

Agenda
CSSS Annual General meeting
11 July 2019, 16:30
Agriculture Building 5C61, University of Saskatchewan Campus

In attendance: Fran Walley, Nathan Basiliko, Noura Ziadi, Rich Farrell, Louis-Pierre Comeau, Anne Naeth, Edith Olson, Gazali Issah, Amanda Diochon and 56 members.

Call to Order: Fran Walley called the meeting to order at 16:37 CST and welcomed everyone. She had everyone on council introduce themselves. There was a land acknowledgement that the University of Saskatchewan is situated on Treaty 6 territory and the homeland of the Métis.

1. Approval of agenda (Fran): The agenda was distributed and displayed for membership. Fran asked for approval. Motioned by Barbara Cade-Menun and seconded by Angela Bedard-Haughn. There were no questions or additions. All in favor.
2. Minutes from 2018 AGM: Amanda asked if there were any errors or omissions to the minutes. There were none. Angela Bedard-Haughn motioned that the minutes be approved and this was seconded by Dan Pennock. All were in favor. Amanda updated membership on the number of times the council met, the number of motions we voted on, and highlighted the positions that will become vacant later this year.
3. Business arising from 2018 minutes: Richard Heck inquired about an update on the bid for the 2030 World Congress of Soil Science, which will be discussed under other business. Barbara asked about the joint meeting in San Diego and Fran mentioned that it is in her report.
4. Treasurer's Report: Edith Olson thanked the auditors and reviewed the financial records of the society. These are attached to this report. Edith asked if there were any questions on the report. Richard Heck motioned to approve the report, which was seconded by Tom Bruulsema. Dan asked about the investment losses and if this might require consideration. Edith suggested letting the investments stay as they are. A member of the SSSA was in the room (Eric Brevik) who mentioned that their investments also lost money. All were in favor. Edith presented the proposed budget for the upcoming year. Barbara asked about forecasted revenues/expenses for the upcoming years. Dave Burton asked whether we should consider spending some of the money to raise our profile.

Motion em-2019-07: To establish a fund for costs associated with publishing up to 10 accepted papers in the CJSS by members with demonstrated financial need. Barbara Cade-Menun motioned that the award be created and this was seconded by Gordon Price. All were in favor. Motion carried. Council will work out details of an award description and how the funds will be distributed.

5. President's Report: Fran Walley summarized membership numbers. Dave Lobb is the ITP representative for Canada. The CSSS gathered twice this year; once in San Diego and once here. *See report.* Fran met with Bill Pan, president of the SSSA, at Rhizo5. He was keen to have our societies work more closely. He mentioned a meeting around Soil Health and Fran invited members who are interested in helping to organize this to contact her. Bill also mentioned a shared meeting in the future and Fran indicated that sometimes because of our size we tend to not have high visibility. Meetings closer to the border tend to be better attended and Bill said that he would mention this to his members. Fran also mentioned that she has been discussing the relationship between CSSS and CSP with Jim Germida and he mentioned that he would like to

see the CJSS develop more special issues. Fran asked for questions or comments. The member from SSSA who has been on the organizing committee for some of the joint meetings suggested meeting in Canada. Barbara mentioned that the USDA won't fund travel internationally which complicates attendance.

6. Report of Committees:

- a) Awards committee: Nathan Basiliko told membership that the committee was himself, Noura, and Maja. There were 33 applicants. Normally we would award 14 and council agreed to award 16 this year because of the strong pool of applicants in need. There were 12 book awards given to the top undergraduate students across the country. There were two applications for graduate students to attend an international meeting in San Antonio and both were approved. Nate thanked all members who volunteered to evaluate student oral and poster presentations. Nate also mentioned that our MOU with CSP will be expiring next year and that this may impact the number of student awards in the future. He will be looking into this and this is something that will be discussed next year at the AGM.
- b) Education committee: Maja Krzic highlighted the work of the editorial board for the Canadian textbook and encouraged membership to come to the lunch meeting tomorrow for the education committee to hear more. The timeline for completion is the end of the next calendar year. She also highlighted the manuscripts that the committee has been working on: 1. Skills in the workplace survey and 2. Practises in education for IUSS. Maja again encouraged everyone to attend the meeting tomorrow. Nate commented on an open access microbiology textbook developed in Ontario that has been shown to save students several hundred thousand dollars.
- c) Pedology sub-committee(Dan Saurette): The annual meeting for the sub-committee happened at lunch today. The webpage has been updated and there has been a call for material to be included on the webpage. The group would like to change their name.

