

Minutes
CSSS Annual General Meeting
5 August 2009

Meeting location: Guelph University

In attendance: approximately 45 members

1. The meeting was opened at 17:00 by Gordon Price
2. Approval of agenda: Moved by Mel Webb, seconded by Kent Watson; carried.
3. Minutes from 2008 AGM entered. Suzanne Allaire moved to approve, Craig Drury seconded; carried.
4. Business from 2008 minutes: there was no business arising from the minutes.
5. Communications
6. Report of Secretary / Report of President (Gordon Price): There are currently 340 members (105 students, 11 post-docs, 172 regular members). There were 357 members in 2008, and 364 in 2009. Appointments: Secretary – Barbara Cade-Menun; Treasurer – Paul Bullock; CJSS Editor – Gary Kachanoski. Elections (both by acclamation): Western Councillor – Maja Krzic; President-Elect – Cindy Grant. Conference numbers have declined – there were 180 last year, and 130 registered this year from the society. There is half the number of poster and oral presentations this year compared with last year.
7. Report of Treasurer (Paul Bullock): Financial report and auditor's report presented. CSSS is financially healthy, in large part due to proceeds from Methods book. Authors of Methods book thanked for their contributions. The trust fund increased by \$10701.47. Don Flaten notes that there is a need to reinstate the financial committee – managing by default is not a good long-term plan. The CSSS membership is risk-adverse, but we need to develop a plan. Gordon Price: establish a financial planning committee of council members and at-large members if needed, may be council members only by default. Need to check by laws to see what is required/allowed. Question from the floor: Do we have professional management? Answer from treasurer: yes, from Wood Gundy. However, they need us to tell them what we want with respect to aggressiveness. Comment from floor: our by-laws require the committee to be made up of president-elect, treasurer and two members at large. Comment from student member: would like to see "green" investments. Treasurer: we don't have a mechanism in place to make changes. Question from floor: Is fixed income generating enough income. Answer from treasurer: no. Question: would it solve problem to establish committee? Answer: yes, while we amend by-laws. Volunteers for financial planning committee: Mel Webber, Don Flaten. Moved by Dan Pennock, seconded by Clark Topp. Carried. Statement of Auditors. Last table of 2010 budget, new items: website maintenance, administrative upgrades, student reception. Moved to approve by Miles Dyck, Seconded by Suzanne Allaire. Comments: can't find "charitable donation" area on-line. Motion carried.
8. Report of Past President (Dan Pennock): This position has few duties, so the revitalization committee was added. Next initiative is to develop stronger links with provincial organizations, and CSSS liaison person at each university.
9. Report of President (Gordon Price): Thanked Jim Miller for the collection of photos on CSSS fellows. Council activities: two teleconference meetings; passed motions, which were mostly positions for council; one motion passed was for a graduate student reception here at the annual meeting. There is a scheduling conflict of the student activities and the AGM, so student attendance is low. Stressed the importance of engaging students in the CSSS.
10. Report of Committees:

- a) Rewards committee (Cindy Grant, Martin Carter, and Anne Naeth): Travel awards, book prizes, 22 students competing for Bentley award, 27 students competing for poster award. Three awards for Soil Science for Society; no CSSS Fellows or honorary members, need to update requirement.
 - b) Pedology subcommittee (Dan Pennock and Scott Smith) www.soilsofcanada.ca Dan showed us the new website; there will be a special issue of CJSS; society publication of Soil Classification Manual.
 - c) Revitalization committee (Maja Krzic): website updated. Currently on temporary server, will be transferred in about one month. www.neevmedia.com/CSSS Need links to provincial soil or soil-related organizations. Need info for "useful links". Long-term plan for maintenance: It will be the duty of the western councillor.
11. CJSSS Editor's Report (Gary Kachanoski): Joann Whalen was appointed special editions, review editor. CJSSS owned by AIC; issues relating to pre-1998 issues not in electronic form. AIC has not put all back issues on-line; new CJSS website. Two people from each NRC manage journals (Gary and Dan Reynolds for CJSS). Current page charges are \$90 per page, and institutional fees are \$180 per year for electronic and print access. Will increase institution fees by 50% and cut page charges to members to \$30 per page, and ideally to \$0 per page over time. Last year, submissions were down, this year they are up, due to special editions. There is a 40% rejection rate. Submissions last year were 88, and there are 76 so far this year, with 50% rejection rate. There are 15 associate editors.
12. Resolutions
- a) Thank you to organizing committee for this year's meeting, and to the University of Guelph. Moved by Suzanne Allaire, seconded by Dan Pennock, carried.
 - b) Proposal for CSSS to become a member of the Canadian Society of Geophysical Sciences. We would still be independent, but membership would give a broader voice and encourage collaborations. There is no cost to join. Moved to proceed by Clark Topp; seconded by Miles Dyck. Discussion: there is no apparent downside, and no commitment with respect to conferences. Motion carried.
13. New Business
- a) Appointment of financial reviewers: Giza Racz and David Whetter have agreed to do it. Moved to nominate: David Chanasyk, seconded by Newton Lupwayi, carried.
 - b) Increasing student participation in CSSS: Student reception was new this year, and hopefully will be expanded next year. Student programs could be developed to deliver soil science to schools. Maxime Pare (student rep) talked with PRSSS, who gave good suggestions such as a form on website to engage students who can't attend meeting, and workshop for students during meeting. Timing in summer may be a problem.
 - c) Policy discussions: should one role of CSSS be to be involved in policy, setting out statements on topics such as greenhouse gases, etc? Question: is this something of interest to the Society, e.g. defining soil sustainability? Decision: organize forum for next year, see how much interest there is.
 - d) Venues for upcoming meetings: 2010 Saskatoon (June 20-24), Transfers and Transformations; 2011 joint with SSSA in San Antonio. Volunteers: Suzanne Allaire. October 16-20, 2011. 2012 potentially with CGU, in Banff.

Meeting adjourned at 18:51, 5 August 2009. Moved by Suzanne Allaire, seconded by Catherine Fox. Carried.

Submitted by Barbara Cade-Menun, CSSS Secretary