio State University
 C-4 Nicole Anderson, Oregon State Univ.
 C-5 Cale Bigelow, Purdue
 C-6-Elect Vanessa Corriher-Olson, Texas AgriLife
 C-7-Elect John Fellers, USDA-ARS
 C-9 Mary Guttieri, USDA-ARS
 Grad Student Rep. Tina Sullivan, Kansas State Univ.
 Finance Chair Stephen Malone, USDA-AMS
 Industry Leah Brilman, DLF
 Ex-Officio without Vote: Editor-in-Chief Bingru Huang, Rutgers; ASF Vice Chair Heidi Peterson, Sand County Foundation; CEO Jim Cudahy

Unable to attend:

President-Elect Felix Fritsch, Univ. of Missouri
 C-8 Dipak Santra, Univ. of Nebraska
 DEI-At-Large Geoffrey Koch, Petrchor Consulting
 Program Planning Officer: Nithya Rajan, Texas A&M

Also attending:

Susan Chapman, Special Projects Director
 Susan Dearing-Bond, Development Director
 Sanford Moore, Finance Director
 Ian Popkewitz, IT & Operations Director
 Luther Smith, Chief Administrative Officer
 Sara Uttech, Governance Director
 Matt Wascavage, Publications Director

C003 CSSA Board of Directors

1. President Mark Sorrells provided a welcome, and opening remarks related to role of board members. He also reviewed the CSSA Strategic Plan (2024-2028), including the six CSSA Strategic Objectives and three Cross-Society Objectives.
2. CEO Jim Cudahy provided a re-orientation on the role of the board, including duties, and conflicts of interest.
 - Board members are encouraged to communicate to their Division/Groups/Committees:
 - 2025 Division Chairs contacts: www.crops.org/membership/divisions
 - New Member Hub’s Discussion Circles: memberhub.sciencesocieties.org
 - Outreach PowerPoint: www.sciencesocieties.org/about-society/outreach
 - Monthly Cross-Society Board Communique emailed and posted to Member Hub
 - Following discussion, there was consensus to approve the ACSESS Board Meeting Task Force proposed schedule and review effectiveness along the way. Board members are encouraged to use the Member Hub’s CSSA Board Circle for communication and engagement in between meetings:

Proposed CSSA Board Meetings in 2025		
Month	Theme/ Strategic Objectives	Additional Topics
January	Role of the Board	
March	Innovate to ensure long-term financial stability	Budget & Finance: Investment Strategies
May	Science Policy	
June/July/August – Summer Board meeting in Madison	External communication/Member recruitment & retention	2026 Budget, Priorities
June/July/August	Increase impact and visibility of journals & meetings	Publications, CANVAS
September	Enhance national/international recognition of our society, members	
November - Board Meeting, Salt Lake City	Professional Development	
December	Year-End Wrap-Up	

3. Discussion Questions: What do you want to get out of your experience serving on the Board? What do you want to see this Board/Organization accomplish while on the Board?
Feedback included:
 - Engaging members beyond just publishing and attending Annual Meetings. Finding ways to make members feel like they are part of a family.
 - Working on membership retention, particularly for graduate students transitioning to employment.
 - Improving the visibility of the Society and its journals, and the potential for utilizing CSA News magazine.
 - Ways to maintain industry members' engagement and attract them to publish their research.
 - The importance of industry members in making science actionable.
 - Bridge the gap between graduate students and the Board, clarifying the benefits of Tri-Societies beyond just Annual Meetings.
 - The need for a balanced budget and reaching out to different sectors beyond academia.
 - Enhancing membership by targeting industry to publish and promoting the benefits of membership.
4. Governance Director Sara Uttech explained the Consent Agenda as non-controversial items reviewed by the Executive Committee that generally do not need board discussion and are approved together with one motion, second, and vote. Items can be removed from the Consent Agenda upon request.
5. ACTION: Motion by John Snider, seconded by Melanie Bayles, to approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous approval:
 - Jan. 27, 2025 CSSA Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
 - Dec. 19, 2024 CSSA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
 - CSSA, ASA, SSSA sign on to Food Security Letter from World Food Prize laureates
6. Governance Director Sara Uttech requested volunteers for Board-Level Committees:
 - Budget & Finance Committee: John Fellers
 - Organization, Policy, and Bylaws Committee: Vanessa Corriher-Olson
 - Science Policy Committee: Need early career and policy experts if interested
7. Board members are reminded of the Awards Policy, which opens Jan. 21-March 25, 2025. To avoid a conflict of interest, CSSA Board members cannot be a nominee, nominator, or reference on any CSSA Award; they can be nominee, nominator, or reference for ASA and SSSA Awards; and Board members (except Exec Committee) can be a reference on CSSA scholarships.
8. Next Meeting Dates, Agenda Preview:
 - Monday March 24, 11:00-12:30 Central (90 minutes) – will reschedule calendar invites
 - Theme: Innovate to ensure long-term financial stability
 - March Discussion Questions: What type of new programs and services would deliver value to CSSA members – and how do we engage them? How do other organizations engage you? Funding brainstorming: current revenue streams. What types of new audiences should CSSA approach with products and services?
 - Post answers on the Member Hub's CSSA Board Circle:
memberhub.sciencesocieties.org
 - Will poll for dates for Budget & Finance Committee Call with Morgan Stanley for investment review in February and Summer In-Person/Hybrid Board Meeting in Madison for June/July/August.

Consensus to adjourn.