Motion em-2019-08: The Pedology sub-committee become the Pedology Committee Motioned by Dan Saurette, seconded by Angela Bedard-Haughn. Fran asked for questions. Gordon asked if anything changes in the terms of reference. Fran mentioned that in our rules and by-laws that there are guidelines. She will review and make sure that language is updated. There was discussion around what constitutes a committee, a sub-committee and an ad-hoc committee. Fran called the question. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The digital soil mapping working group is engaging and supporting the development of national scale projects e.g. soil carbon map. Dan also highlighted that we need to be contributing on the international stage.

There is also a working group for updating the Canadian System of Soil Classification and he invited membership to contribute and participate. Dan communicated to membership on the ongoing discussion with CSP around the Canadian System of Soil Classification. CSP has agreed to transfer copyright if we don't transfer or sell the copyright for 10 years, if we do publish a bound, hard copy that we would pay them a 10% royalty on profits, and that we pay them \$2000.

Motion em-2019-09: The CSSS works with CSP to acquire the copyright of the Canadian System of Classification with the goal of developing a fourth edition. Moved by Richard Heck, seconded by Angela-Bedard. Barbara asked if this was something that could go out to the broader membership but the majority agreed that it wouldn't be

necessary. Gordon asked about the costs for the current version, which is around \$40 and is printed on demand. Barbara mentioned that AAFC might actually hold the copyright and that this should be investigated. Fran asked for additional comments. Adam asked if the conditions were negotiable and Dan said that he thought that they would. Tom also commented on distribution. Fran asked if there any additional questions. All were in favor. Motion carried.

7. CJSS Editor's Report: Anne Naeth thanked Newton Lupwayi and four AEs who finished their terms this year. Anne encouraged members to consider reviewing papers because the AEs are having a difficult time finding reviewers and this is increasing the time to publication. Anne said that review papers and special issues are in decline and that this may explain why the impact of the journal is declining. Since review articles are some of the most highly cited papers, she encouraged members to think about review papers. Anne highlighted some of the key statistics in her report but encouraged everyone to review her report (attached). The goals moving forward are to increase our impact factor and encourage membership to consider submitting to the CJSS to help improve the impact of the journal. She invited members to contact her if they are interested in being a reviewer or an AE. Dave Burton asked if CSP is receptive to offering reviewers and AEs a 10% discount on publication costs because that is something that has been proposed previously. Anne will look into it. Barbara highlighted the high costs associated with publishing open access, which is required by the government now.
8. Student Representative's Report: Gazali Issah has generated a student membership list so that there can be better communication among the students. He mentioned that it would be good if students would indicate if they are interested in events. He is working with the SSSA to plan a graduate student leadership training session at the meeting next year in Charlottetown. The SSSA student group suggested forming a committee to help with planning the session. He also mentioned developing webinars and podcasts, likely in collaboration with the SSSA. Fran asked for comments or questions. There were none.
9. Western Councillor's report (website): Rich Farrell noted that he has been working on the website and highlighted the changes that have been made on the webpage. He had asked for feedback at last year's meeting and got two responses, one favorable and one not. He and Shirley are working on redesigning the website. Rich also mentioned that he will be posting all announcements that go through the business office on the website unless instructed otherwise. Fran asked for questions. There were none.
10. Eastern Councillor's report (newsletter): Louis-Pierre Comeau noted that he's already published one newsletter and will put another one out after the meeting. He encouraged members to forward news items and retirements. Fran asked for questions, there were none.
11. Resolutions
 - a) Resolution of Appreciation: Fran proposed resolutions of appreciate to Nancy Zubriski, who manages our office. Barbara Cade-Menun for organizing the San Diego meeting. Angela Bedard-Haughn and Ken Van Rees for organizing the current meeting.
12. New Business
 - a) Appointment of financial reviewers: Edith Olson invited two reviewers of the financial documents. Gordon Price and Diane Knight both agreed to serve as reviewers.
 - b) Progress on 2020 meeting (Charlottetown): Judith Nyiraneza introduced Scott Anderson, who is her colleague from Charlottetown, who is on the local organizing committee. He

