

Minutes of the Canadian Society of Soil Science 2003 Annual General Meeting

Location: UN Aviation Authority Conference Centre, Montreal.

Dates: Tues. Aug 12, 2003

Time: 11:00 am – 12:40 pm

55 Attendees

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Given by Ahmet Mermut.

2. Approval of Agenda

2003 Agenda:

1. Call to order and welcome (Ahmet Mermut).
2. Approval of the Agenda.
3. Approval of the 2002 AGM minutes.
4. Business arising from the 2002 AGM minutes (Ahmet Mermut).
5. President's Report (Ahmet Mermut).
6. Treasurer's Report (Marie-Josée Garand).
7. Student Representative's Report (Vimy Glass).
8. CJSS Editor's Report (Martin Carter).
9. Election Report (Gary Parkin).
10. Annual Conference Reports 2002 - Gary Kachanoski, David Chanasyk, and Barb Kishchuk.
2003 - Denis Angers
2004 - Ed Gregorich and Ahmet Mermut
11. Business Office Report - Steve Sheppard.
12. AIC Structures Task Force - Sandy Todd.
13. Installation of New President (Ahmet Mermut and Ed Gregorich).
14. New Business.
15. Adjournment.

Motion 2003-AGM-01

It is moved that the agenda be approved. Moved by Ahmet Mermut (AM) , seconded by Dan Pennock (DP). Motion CARRIED

3. 2002 AGM minutes

Motion 2003-AGM-02

It is moved to accept the minutes from the 2002 AGM meeting. Moved by Gary Parkin (GP), seconded by Vimy Glass (VG). Motion CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the 2002 Minutes

No business arising.

5. Presidents Report (Ahmet Mermut)

1) Many important matters to the society have been discussed through very vigorous e-mail discussions. This way the Council had quick resolutions for various matters, since the annual income of the society do not allow more than one time face to face meeting a year. We are a small society and not healthy financially. Soil Science had a very rough time a decade ago, and it seems that we are passing a stagnant stage and we need to do quite a lot to become a tangible society. We are very pleased with Dr. Steve Sheppard as business manager and we thank him for the superb job. We are still far away from our ideal membership and a lot need to be done in the future.

2) Considering the world scenario, I am hopeful for the future in Canada. The world expects that Canada is playing much better role than it is now. I am happy to report that I am one of the Council members in the IUSS, elected during the World Congress in 2002 in Bangkok.

3) One of the issues that I wanted to see that we are making progress was the improvement of the selection criteria for various awards that the society is giving every year. I am very happy that I paved the road and made this as an important issue to be seriously considered by the Council. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Drs. Gerry Coen; Eric Beauchamp; John Dormar for their great efforts to help developing ideas for better functioning criteria that the council could use to recognize the outstanding members of any award category of the society.

4) As the last year, the Council has provided many awards to graduate students to participate in the

annual meeting in Montreal. Unfortunately, we did not have any one to recognize as “*Fellow*” in this year. This is a matter we should make an issue for discussion in the years ahead.

5) I am pleased to see that some soil science societies in the world would like to cooperate with us as equal partners to exchange ideas, books, and opportunity to participate in each others meeting, with no commitment to support travel or other expenses.

6) Collaboration with other Societies such as the meeting we had last year with Canadian Geophysical Union in Banff last year, this year in Montreal, and with SSSA in 2004 in Seattle. The joint meetings were attended by **a record number of graduate** students. Geological society has also approached us to have a joint meeting in the future. Close association with other related societies should be explored further.

7) As the president I represented the society on various issues that we were asked to comment or participate in. One important matter is our association with AIC. This is an issue that we need to resolve collectively.

8) Our scientific journal is functioning very well; Martin Carter is now our new editor for the next three years.

Motion 2003-AGM-03

It is moved that the President’s report be accepted. Moved by AM, seconded by Linnell Edwards (LE). Motion CARRIED.

