Attendees: Earl Creech (USU), Mark Marsailis (NMSU), Leonard Lauriault (NMSU), Carrie Eberle (UW), Samuel Essah (OSU), and Olga Walsh (UI)

Earl called meeting to order at 4:45 pm.

2015 minutes were distributed, reviewed and approved.

Earl informed that Canadian Society of Agronomy group contacted him to propose a joint meeting for 2018.

Discussion about the 2017 meeting location. Proposed locations: Idaho (Coeur d’Alene, Moscow, Boise), meeting was last held in ID in 2007. Other locations proposed: California and Texas (have their own chapters), Reno, NV, Arizona (poor AZ participation, meeting there might increase attendance). Committee decided to hold 2017 meeting in Boise/Parma Idaho. Best time was identified as mid-June.

Got back to 2018 meeting discussion – decided to continue conversation with Canada about their expectations, their meeting/attendance numbers. WSCS would prefer to stay in the US if joining with Canada group.

It was noted that financial statement was requested from the headquarters but was not received in time for the meeting. Earl will contact headquarters to obtain the financial information.

In 2016, we had 30 registered attendees and 7 walk-ins. Our budget is approximately $500 annually. Discussed that with co-sponsorship we probably broke even on budget.

Discussion on student awards. Leonard let know that there will be 4 awards again this year, with shared 3rd place. Decided to stay with the same award structure as in 2015: 1st place - $200, 2nd place - $175, and 3rd - $150. The 1st place winner will also receive a travel stipend to attend and present at the national CSSA meeting in Phoenix, AZ in November. In 2016, it was also decided to cover the 1st place winner’s student CSSA membership.

Discussion on WSCS work positions: all in place for 2017 – Earl, Mark, Olga. The elections for the next president elect will occur early 2017. Earl will send out an e-mail to solicit nominations in early January 2017.

Leonard suggested to start abstract/registration earlier next year, maybe even before the national announcement goes out. Need to encourage continued student attendance and presentations.

Discussion on professional awards. Emerging Scientist award – Mark has developed a draft of criteria, stay within 5 years of starting career.

The Distinguished Scientist award – the hosting University will nominate a scientist each year. Olga will be hosting in 2017 and will nominate someone form UI.
Earl will contact Susan Chapman about WSCS membership numbers.

Leonard reminded that Resolutions/thank you notes need to be sent out – Mark will put together a list of all taking part in 2016 meeting organization and sponsorship.

Discussion on publishing abstracts and/or slides on the WSCS web-site – check if the headquarters will be able to take care of this. Need to ask permission from authors/presenters.

Earl asked if the new attendees have any suggestions to improve meeting structure/attendance.

It was noted that the meeting structure can be changed in terms of order of presentations vs field days/tours.

Providing lunch to attendees is a good idea.

Olga will put together ideas for 2017 meeting and submit to Earl and Mark for suggestions.

The pictures will be taken with the offices and student award winners. The group picture will be sent to headquarters.

Adjourned at 5:30pm.