is involved in KTT and planning events. He brought two boxes of chocolate covered potato chips from Cows. Judith shared a promotional video, which was very well received. There was an inquiry about flexibility on dates because the Canadian Society of Agronomy is at the same time. Judith will inquire about the availability of dates. Accommodations and the venue have been secured. A website is in progress. AAFC isn't able to handle the finances but the Faculty of Engineering has agreed to handle the account.

Motion em-2019-10: Advance \$5000 to the organizing committee, with the understanding that it will be repaid depending the financial outcome of the conference. Motioned by Judith and seconded by Dave Burton. There were no questions. All were in favor, motion carried.

- c) Proposal for 2021 meeting (Alberta): Noura Ziadi on behalf of Scott Chang moved that the meeting be held in Alberta in 2021. Motioned by Noura Ziadi, seconded by Dan Saurette. Fran asked for questions, there were none. All were in favor, motion carried.
- d) Graduate student awards (funding from AIC and CSP): Nathan Basiliko will keep us updated on discussions with AIC

14. Business arising from the floor: Richard Heck discussed the failed bid to host the World Congress. He was encouraged by many delegates to apply again. He approached the Toronto Convention Centre and they would be onboard with putting another bid together. He noted the strong letters of support. The last time we hosted was in 1978 and that this is an excellent opportunity to raise our profile as a society. The next world congress is in 2030 but the bid would have to go in 2022. We need to start planning early if we are going to move forward with a bid. Anyone who is interested in helping to prepare the bid should contact Richard or Fran. Richard asked if there was a preference for a July or August date. July was the preferred month. Retirements need to be kept in mind because the timeframe is long.

15. Adjourned at 18:16 CST

Secretary's Report:

a) Since the last AGM (in June 2018 in Niagara Falls), council has met once in person (here in Saskatoon on Tuesday) and three times by telephone conference call. Council voted on 10 motions, by email and telephone conference.

b) Elections Report: Vacant positions for 2019 were President-Elect, Eastern Councilor, and Student Representative. Nathan Basiliko was acclaimed President-Elect. Louis-Pierre Comeau was acclaimed as Eastern councilor and Gazali Issah was elected as Student Representative. For 2020, positions open will be President-Elect and Western Councilor. A call for nominations will be sent out in October and elections will be held in December. Please consider running for a council position, and please vote.

c) Outgoing council members (Joann Whalen, Judith Nyiraneza, Newton Lupwai, and Michael Carson) are thanked for their contributions to CSSS council. Incoming council members (Nathan Basiliko, Gazali Issah, Anne Naeth, and Louis-Pierre Comeau) are welcomed to council. The CSSS is very grateful to those who let their names stand for election to the Society executive.

As of July 11, 2019 CSSS Council is:

Past-president	Noura Ziadi
President	Fran Walley
President-elect	Nathan Basiliko
Secretary	Amanda Diochon
Treasurer	Edith Olson
Student representative	Gazali Issah
Eastern councilor	Louis-Pierre Comeau
Western councilor	Rich Farrell
Journal editor	Anne Naeth

Canadian Society of Soil Science Treasure's report for 2018

The 2018 financials were audited by Barbara Cade-Menun and Xiyang Hao with assistance from Brian Dobing. My grateful thanks to these individuals for their comments, suggestions and edits. The finalized report was prepared and approved.