6. Treasurers Report (Ahmet Mermut)

August 6, 2003; Corner Brook (NF)

CANADIAN SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETY TREASURER REPORT

Presented to: Canadian Soil Science Society Council 2003

By: Marie-Josée Garand

Examination of the books

This will be done by John MacLeod and Delmar Holmstrom who were appointed at the annual meeting last year, in Banff.

Trust funds

Based on the market value, our investments decreased significantly in 2002, with a drop in value of 15 920\$ from December 31, 2001 to the end of 2002. This represent of loss of 6.6 % during the current fiscal year. Considering how poorly the markets fared in 2002, this is a good performance. This can be partly attributed to the fact that the publication royalties from CRC Press amounted to 5440\$. The conjunction of an inflation rate (refer to All Canada Consumer Price Index for December 2002) of 3.9% with low markets translates in a deficit of approximately \$4718 in the Bentley Fund¹. This explains why no money was cashed from the trust fund in 2002 and the trust fund is therefore owing 8832\$ to the operating account. It is hope that the market will bounce back and shares in our investments could be sell with a better return at a later date. The budgeted expenditure for 2004 will remain conservative with 7200\$. A safety net should be maintained in case the mutual funds perform poorly. The financial objective is to reach an end of the year surplus of \$30 000 to allow annual expenditure of \$10 000. I would like to acknowledge those who have accepted to serve on the Financial Committee: Martin Carter, Bruce MacDonald and Gary Patterson.

Table 1 Trust fund balance sheet at December 31, 2002

	Book value - historic cost (\$)	Market*/face** value (\$)
Assets		
Wood Gundy cash	2 365	2 365
Due from CSSS operating	-8 832	-8 832
	<i>Mutual and Segregated Funds</i>	
Templeton Growth Cdn\$	45 970	38 274
Templeton Treasury Bill	12 471	12 471
AIC Advantage II	24 641	20 791
AIC Value	7 697	7 974
CIBC Money Market	8 207	8 207
AGF International value	14 495	10 699
	<i>Fixed income</i>	
Canada Mortgage and housing	45 846	45 000
League savings & Mortgage Co	45 000	45 000
TransCanada Pipelines Ltd	44 800	45 000
Total assets	242 660	224 949

Equity		
Bentley trust	207 217	192 163***
Publication trust	32 300	29 643***
Symposia trust	3 143	3 143
International trust	0	0
Total Equity	242 660	224 949

* Applicable to mutual funds and based on market value at December 31, 2002

** Applicable to fixed income (bonds)

*** 85% of the change in market allocated to the Bentley Trust and 15% to the Publication Trust:

Bentley: $207\,217 + 0.85 \times (224\,949 - 242\,660) = 207\,447$

Publication: $32\,300 + 0.15 \times (224\,949 - 242\,660) = 29\,814$

1. The Bentley Fund must grow at the rate of inflation:

Value of Fund at December 31, 1986= \$130 000

All Canada Consumer Price Index December 31, 1986=79.5 (1992 CPI=100)

All Canada Consumer Price Index December 31, 2002=120.4

Therefore the Bentley Trust should be kept at:

$(130\,000 / 79.5) \times 120.4 = \$196\,881.$

Operating fund

The annual revenues for conference were around \$5466, which makes of the Banff meeting another financial success (usual profits are around a \$1000).

At \$20 046, membership revenue increased by 5000\$ compared to 2001. The IUSS experiences problems with the invoicing. After many attempts to contact the current treasurer, I have e-mailed Donald Sparks, the President, to inform him of the issue. He assured me that the problem will be solved in a near future. This explains in part the increased membership revenue observed this year again as approximately 2800\$ in membership fees is collected in the behalf of the CSSS for the IUSS membership.

A significant amount of CSSS discretionary budget (6015\$) has been used to cover the Bentley awards. Also profit of the 2002 annual meeting has been used for this purpose (1500\$). This explains the small transfer of money from the Bentley compared to the expenses incurred under this item.

Travel costs for the council members remained under the budgeted expenses. Since the *Publication Fund* has become the *Publication and Communication Fund*, all the expenses related to the web site are done on this account. The \$ 2600 spent from this fund was related solely to the web site.

