

*Minutes  
of the  
Canadian Society of Soil Science  
1997 Annual General Meeting*

**Location:** Room PE 2409, Nova Scotia Agriculture College, Truro, NS

**Dates:** Wednesday August 22, 1997

**Time:** 12:00-14:00

Attendees 39

1. Call to order and welcome

The meeting was called together at 11:40 PM by President Yash Kalra. Gerry Coen was appointed as Parliamentarian for this meeting.

2. Approval of agenda

**MOTION:** Approval of agenda. C. De Kempe/T. Mahendrappa CARRIED

3. Approval of the Minutes of 1996 AGM

**MOTION:** Approval of the 1996 AGM minutes. T. Mahendrappa/J. MacLeod  
CARRIED

4. Business arising from 1996 minutes

**NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING VOTING PROCEDURES**

The following motion has been put forth in response to concern about the current voting procedures of CSSS. As noted in the motions regarding AIC, only members present at the AGM are permitted to vote. Consequently, only 10 to 20% of the membership are involved in making important decisions such as our affiliation with AIC. Furthermore, the members in attendance often do not reflect the breadth of disciplines within our membership. Proxy voting would allow a CSSS member to designate another member to vote on their behalf at the AGM or to submit their vote to the Secretary to be recorded at the AGM. This motion only applies to changes in the Rules and Bylaws of the Society, not 'motions from the floor' or elections.

**MOTION 3: That the Rules and Bylaws of CSSS be amended to permit proxy voting by members on all matters pertaining to the Rules and Bylaws of the Society.** D. Lobb/M. Webber

Discussion

There was a general discussion of the desirability of proxy voting. There was a general consensus that proxy voting would allow a larger percentage of the members to be involved in the decision making process.

It is noted that 6 members were in opposition

CARRIED

5. Secretary's report

a) Meetings - Three meetings of the CSSS Council were held in the last year: one on August 21, 1996 following the business meeting in Lethbridge, Alberta, a mid-term

meeting via e-mail held between April 1 - June 4, 1997 and the final meeting on August 16 and 17, 1997 in Turuo, N.S.

Mid-term e-meeting- In an effort to reduce Council travel costs, the mid-term meeting was conducted via the exchange of e-mail messages. A procedure for presenting, discussing and voting on motions was established and adopted. The meeting, originally scheduled for one week, stretched out for in excess of one month. In excess of 200 hundred e-mail messages were exchanged and 24 motions considered. While an inexpensive means of dealing with CSSS issues, the time commitment required is considerable.

b) Correspondence - The majority of correspondence received falls into three categories: 1) inquires from people wishing to join the society, 2) complaints from current members regarding the CSSS and AIC Business offices and 3) AIC MO Newsletters and other mailings. The majority of potential new members contact the society via electronic means. These messages are responded to with an information package cc'd to the to the appropriate Councillor. Taumey's travels have also resulted in a number of inquiries regarding membership. There continue to be number of complaints from our membership regarding the CSSS and AIC Business Offices. Members still are having difficulty getting addresses changed, having dues payments returned from our Business Office and not receiving CJSS and the Newsletter despite continued full member status. It imperative that the CSSS resolve these problems if we hope to compete with the SSSA for the professional interests of Canadian Soil Scientists. AIC now has a policy of sending all correspondence to the Secretary and allowing the Society to determine distribution and assume all costs. I am unclear on the degree to which I should be circulating these materials to Council and whether the Society is willing to bear the cost of postage for the distribution of the se materials.

c) CSSS Homepage on the World Wide Web - I have established a Homepage for the CSSS on the world wide web. The URL of this site is <http://www.umanitoba.ca/CSSS/>. This page contains information about our Society, how to join, awards offered by the society, who the CSSS Council is and how to contact them, links to CJSS and all of Canadian Soil Science Departments as well as a current events section. Currently the page is maintained on an infrequent basis. Assistance is needed to increase the information content. I would suggest that a plan be established where information being prepared for the Newsletter also appear on the web page. A informal survey of the membership indicted that the majority wished to receive Newsletter materials in an electronic format, although the response was very limited (6). Help must be solicited to do this however. There is also a password access protected Council page on the Homepage which contains the minutes for Council meeting for the past two years.