Net Income and Balance Sheet

At the end of December 2018, the CSSS had a net income of \$14,253.36 and a balance sheet of \$521,318.63.

At the end of December 2018 the totals for our Wood Gundy investments and Sunova accounts were \$402,108.91 and \$119,209.72 respectively. Our term deposit of \$24,589.66 with Sunova matured on December 6, 2018 and was reinvested in January 2019 along with the interest of \$860.64. Although our Wood Gundy investments lost \$1,290.92, our Sunova accounts generated interest of \$1,386.34 and dividends of \$63.24. We ended 2018 with a total investment revenue, interest and dividends of \$1,019.30.

Revenue

Membership and Journal online and cheques brought in \$18,673.30. CSA Bundle membership received was \$30. Conference revenue comprised of \$6,803.91 from the 2017 meeting at Trent and \$14,783.08 from the 2018 meeting at Niagara. The Society received \$2,000 from the Agriculture Institute of Canada and \$8,000 from Canadian Science Publishers. We received \$350 for CSP subscriptions. Royalties of \$491.34 are below the minimum threshold for Taylor and Francis to issue a cheque and have been carried forward to 2019. Income from the BNY Trust totaled \$491.34. Note that we have been trying for months to determine exactly how much is in this trust with no information coming forth despite repeated requests made to banking officials. Our total revenue for 2018 was \$52,150.93.

Expenses

Office contract and associated expenses were \$6,853.95. Insurance was \$918. We contributed \$8,000 for the icebreaker at the 2018 Niagara conference. CSP subscriptions were \$1,918.75. CSA bundle membership and a transfer fee totaled \$212.50. Stickers for the AGM were \$493.50. Website invoices were \$375.00, postage was \$17.22 and bank service charges were \$2.00. Total operating expenses came to \$18,790.92.

The three Bentley Speaking Awards and three President's Poster Awards were fully allocated at \$1,000 each. From the international student travel award budget of \$6,800 there was \$4,804.25 awarded. Two of the cheques for that award were not cashed in 2018. The 10 Undergraduate Book Awards total was actually \$2,947.40 but has been reported as \$2,902.40 as the amount of the cheque to reimburse the registrar for this expense was written with a \$45 shortfall. This shortfall will be corrected in 2019. CSSS Conference Student Travel awards of \$600 each for the CSSS Annual Conference totaled \$5,400. Travel expenses incurred for the Pedology Award winner were \$4,000 were paid using the monies allocated to the fund for Member travel to international conference.

Respectfully submitted by Edith Olson, CSSS Treasurer

INCOME STATEMENT Dec 31, 2018

REVENUE

Interest from Term Deposit	\$860.64
Change in Wood Gundy Investments	-\$1,290.92
Interest from Sunova SSUP #1	\$1,386.34
Dividends from Sunova Surplus Shares	\$63.24
Total Investment revenue, interest and dividends	\$1,019.30
Membership & Journal cheques	\$3,176.50
Membership & Journal online	\$15,496.80
Total membership revenue	\$18,673.30
CSA Bundle membership received	\$30.00
Conference revenue	\$21,586.99
Received from AIC	\$2,000.00
Canadian Science Publishers	\$8,000.00
CSP Subscriptions	\$350.00
Royalties	\$0.00
Other income	\$0.00
BNY Trust	\$491.34
Total other revenue	\$32,458.33
TOTAL REVENUE	\$52,150.93

EXPENSES

General travel expenses	\$0.00
Office contract/expenses	\$6,853.95
Insurance	\$918.00
AGM/Student Reception	\$0.00
Conference fees to host organization	\$8,000.00
CSP Subscriptions	\$1,918.75
Council travel	\$0.00
CSA Bundle membership	\$210.00
Transfer fee	\$2.50
AIC dues	\$0.00
AIC subscription	\$0.00
IUSS dues	\$0.00
Conference expenses	\$493.50
Other operating expenses	\$0.00
Website	\$375.00
Postage	\$17.22
Bank Service Charges	\$2.00
Publication fees	\$0.00
Total Operational Expenses	\$18,790.92