I suggest that provisions be made in the future with our office in Pinawa for corporate sponsorships to be tax deductible (charity gift). The following Treasurer may want to contact Revenues and Customs Canada to clarify how to proceed.

Table 2 Operating fund balance sheet at December 31, 2001

Assets		Liabilities	
Bank accounts	22 027	Due to trust	-8832
		Due to journal	52*
		Total liabilities	-8780
		Equity	
		Retained earnings	24 503
		Current earnings	6 304
		Total Equity	30 807
Total assets:	22 027	Total liabilities & equity:	22 027

* Discrepancies between AIC and CSSS books explains the 52\$ in liability for 2002. It is expected this will be solved in 2003.

Table 3 Operating fund statement of income for 2001

Operating Income		Operating expenses	
Membership	20 046	Office	5 850
Annual conference	5 446	Newsletter/proceedings	3023
Others	1260	Council Travel	1 700
Bentley	447	AIC	3 855
Publications and communication	1 088	Other	217
Unallocated*	3	IUSS	0
Total operating income	28 309	Total operating expenses	14 644
Transfers from trust		Trust expenses	
<i>Table 3 (suite)</i>			
Bentley	4020	Bentley	11 846
Publications	2614	Publications and communications	2 614
Symposia	465	Symposia	0

Total trust transfers	7099	Total trust expenses	14 460
Total income	35 408	Total expenses	29 104
Net profit = 6 344.			

Revisions to budget for 2002

Considering the poor performance of the Bentley trust in 2002 in conjunction to the amount of money given for the awards (\$9000 compared to \$6 000), alternative sources of funding had to be considered for this fiscal year. In Table 4, figures a summary of the various sources of funding in relation to the different awards. The money spent under the discretionary account is coming from the profits realized in 2002 (see Table 3).

Table 4. CSSS funds available for 2002 awards

Revenues			
Money source	Amount (\$)	Student Awards (\$)	Student Travel (\$)
Discretionary	4000	0	4000
Bentley	4000	3000	1000
Publications and communications trust	500	0	500
Corporate Sponsorship*	500	0	500
Total (expenses = revenues)	9000	3000	6000

Budget for 2004

Anticipated revenues and expenses are very conservative estimates similar to those budgeted in 2003, provided we can maintain membership and that the financial markets improve. This allows council \$4000 in discretionary spending from the operating budget.

Table 5 Budget for 2004

Operating revenue (\$)		Operating expenses (\$)	
Membership	17 800	Office	6 000
Annual conference	1 100	Newsletter & proceedings	1 800
Other	500	Council travel	2 400
Bentley	720	IUSS membership	2800
Publications	700	AIC	3 900
		Other	3 920

Total operating revenue	20 820	Total operating expenses	20 820
Transfers from trust (\$)		Trust expenses (\$)	
Bentley	7 200	Bentley	7 200
Publications	-	Publications	-
Symposia	-	Symposia	-
International	-	International	-
Total trust transfers	7 200	Total trust expenses	7 200
Total revenue	25 220	Total expenses	25 220

Table 6 Bentley Budget

Operating	720
Bentley award (speaking)	1000
President award (poster)	1000
Undergraduate books	1000
President's tour	1 200
Member/student travel award	2 280
Total	\$7 200

Respectfully submitted,

Marie-Josée Garand

CSSS Treasurer

Motion 2003-AGM-05

It is moved to accept the Treasurers report. Moved by D. Kroetsch, seconded by Tommy Mahandrappa. Motion CARRIED.

7. Graduate Student Report (Vimy Glass)

This was to be my last Annual Report, however, I am happy to say I am returning for another term as the student representative.

Activities of the Graduate Student Representative this year have been limited to newsletter contribution and participation in council motions and discussions. I have tried to add website links to the student portion of the newsletter that may aid students in their research endeavours and also showcase student members' accomplishments. I would like to thank Denis Angers for giving ample notice of upcoming newsletter deadlines.

Vimy Glass

Motion 2003-AGM-06

Move to accept graduate student report: Moved by VG, seconded by Denis Angers (DA).
Motion CARRIED.