d) New members package - An information package for potential new members has been constructed an is being circulated to in both electronic and paper-based formats. A package for new members has yet to be compiled.

e) Business Office - The dysfunction of our business office has been a constant issue over the past year. Numerous complaints have been received from the membership ranging from missing issues of CJSS and the Newsletter to the return of correctly addressed dues payments. As I have indicated earlier, in my opinion, it is of utmost importance that we effectively address this problem.

**MOTION:** Approval of Secretary's Report. D. Burton/T. Mahendrappa CARRIED

6. Finance committee report

(see attached) <-- get overheads from Gary

**MOTION:** Move to accept 1996 statements. G. Patterson/T. Mahendrappa CARRIED

**MOTION:** Move to elimante publication of abstracts of the annual meeting in CJSS. G.

Patterson/U. Gupta

Discussion

Publication serves the membership and communicates the activities of those presenting to the rest of the membership. If they are no longer in the CJSS they should appear on the Web site.

CSAM publishes the abstracts in the CJSS but cover the cost themselves.

Question

DEFEATED

**MOTION:** Council review the \$1400 cost of the abstracts of presentation to the annual meeting in view of the 1998 budget deficit and take action. D. Lobb/T. Bates

CARRIED

**MOTION:** Move to accept 1997 budget. G. Patterson/D. Anderson

CARRIED

**MOTION:** Move to accept 1998 budget providing the ways of covering the cost publication of abstracts of in the CJSS are found. E. Beauchamp/G. Patterson

CARRIED

**MOTION:** Move to move to a position where 50% of the trust accounts are in mutual funds. G. Patterson/D. Action

DEFEATED

**MOTION:** Move that mutual funds, on purchase cost basis, make up no more than 40% of total trust funds. K. Ried/T. Bruuslsema

**AMENDMENT:** That the decision be based on a 40% higher risk basis and a 60% lower risk rather than the proportion in mutual funds D.McAndrew/T. Bates

CARRIED

It was pointed out that the amendment changes and replaces the original motion and therefore there was no need to vote on the original motion.

12. Truro conference report.

Based on current projections the Conference should break even or return a small profit.

7. President's report

International Society of Soil Science: In July 1996 I informed Winfried E.H. Blum, Secretary-General that G.H. Coen is the CSSS representative to the ISSS. Christian De Kimpe, the outgoing rep, is the chair of Commission VIII (Soil and the Environment).

New Member Package: I sent a draft package to David B. in August 1996.

Career Brochure: In response to my letters of July 1996, Natural Resources Canada and Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada have informed me that they are unable to provide any funding. Taumey will give an update on the status of this brochure at our Council meeting in Truro.

President's Tour: During my tour, I presented seminars at McGill University, Laval University, and the University of Guelph. Total amount budgeted for the tour was \$1400.

The actual cost of visits to these three universities was \$1084.84. I visited the University of British Columbia; there was no cost to the CSSS for this trip. The tour gave me an opportunity to foster fellowship among members and to promote active participation in the CSSS activities.

Registrar's Position: In response to the announcement in the June 1997 Newsletter, I have received six applications for this position. I have forwarded all the information to the Council. We will discuss this item further and make a decision at the Council meeting in Truro.

Member Only Section-AIC Web Site: I have informed Brenda Heald that CSSS is in agreement with a listing of our members.

Book Plates: David B. forwarded the book plates that were prepared by Eric. I wrote letters to the students and their professors and enclosed the book plates.

AIC Annual Report: In May 1997 I submitted a report to Brenda Heald on the CSSS activities for inclusion in the AIC Annual Report.

Rules Committee: Yash Kalra, Murray Miller, and Don Acton.

Finance Committee: Eric Beauchamp, Al Fedkenheuer, Yash Kalra, Bruce MacDonald, and Gary Patterson.

