

Canadian Society of Soil Science – 2006 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Location: Banff, Alberta

Attendance: Approx. 45

- 1. Call to order and welcome** (Craig Drury).
- 2. Approval of agenda.** Move to accept: Dan Pennock, 2nd: Burt Vandenbygaart. Carried.
- 3. Approval of 2005 AGM minutes.** Move to accept: Yash Karla, 2nd: Paul Sanborn. Carried.
- 4. Business arising from 2005 AGM minutes.**

- a. Museum of Nature (Ed Gregorich)
 - i. The museum - accepted to house a soils exhibit.
 - ii. Will welcome scientific input.
 - iii. Also interested in environmental aspects of soil science.
 - iv. Would love to include a portable display to reach audiences outside the Museum.

Question: Will an ad hoc committee be formed for scientific input?

Response: Yes, when the appropriate time comes.

- b. International Twinning Partnership Programs (Ed Gregorich).
 - i. Both SRICANSOL and VIETCANSOL have run for 10 yr, recently renewed for another 5 yr.
 - ii. Linked to local associations and help in building institutional capacity.
 - iii. Reports will appear in upcoming newsletter.

Question: Since these are CSSS projects, every CSSS member should be given a chance to get involved when a project is initiated.

Response: Council will consider putting calls for proposals in the newsletter. Currently, only reports appear in the newsletter.

- c. Pedology Subcommittee (Dan Pennock)
 - i. Convened in 2005 and discussed (a) revisions to the Canadian Soil Classification System (CSCS), (b) development of a CSCS field handbook, (c) development of a Soils of Canada website and (d) initiation of a Soil Landscapes of Canada section in CJSS.
 - ii. #1 priority is to develop a national website on Soils of Canada, hopefully by the 2007 AGM.
 - iii. Will request some funding from Council.

Question: Will CSSS be visible on the website?

Response: Yes, the Society will be visible.

- 5. Past President's Report** (Anne Naeth).

- a. CSSS archives and history
 - i. Consolidation of archives and documentation of our history are continuing.
 - ii. Please give us any material worth archiving, e.g., pictures.
- b. Passing the gavel.

- i. Passed the gavel to the current President, Craig Drury.

6. President's Report (Craig Drury).

- a. An honour to serve as 52nd President of CSSS.
- b. Many indicators (finances, membership, CJSS, Museum of Nature, etc) show that CSSS is healthy.
- c. 374 CSSS members registered as of April 30, similar to last year's numbers.
- d. The rise in graduate student membership (25% of the membership) in recent years is particularly encouraging.
- e. Council involved in planning 2007 (Quebec City, Quebec) and 2008 (Prince George, British Columbia) conferences.
- f. Proposed revisions to Rules and Bylaws: (a) change term of Council to calendar year and (b) enable e-mail voting.
- g. Council is also considering (a) creating a formal Nominations Committee (chaired by Past President and have Eastern and Western Councillors as members) and (b) changing the Awards Committee to consist of President-Elect (Chair), Past President and Past Past-President.
- h. Council (President-Elect, President and Past President) will conduct a survey to determine whether CSSS is capturing the diversity of member interests in its activities (website, annual meetings, etc).
- i. Suggestions on improving CSSS even more are welcome.

7. Treasurer's Report (Don Flaten).

- a. Financial reports for 2004.
 - i. 2004 financial report is presented here because it was incomplete and un-audited when presented at the 2005 AGM.
 - ii. Operating funds: income (\$41,206.13) exceeded expenses (\$36,068.18) by approx. \$5,000.
 - iii. Trust funds: grew from a net value of \$241,733.48 in 2003 to \$253,051.78 in 2004.
- b. Financial reports for 2005.
 - i. Operating funds: income (34,023.68) exceeded expenses (\$30,195.13) by approx. \$3800.
 - ii. Trust funds: grew from a net value of \$253,051.78 in 2004 to \$262,563.90 in 2005.
- c. Summary: CSSS is financially healthy.
- d. Move to accept financial reports: Don Flatten, 2nd: Denis Angers. Carried.
- e. Budget proposed for 2007.
 - i. Operating funds: Anticipated income of \$28,200.00 and proposed expenses of \$28,200.00.
 - ii. Trust funds: proposed expenses of \$5,500.00.
- f. Move to accept 2007 budget: Don Flatten, 2nd: Anne Naeth. Carried.
- g. Auditors.
 - i. Two auditors (Bob Eilers and Rhonda McDougal) independently reviewed the Treasurer's final reports and statements (including supporting documents) for 2004 and 2005 and found them to be in order.

Question: Are CSSS account books available to other people apart from the Treasurer?

Response: Yes, the Treasurer coordinates with CSSS Office staff with regard to CSSS accounts.