8. CJSS Editors Report (Martin Carter)

Canadian Journal of Soil Science Editor's Report for 2002

This is my first year as Editor of CJSS. I would like to thank both Tim Fenton and Laurie Scott for their excellent assistance and publishing expertise. We are very privileged in Canada to have our own Soil Science journal. It is an important science arm for the CSSS and provides an excellent showcase for Soil Science conducted in Canada and elsewhere. Some brief highlights are as follows.

Associate Editors

- At the conclusion of 2002, Dr. Philippe Rochette (agrometerology) and Dr. Ed Topp (soil microbiology) concluded their role as Associate Editors. I would like to thank them for their dedicated editorial work and contribution to CJSS.
- The number of Associate Editors was increased from 12 to 15. This will reduce the editorial workload and also allow the appointment of a few Associate Editors outside Canada. The latter development, possible due to manuscript consignment and transference by electronic means, will further the international profile of CJSS.
- In 2003 several new Associate Editors were appointed: Dr. Mike Beare (soil ecology and quality) from New Zealand, Dr. Bill Dubbin (soil pedology, mineralogy, and chemistry) from England, Dr. Mike Grevers (soil structural properties and tillage) from Saskatchewan, Dr. Frank Larney (soil conservation and management) from Alberta, and Dr. Leigh Sparrow (soil chemistry, trace elements and heavy metals) from Australia. I am thankful to these individuals for agreeing to serve in this important role.
- Assistant Editor, Professor O. Brian Allen, Department Mathematics & Statistics, University of Guelph continues to assist CJSS in statistical matters.

Journal Statistics

- Submission rates (114, 93, 89, and 81 manuscripts, respectively, in 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002) continue to decline. However, so far in 2003 (end of July) we have received 57 manuscripts. If this trend continues then the submission rate for 2003 should exceed that for 2000. Advertising of the Journal in the United States and Europe (especially in French speaking countries) may help improve the submission rate.
- The ISI impact factor (0.859, 0.799, and 0.597, respectively, in 1998, 1999, and 2000) has declined over the last few years. However, the most recent impact factor for 2001 (0.863) showed an increase. To help maintain this upward trend, emphasis needs to be placed on the continued expansion of CJSS to accommodate more international papers, increased publication of short review papers, and publication of symposia and special issues of national and international interest.
- A special issue of CJSS will be published in 2003 on Soil Biodiversity. This is an excellent contribution to Soil Science. A thank you is extended to the many involved in this special issue, but especially to Drs. Ed Topp and Catherine Fox.
- There is a continuing increase of manuscript submissions from outside North America. However, more emphasis could be placed on attracting papers from the United States and northern Europe.
- The rejection rate (36%) for 2002 is relatively low compared to other journals, but is higher than previous years (range of 17-30% from 1997 to 2001). The overall low rejection rate is probably due to the high quality (both linguistically and scientifically) of most submitted manuscripts.
- In 2002 we published: 51 regular scientific papers, 1 Abstracts of Technical Papers (CSAM), 2 Letters to Editor, 1 In Memoriam (Dr. Simard). Total pages: 522.

Martin Carter, Editor CJSS

Motion 2003-AGM-07

Motion to accept the verbal report by Martin Carter (MC), seconded by VG.
Motion CARRIED.

9. Election Report (Gary Parkin)

Joann Whalen was acclaimed as Eastern Councillor, Don Flaten was acclaimed as Treasurer, Vimy Glass will be the Student Representative again next year, and Gary Parkin was appointed Secretary.

Of the 374 ballots mailed to CSSS members for the President-Elect position, 184 were received and counted. The results are C. Drury 70, A. Naeth 70, and G. Neilsen 44. The election committee consisted of Gary Parkin (CSSS Secretary), Richard Heck, and John Lauzon. The

CSSS Council has decided that a second election will be held in early fall with C. Drury and A. Naeth as the two candidates. Both have agreed to run again.

Motion 2003-AGM-08

Motion to accept the verbal report by GP, seconded by LE. Motion CARRIED.