CSSS Annual Meeting 1999: I have informed Kais Deelstra that CSSS will hold its meeting in conjunction with the AIC in Charlottetown in 1999 and Umesh will represent the CSSS on the program committee.

The 9th North American Forest Soils Conference: As I indicated several weeks ago, I have received a request from Neil Foster and John Joslin of the planning committee for financial support for the 9th NAFSC to be held in California in August 1998. We will discuss this item at our forthcoming Council meeting.

CSSS Fellowship: I was pleased to learn from G.H. Coen that he will be at the Truro meeting to receive his CSSS Fellowship.

AIC Fellowship: Christian De Kimpe has asked me to convey his thanks to the CSSS for endorsing his nomination to an AIC Fellowship that he will be receiving in Truro on August 17.

CSSS Awards Banquet, Truro: Our Society has been promoting the concept of Provincial Soil since 1994. Taumey championed the cause of honoring soils as our precious heritage. New Brunswick has proclaimed a Provincial Soil. Hon. Doug Tyler, NB Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and MLA Greg Byrne were instrumental in this proclamation. John White, Director, Communications Branch has informed me that they will attend our banquet. Hon. J. Eric Hammill, PEI Minister of Agriculture and Forestry was the driving force in having a PEI soil designated as a Provincial Soil. I am pleased to inform the Council that he will also be our guest at the banquet. Hon. Ed Lorraine, NS Minister of Agriculture and Marketing will be unable to join us in Truro. He will send a message that I will read at the banquet.

Tom Hall, Assistant Executive Vice President, American Society of Agronomy and Lee Sommers, President-Elect, Soil Science Society of America will attend the Truro meetings.

Council Meeting, August 22, 1997: Darwin Anderson, President-Elect is planning to attend this meeting. Due to other commitments, Martin Carter, Eastern Councillor-Elect will be unable to attend.

Concluding Remarks: I thank my colleagues on the 1996-97 Council for their cooperation. Special thanks to the retiring Council members Umesh and Taumey for their dedication. I welcome Darwin and Martin on the Council. My sincere thanks to all the CSSS members for giving me the opportunity to serve the Society. It has been an honour for me to serve the CSSS as its 43rd President. I wish Eric much success as he assumes his duties on August 20 as our President.

**MOTION:** Acceptance of President's report. Moved by T. Mahendrappa, seconded by C. De Kempe.

CARRIED

8. CISS editor's report

Since January 1997, I started to be the new editor of the Canadian J. of Soil Science. While, I am entirely new serving as the editor of the journal, however, worked as

associate editor for five years and had enough experience in editorial matters. I would like to begin with expressing my sincere appreciation to Dr. Steve C. Sheppard, as the editor for the last four years, for his diligent works and contribution to the Canadian Society of Soil Science and specifically to the journal. He has introduced several bold innovations to increase our ability and to compete with powerful commercial journals, in these very difficult times. In my term, I am prepared to view CJSS as a business unit and try to expand its influence nationally and internationally.

In my editorial paper which was published in the first issue of the CJSS of this year, I indicated that research funds in virtually all science disciplines are now scarce and becoming scarcer. The cries of alarm will not translate into an increase in funding without concerted action on the part of scientists. We need to demonstrate how science can contribute to make the world a better place, and then organize the scientific efforts to carry out the task. We need to build our research strategies towards solving problems, and persuade the decision making bodies, or public at large, to invest money in research. We need to prepare ourselves to respond any research expansion that may happen nationally and internationally.

#### Manuscripts Submitted and Papers Published:

In 1996 we published:

- 49 regular scientific papers,
- 9 conference proceeding papers,
- 3 short reviews,
- 3 letters to the editor, and two sets of abstract (total 573 pages).

These numbers are similar to 1995 figures. As can be seen from Table 1, the submission of regular manuscript has increased slightly. In 1996, however, we received 23 symposium papers that increased the total number of submission, and no doubt brought a new strength to the journal. Highest submission was received from Alberta and this was followed by Quebec and Ontario (Table 2). Table 2 show that we received 26 manuscript outside of Canada which appears to be a good sign that our journal is an international one. This should not be under estimated. As of July 31st we had 54 regular and 17 symposium manuscripts (Sustainable Site Productivity in Canadian Forests Workshop) of total 71 submissions. These show that the 1997 is going to be a good year.

