Western Society of Crop Science

2017 Annual Conference Business Meeting

June 7, 2017

Attendees: Earl Creech, Mark Marsalis, Leonard Lauriault, Olga Walsh, Robert Flynn, Glenn Shewmaker, Mike, Andy Burkhardt, Juan Solomon, several graduate students.

Call to Order at 4:12 pm: Earl Creech

2016 Meeting Minutes distributed. Leonard moved to approve the 2016 minutes, Glen second. Approved unanimous.

Financial Report: The only correspondence from headquarters on our financials is simply a balance of $5051 for March 2017. Glenn, on CSSA Budget Committee, will work with headquarters on getting more budget details. The 2017 Parma meeting expenses were about $2,000, some of which is sponsored.

Old Business

• Professional awards
  o Emerging Scientist
  o Distinguished Scientist

Putting together terminology for both awards. The emerging scientist award will be for early-career faculty with 5 years or less of starting career. The distinguished award—could be a non-scientist, could be crop advisor or outstanding producer or industry professional. Change name to Distinguished Agriculturalist Award. This award will be selected by the local host and will be presented to the local recipient at each annual meeting.

• Earlier abstract/registration announcement/deadlines

National CSSA has asked we not put out the announcement prior to the national meeting announcement. Had narrower window this year because the meeting was in July last year, not June. Feedback from students – doable in terms of timing, but more time is better. Need more clarification that WSCS is preparation/practice for the national meeting, and highlight that the theme is the same as the national meeting, and the winner of the student competition also gets the travel award ($500) to go to national. We do not have access to the list of members, only the numbers by state, so no way to email/notify members ahead of the national announcement. Earl will ask HQ if we WSCS can open for abstract submission in January. Leonard – open registration/submission from Jan 15 to end of March?

• Board positions/nominations/ballots
  o President-elect – Mark is current President-elect for 2017, will be President for 2018-19, and will assume role as president at end of business meeting.
Sec/Treasurer (appointed by President) – Olga served in 2016 and 2017
Past President – Chengci Chen currently

Nomination for President-Elect request went out to 800 members, one nomination – Olga. All in favor – by proclamation. Olga will serve as President-elect in 2018-19. Current President selects the Treasurer/Secretary. It was proposed that the local meeting host in 2018 be the secretary/treasurer.

- Abstracts uploaded to website

The 2016 Albuquerque meeting abstracts were not posted until requested later in the year. Mark will follow up with HQ about posting the 2017 abstracts online sooner this year.

New Business

- Meeting location for 2018
  - Previously mentioned: Wyoming/Colorado/Montana/Arizona

Canadian Society of Agronomy approached to host a joint meeting a couple of years ago – was discussed last year – some graduate students may have difficulty going to Canada. It was mentioned that Montana might be a good location to have a joint meeting with Canada. Previous locations - Las Vegas, Logan, Albuquerque, others. Colorado had good attendance in 2009. Mark Brick used to be active – might be interested. Earl – joint meeting with CA chapter – possibly in Las Vegas or Reno. Steve N. mentioned he might be able to host in WA, but not next year; perhaps in 2019. Join with pathologies group was mentioned.

- National society representation?

In the past – had updates from the national HQ. We should try to stick with this. The HQ representation could be the keynote speaker to attract more attendees. E.g., Charlie Brummer.

- Is current meeting format (tours/meetings) ok?

Combination of tours and talks is good. Stick with format, but keep it flexible to account for host institution preferences/limitations.

Student award winners – pictures will be taken with winners and current officers, announcement and photos will appear on WSCS website and in CSA News.

- How to increase membership/attendance? Current membership numbers?

Have 800 members, attendance is low. Adding a keynote speaker, having a good location helps with cheap hotels and easy travel access (e.g., bigger cities), promote tour more and earlier in the year. Sending out messages to deans of ag colleges produced no additional attendees. Perhaps a social media presence would help increase interest and promote. Many other regional societies struggle with attendance.

- Resolutions for 2017 meeting

Thank you notes: list of sponsors, superintendent, speakers, tour stations.
The gavel is passed from Earl to Mark.

Adjourn – 5 pm.