Bently Speaking or President's Poster Award	\$2,000.00
International student travel award	\$4,804.25
CSSS Conference Student Travel Award	\$5,400.00
Undergraduate Book Awards	\$2,902.40
NSERC Women in Soils	\$0.00
North American Forest Conference	\$0.00
Special Trust Fund Projects	\$0.00
Member travel to international conference	\$4,000.00
Total Awards	\$19,106.65
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$37,897.57
Net Income	\$14,253.36

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DEC 31, 2018**ASSETS**

CIBC Wood Gundy (Cash)	\$0.00
CIBC Wood Gundy Income Investments	\$36,098.73
CIBC Wood Gundy Equities	\$73,668.20
CIBC Wood Gundy Mutual Funds	\$292,341.98
CIBC Wood Gundy Total Assets	\$402,108.91

Sunova credit Union Chequing CNC #1	\$20,985.66
Sunova Credit Union Savings SSUP#1	\$95,303.14
Sunova Credit Union Petty Cash	\$1,356.10
Sunova Credit Union Surplus Shares	\$564.82
Sunova Credit Union Common Shares	\$1,000.00
Credit Union Term TLT2#1	\$0.00
Total Sunova Assets	\$119,209.72

TOTAL ASSETS **\$521,318.63**

	31-Dec-17	31-Dec-18	Change 2018-2017
REVENUE			
Interest from Term Deposit	\$831.53	\$860.64	\$29.11
Change in Wood Gundy Investments	\$13,265.15	-\$1,290.92	-\$14,556.07
Interest from Sunova SSUP #1	\$1,035.67	\$1,386.34	\$350.67
Dividends from Sunova Surplus Shares	\$58.88	\$63.24	\$4.36
Total Investment revenue, interest and dividends	\$15,191.23	\$1,019.30	-\$14,171.93
Membership & Journal cheques	\$446.50	\$3,176.50	\$2,730.00
Membership & Journal online	\$19,978.06	\$15,496.80	-\$4,481.26
Total membership revenue	\$20,424.56	\$18,673.30	-\$1,751.26
CSA Bundle membership received	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$30.00
Conference revenue	\$14,759.00	\$21,586.99	\$6,827.99
Received from AIC	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Canadian Science Publishers	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
CSP Subscriptions	\$0.00	\$350.00	\$350.00
Royalties	\$1,488.13	\$0.00	-\$1,488.13
Other income	\$664.50	\$0.00	-\$664.50
BNY Trust	\$4,150.00	\$491.34	-\$3,658.66
Total other revenue	\$21,061.63	\$32,458.33	\$11,396.70
TOTAL REVENUE	\$56,677.42	\$52,150.93	-\$4,526.49
EXPENSES			
General travel expenses	\$2,782.03	\$0.00	-\$2,782.03
Office contract/expenses	\$8,098.60	\$6,853.95	-\$1,244.65
Insurance	\$0.00	\$918.00	\$918.00
AGM/Student Reception	\$440.00	\$0.00	-\$440.00
Conference fees to host organization	\$10,000.00	\$8,000.00	-\$2,000.00
CSP Subscriptions	\$3,714.75	\$1,918.75	-\$1,796.00
Council travel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
CSA Bundle membership	\$0.00	\$210.00	\$210.00
Transfer fee	\$0.00	\$2.50	\$2.50
AIC dues	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
AIC subscription	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
IUSS dues	\$1,683.63	\$0.00	-\$1,683.63
Conference expenses	\$0.00	\$493.50	\$493.50
Other operating expenses	\$3,416.96	\$0.00	-\$3,416.96
Website	\$2,191.87	\$375.00	-\$1,816.87
Postage	\$21.85	\$17.22	-\$4.63
Bank Service Charges	\$6.50	\$2.00	-\$4.50
Publication fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Operational Expenses	\$32,356.19	\$18,790.92	-\$13,565.27
Bently Speaking or President's Poster Award	\$1,900.00	\$2,000.00	\$100.00