8. Secretary and Election Report (Newton Lupwayi).

- a. New CSSS Council members for 2006:-
 - i. President-Elect: two candidates ran, Gerry Neilsen elected.
 - ii. Secretary: Newton Lupwayi appointed (only candidate).
 - iii. CJSS Editor: Frank Larney appointed.
 - iv. Eastern Councillor: Sina Adl appointed (only candidate, after the other withdrew).
 - v. Graduate Student Representative: three candidates ran, Dean Mackenzie elected.

9. CJSS Editor's Report (Frank Larney).

- a. CJSS news
 - i. Editorial Committee comprises an Editor, a Special Issues Editor, 18 Associate Editors and one Assistant Editor.
 - ii. On January 1, 2006, five new Associate Editors were appointed for three year terms.
 - iii. Two Special Issues were recently published, and two Special Sections will be published in upcoming issues.
 - iv. The AIC Journals Office is moving to a web-based manuscript submission and peer review system (OSPNEY) in the coming months. This will improve and streamline the *CJSS* submission and review process.
- b. CJSS statistics for 2005
 - i. 120 manuscripts were submitted (5-yr average = 90), due in part to two Special Sections (14 papers in total) which were submitted in 2005 (published in 2006).
 - ii. 36% of submitted manuscripts came from outside Canada (5-yr average = 29%).
 - iii. 31% of submissions were declined for publication (5-yr average = 28%).
 - iv. 58 regular papers were published (5-yr average = 57). Two review papers were published.
 - v. 22% of published papers originated from outside Canada (5-yr average = 15%).
 - vi. 5% of the papers were published in French (5-yr average = 2%).
 - vii. Volume 85 (2005) had 706 pages (5-yr average = 600 pages), mainly due to the addition of a fifth Special Issue to our four regular ones.
 - viii. Impact factor in 2004 was 0.741 (5-yr average = 0.783). In 2005, *CJSS* ranked 19th of 26 soils-related journals. In 2005, *Soil Biol. Biochem.*, the top-ranking soils journal had an impact factor of 2.234 while *SSSAJ* (ranked 3rd) was 1.501.

10. Annual Conference Reports

- a. 2005: Halifax, Nova Scotia (David Burton)
 - i. David Burton was not present, so the report will be included in the newsletter or circulated by e-mail.
- b. 2006: Banff, Alberta, in conjunction with CGU (Anne Naeth).

- i. 343 total registrants, 144 CSSS members.
 - ii. 213 total oral presentations, 83 by CSSS members (22 by students).
 - iii. 99 total poster presentations, 56 by CSSS members (30 by students).
 - iv. Award ceremony - casual instead of a formal banquet to allow people to circulate. Held on the last day of the conference to include student winners.
 - v. Thanks to Margaret-Anne Stroh (CGU) and all volunteers for their good work.
- c. 2007: Quebec City, Quebec (Denis Angers).
- i. Will be heard at Duchesnay, near Quebec City, in association with L'Association quebecoise des specialistes en sciences du sol, June 3-6, 2007.
 - ii. Will include symposia on cold soils, Regis Simard (it will be 5 yrs since he passed on) and a field tour.
- d. 2008: Prince George, British Columbia (Lito Arocena).
- i. Will be heard July 6-9, 2008.
 - ii. Many reasons to come: ecosystems range from rainforests to deserts, soils activities encompass forestry, agriculture, mining (reclamation) and oil and gas (remediation).

11. Business Office Report (Steve Sheppard).

- a. Steve Sheppard was not present, but he had sent this report:-

Main office: 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".

Monthly emails: The plan is to continue to send monthly emails to all members, conveying a variety of things. Please think of this as a distribution process should you have something other members should know about. Although we have been sending job notices this way, please note that the BrainHunter job board from the www.csss.ca web site is still functioning. If you have not been receiving emails, then something is missing and you should contact the main office if you would like this changed. Comments on content are always welcome.

SPORG: The vote held by CSSS last fall to elect members of the IUSS board was done electronically using the SPORG system. This seemed to work well, and the comments were quite favorable. There is a cost of \$0.50 per vote on line, but this compares well with a higher cost for printing and postage if paper ballots were used. In terms of confidentiality, the on-line vote is similar to mailed-in paper ballots, in that the voters need to trust those handling the ballots to not associate voter names with votes. In the on-line system, a disinterested 3rd party (a contract employee from ECOMatters Inc.) handles the electronic file.

Comments about services provided by the Main Office are always welcome.

- b. On behalf of CSSS, the President (Craig Drury) thanked Steve and other staff at the Office for the great work that they are doing for CSSS.

12. New Business: None.

13. Appointment of Auditors: Move to appoint Bob Eilers and Rhonda McDougal again; Don Flaten, 2nd: Denis Angers. Carried.

14. Adjournment: 1 h 30 min.