Publishing workshop proceedings: The current exercise publishing the conference and workshop proceedings prove to be a useful policy to increase the number of manuscript submission. Years ago, when I suggested that CJSS should publish proceedings, no one paid any attention at that time. That was the time I published my first special issue in Geoderma. I discovered that Elsevier is successfully publishing special issues in their respective international journals. I published several other workshops papers as a special issue and I feel that I have enough experience to solicit publication of workshop and Conference papers. I have no doubt that we have enough potential in Canada to justify our journal.

Table 1 Data on 1996 Manuscript submissions

Type	No	%	Accepted	Rejected	Withdrawn	No action
Paper	79	70	52	8	2	17
Short communication	5	4	4	1		
Short review	2	1	2			

Review	3	2.5	1	1	1
Baier-Robertson	9	8	9		
Greenhouse Gas	14	12	14		
Symposium total	23	20	23		
Letter	3	2.5	3		
Workshop	1	1	1		
Total	116	-	86	10	2 18

Table. 2 Origin of 1996 Manuscripts

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CANADA

BC	9
AB	23
SK	11
MB	8
ON	16
QC	17
NB	0
NS	3
PEI	2
NF	0
USA	12
OTHERS	14
TOTAL	115

As indicated above, this year we already received 16 papers from "The Sustainable Site Productivity in Canadian Forests Workshop", held in February 18 to 20, 1997 in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. This was as a result of an agreement between the CJSS and the Workshop Program Committee (Dr. M. K. Mahendrappa and Dr. Guy K.M. Smith). Dr. Helmut Krause, who was as an Associate Editor of the journal, was appointed to handle the review process for the journal. The review process is currently going on and it is expected to be finished in October 1997.

The 11th International Clay Conference took place in Ottawa in June 15-21, at Carlton University. As per our earlier agreement, we had several discussions with the chair of the conference, Dr. H. Kodama, and as it stands we will be able to publish a special issue (or book) of this important international conference. This will be an experience for us to publish books in the future, as it is done by American Society of Agronomy. I am currently developing an outline of a book on "SOIL SCIENCE Canadian Perspective before the third millennium".

Dr. Elizabeth Pattey was informed us that there will be a workshop during the

Annual Soil Science Society Meetings in Truro, Nova Scotia, August /97 on “Biological System Modeling Using Remotely sensed Surface Soil Moisture Data to Improve Soil Water Modeling” and there will be 8 to 10 papers that will be presented during the meeting. Dr. R. de Jong who is an associate editor for the journal will be responsible for the arrangement reviewing of this workshop papers.

Assignments and Response Time to Authors: The assignment of manuscripts to Associate and assistant editors are shown in Table. 3. The number of manuscripts per Associate Editor were between 8 to 11. If the number will increase in 1997 then there will be a need to appoint an additional editor. The Journal currently runs with 9 Associate and 2 Assistant Editors. The statistics on response time remains to be similar, as there is very little control over mail and the voluntary reviewers (Table 4). While many journals experience similar type of problem, there may be a little room to improve the situation. As I have done while I was Associate Editor, I asked Associate Editors to act as reviewer, in case of difficulties to get the review on time. While we may blame the reviewers, but slow review may steam from the fact that the manuscript actually may be on the boundary and the reviewer is not so sure whether accept or reject it. Let us not forget that we all are volunteers in manuscript reviewing process and working for the benefits of our fellow scientists and the science.

Editorial , Guest Editorial, and Letters-to-the Editor: We initiated a new type of article, which is called editorial and guest editorial. The first one is published in No. 1 issue of this year (1997). The idea is evaluate ourselves as a soil scientist what we have done in the past, where we are now, what are the opportunities for soil scientists in the future. Invitation goes to all the fellow soil scientists to take responsibility and publish their ideas. We believe that the scientists of the world, in response to our urgent questions of environmental sustainability, ecosystem health, and global change, have embarked on an exciting period of integrated science to which soil science is central.