10. Conference Reports

2002: AM - conference profit around \$5000 for CSSS

2003: DA - try to break even, about 30/50 are student papers.

2004: EG - meet with ASA in Seattle, November. - will have co-sessions to promote CSSS - CSSS members eligible for ASA member registration discount.

Motion 2003-AGM-09

It is moved that the conference reports be accepted. Moved by MC, seconded by VG. Motion CARRIED.

11. Business Office Report (Steve Sheppard)

The CSSS office continues to operate from PO Box 637, Pinawa, Manitoba, Canada, fax (204) 753-8478, telephone (204) 753-2747. Email is the preferred method of communication: "sheppards@ecomatters.com".

We have been sending email notices at intervals. The idea is that we will keep them very short, restricted to relatively urgent things, and use them less than once a month. If you'd rather not receive these, let the Office know. The quarterly newsletters and electoral materials were also printed and distributed from the CSSS Office. If you have ideas of services the CSSS Office can offer to members, pass them along.

There will be a new on-line, credit-card-accessible membership renewal system. In the past, offering credit card payment for membership was cumbersome and expensive, but by using an established on-line registration service, it is now much more reasonable. As of August, the new highly secure on-line registration service will allow members password access to update their own registration information (addresses etc) and the ability to pay by cheque or credit card. Registration by mail will still be possible. From an administrative side, the database of member information will be instantly updated and available, and payments by credit card will be instantly deposited to the CSSS account. We anticipate cost savings as well as an improved registration

process.

The affiliation with AIC was in debate this year, as AIC investigated a number of restructuring options. AIC was very thorough in seeking input from the scientific societies such as CSSS and the various Provincial agrology institutes. This included a workshop in Winnipeg and several position papers.

Motion 2003-AGM-10

It is moved to receive the Business Office Report. Moved by AM, seconded by LE. Motion CARRIED

Motion 2003-AGM-11

Motion to discuss future AIC structure. Moved by AM, seconded by LE. Motion CARRIED.

12. AIC Structures Task Force (Sandy Todd)

Sandy Todd (ST): meeting in Winnipeg, concluded that there is a need for a National organization.

-proposed transition toward direct membership in AIC.

Phase 1: Two Tower Structure, Phase 2: Direct Membership.

-will be both individual and institutional memberships.

-separate administration and budgets for each tower.

-direct members will have voting privileges.

-Sept. 19/04, deadline for acceptance or rejection for funding in years 2005\2006.

-if two-tower system is accepted, 2004 budget will be modified.

-plan to reduce the size of the board, equal membership.

-CSSS members can request more information from AIC.

Questions:

Craig Drury: how many P. Ags. Are there in AIC?

ST: 4500 - 5500.

Craig Drury: if representation is proportional, then council will be dominated by P. Ags.?

ST - not clear as yet.

Denis Anger - what if answer is no?

ST - board would not go ahead with the re-structuring.

Phil Warman - how will relationship be changed?

ST relationship will change if you choose to become a member of AIC.

Ed Gregorich: Is AIC considering a membership fee increase?

ST - fee increase did not go ahead.

-keep fees the same until 2006.

Guy Mehuys: How will professional agrologists from Quebec be included?

ST: AIC will examine that issue.

AM: thanks to ST for his presentation.

If any CSSS member has any comments on AIC, please contact a council member.

13. Installation of New President

Ahmet Mermut handed over the gavel to Ed Gregorich.

14. New Business (Ed Greogorich)

- EG recognized departing council members, Craig Drury and Denis Anger, and thanked them for their contributions.

-Resolutions Committee formed (Clarke Topp, Gerry Coen and Bill McGill

-local organizing committee thanked.

Motion 2002-AGM-12

It is moved to accept the auditors report and to appoint John MacLeod and Delmar Holmstrom again as auditors for 2003. Moved by Craig Drury and seconded by Tommy Mahandrappa.. Motion CARRIED.

15. Adjournment.

Motion 2002-AGM-14

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Moved by EG, seconded by LE. Motion CARRIED.

Adjournment at 12:40 pm