Advertising: In January, Tim Fenton asked me to edit a text that need to be rewritten for the AIC Journals Brochure. I contacted appropriate individuals and we completed the text. I also asked Tim to make adjustment in the inside cover page of the journal that describes the type of manuscripts CJSS accepts in such a way that will include activities of the Canadian Society of Agrometeorology. There has been an important attempt by the AIC office to develop strategic marketing and business plan for the journals published by AIC. Roy Carver, Executive Director of AIC has contacted with a well known company called KPMG Consulting in Ottawa to provide a proposal. The Scientific Journals Committee (SJC) had a conference call meeting on July 21st. The SJC was in favor of the proposal, and a recommendation was made to implement the plan to the AIC Board of Directors meeting in August 17, 1997. We need to continue letter campaigns to advertise the journal.

Table 3 Assignment of Manuscripts

	Associate Eds.	Assigned	Accepted	Outstanding	Rejected	Withdrawn
1	9	6	3	0	0	
2	6	5	1	0	0	
3	11	7	1	0	0	
4	10	7	1	2	0	
5	1	0	0	1	0	
6	9	4	4	1	0	

7	8	6	0	1	1
8	10	10	0	0	0
9	10	3	6	1	0
10	8	8	0	0	0
11	10	6	2	2	0

Excludes symposium and workshop papers.

Table 4. Time (days) taken to process manuscripts

Days to review accepted papers				Days to review rejected papers			
Range		Total (average)		Range		Total average	
Author	Editor	Author	Editor	Author	Editor	Author	Editor
117-108	106-296	59	186	-	-	-	-
243-104	76-149	81	97	-	-	-	-
329-239	38-118	130	77	-	51-83	-	-
447-214	55-104	90	81	-	49-75	-	62
5					36	-	36
616-39	94-152	29	122	-	90	-	90
723-168	79-193	89	129	-	29	-	29
821-162	63-124	74	169	-	81	-	-
936-144	77-171	78	112	-	81	-	81
10	54-155	2-139	105	76	-	-	-
11	19-90	56-146	55	94	-	98	- 98

Internet and Electronic Publication: With other journals representatives and Tim Fenton (Head Journals Section) I participated in a meeting called "Scholarly Communication in the Next Millennium" in Vancouver March 5-8/97. This was a very interesting and stimulating meeting. Participation was very broad including scholars, editors, publishers, university vice presidents, librarian, funding councils, and graduate students. Critical topics were centered around technology for publishing in an age of transition, organization, finance, and new publication models. I believe that there is a strong need to be part of the information technology. The AIC Journals should continue to monitor and actively participate in the meeting of this kind, nationally or internationally. It appears that we are

proactive in electronic publication. As a first step, journals back issues are gradually placed on CD-ROM and one issue is now completely available on the www. The IAC office has a new scanner, it is now possible to receive the abstract of new papers by way of E-mail. This makes the editor's job more practical and helps reducing time and efforts.

Cover Images: This will continue the way it is going on for the last three years. I invite all the members of our society to use the opportunity by providing us images that can represent our activities.

Association with Can. Soc. Ag. Meteorologists (CSAM): As the final approval was given from the Policy Subcommittee, this association can publish their abstract and papers in the CJSS. The first set of abstracts of the Lethbridge meeting, AB is now published November issue of 1996. Scientific Journals Committee has approved a tenth Associate Editor for CJSS to deal with Ag. Met. Currently we have Dr. P. Rochette who can deal with manuscripts related to Ag. Met. I keep the tenth Associate Editor option in mind as I look the number of manuscript submission this year that may require the appointment of the tenth AE.

**MOTION:** Approval of CJSS Editor's report. Moved by Ahmet Merhmit, seconded by Darwin Anderson.

#### Discussion

Gerry Coen asked how much of the profit from CJSS is available to the CSSS. It was pointed out that all of the money now remains in a Scientific Journals Committee. Some of this money is being used to market the journal.

Clark Topp expressed concern that reviews that contain previously unpublished data were being published.

#### Question

CARRIED

9. International liaison committee and AIC rep report (David L.)  
(see attached reports)

**MOTION:** Approval of AIC Representative Report. Moved by D. Lobb, seconded by M. Dillon.

CARRIED

**MOTION:** Approval of Internation Liason Committee Report. Moved by D. Lobb, seconded by T. Bates.

CARRIED

10. Awards committee report (Eric)

**MOTION:** Approval of Awards Committe Report. Moved by E. Beauchamp, seconded by T. Mahendrappa.

CARRIED

11. AIC Foundation (Eric)

M. Millar wishes to step down as CSSS representative and suggested Martin Carter would be an appropriate replacement. The Foundation seems to be floundering. They are operating in a negative balance and having difficulting in fuffilling their mission of "Increasing the Awareness of Agriculture". They will be hiring a person on a partime basis to solicit funds.

**MOTION:** Approval of AIC Foundation Report. Moved by E. Beauchamp, seconded by M. Webber.

CARRIED

13. 1998 Vancouver conference report (Art Bomke)

Presented last night at the Banquet. No additional information is available.

14. 1999 Charlottetown conference report (Umesh)

August 8-10, 1999 to be held at UPEI

15. Resolutions for 1997

Be it resolved that members of CSSS extend appreciation and thanks to:

a) The members of the 1997 Organizing Committee and in particular Vernon Rodd and Phil Warman in planning and carrying out a most successful and educational conference both in terms of technical sessions and social programs. Also those organizing the tour.

b) The Officers of the CSSS for their dedication and the effective manner in which they carried out the business of the Society. In particular we recognize the retiring council members U. Gupta, Past President and T. Mahendrappa (The Dirtman), Eastern Councillor and Newsletter Editor.

c) The CJSS Editor and Associate Editors for their efforts over the past year in particular the retiring AE Ahment Mermut.

**MOTION:** Adopt the above resolution. D. Acton/M. Webber CARRIED

16. Election results (David B.)

**MOTION:** Accept the Elections Committee Report resolution. D. Burton/P. Voroney  
CARRIED

**MOTION:** Move that the ballots be destroyed. G. Coen/T. Mahendrappa CARRIED

17. Installation of new President

Yash Kalra passed the gavel to Eric Beauchamp. Eric Beauchamp thanked members for their support.

18. New business

State of Soil Science (Eric B.)

Solicited comments from the membership on the State of Soil Science and suggestions for where we need to go.

David Lobb asked whether there will be a report.

**MOTION:** A Task Force be established to examine the future of Soil Science A. Mermut/J. MacLeod.

Discussion

Mel Webber suggested that terms of reference be established for this committee. Perhaps a presentation should be made at each CSSS annual meeting.

CARRIED

The CJSS needs AE's in Soil Fertility and Soil Conservation and Tillage. One is new and one is a replacement of an existing position. Suggestions should be forwarded to either Council or the CJSS Editor.

C. Student fees are currently \$7 per year. An increase in this fee has been proposed. It was pointed out that this does not cover the cost of postage. A suggestion was made that the student membership fee be approximately 1/3

**MOTION:** That we move to increase the student fee to 1/3 regular member fee (excluding the AIC fee) and it be maintained at that level. D. McAndrew/D. MacKenzie CARRIED

Meetings in 2000 and 2001. Where, when and with who should we meet in these years. What are the feelings of the membership. Perhaps affiliation with other societies should be considered. There was a general feeling that we should explore a separate meeting in 2000.

A suggestion was made that in the 1998 meeting, a special session consider the Future of Soil Science.

**MOTION:** Move that Herb Resse and Sharif Famey be approached to continue as auditors for the Society for the upcoming year. T. Mahendrappa/C. De Kempe CARRIED

**MOTION** That CSSS supports in principle the initiation of North American Proficiency Testing Program. K. Ried/D. Lobb CARRIED

19. Adjournment 14:10PM