International student travel award	\$8,400.00	\$4,804.25	-\$3,595.75
CSSS Conference Student Travel Award	\$2,221.78	\$5,400.00	\$3,178.22
Undergraduate Book Awards	\$2,778.68	\$2,902.40	\$123.72
NSERC Women in Soils	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
North American Forest Conference	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Special Trust Fund Projects	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Member travel to international conference	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Total Awards	\$15,300.46	\$19,106.65	\$3,806.19
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$47,656.65	\$37,897.57	-\$9,759.08
Net Income	\$9,020.77	\$14,253.36	\$5,232.59

BALANCE SHEET	31-Dec-17	31-Dec-18	CHANGE
ASSETS			
CIBC Wood Gundy (Cash)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
CIBC Wood Gundy Income Investments	\$37,159.67	\$36,098.73	-\$1,060.94
CIBC Wood Gundy Equities	\$79,793.50	\$73,668.20	-\$6,125.30
CIBC Wood Gundy Mutual Funds	\$286,446.66	\$292,341.98	\$5,895.32
CIBC Wood Gundy Total Assets	\$403,399.83	\$402,108.91	-\$1,290.92
Sunova credit Union Chequing CNC #1	\$4,071.35	\$20,985.66	\$16,914.31
Sunova Credit Union Savings SSUP#1	\$73,064.75	\$95,303.14	\$22,238.39
Sunova Credit Union Petty Cash	\$438.10	\$1,356.10	\$918.00
Sunova Credit Union Surplus Shares	\$501.58	\$564.82	\$63.24
Sunova Credit Union Common Shares	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Credit Union Term TLT2#1	\$24,589.66	\$0.00	-\$24,589.66
Total Sunova Assets	\$103,665.44	\$119,209.72	\$15,544.28
TOTAL ASSETS	\$507,065.27	\$521,318.63	\$14,253.36

President's report (Fran Walley)

The CSSS remains a strong organization with a current membership of 271 (down from 281 in 2018), including 78 students and 21 Post Doctoral Fellows.

Several council positions transitioned this year, with terms ending for Joann Whalen as Past-President, Judith Nyiraneza as Eastern Councilor, Michael Carson as Student Representative, and Newton Lupwayi as CJSS Editor. New members are Nathan Basiliko (President Elect), Louis-Pierre Comeau (Eastern Councilor), Gazali Issah (Student Representative) and Anne Naeth (CJSS Editor). Continuing in their roles are Noura Ziadi (Past President), Rich Farrell (Western Councilor), Edith Olson (Treasurer) and Amanda Diochon (Secretary). Nancy Zubriski continues to provide support for the CSSS in our business office.

Dr. Dave Lobb currently is serving as the Canadian representative on the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS), of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations. Dr. Lobb was nominated by CSSS Council, and this nomination subsequently was approved by the Global Soil Partnership (FAO).

The CSSS has gathered twice in 2019. The first meeting was in San Diego, CA (Jan. 6-9), at the "Soils Across Latitudes" joint meeting of the American, Mexican and Canadian Societies of Soil Science. The CSSS provided travel awards of \$2,000 each for 11 student members. Congratulations to Dr. Cynthia Grant (CSSS Fellow) for her presentation as the invited speaker for the Leo M. Walsh Distinguished Lectureship. Congratulations also to Asim Biswas (University of Guelph) who received the SSSA Early Career Award, and to Ken Van Rees (University of Saskatchewan) and Claudia Wagner-Riddle (University of Guelph) who both were inducted as SSSA Fellows. A special acknowledgement to Barbara Cade-Menun who started working with the SSSA back in 2015 to make this joint meeting a reality. Our second meeting occurs in Saskatoon, and co-chairs Ken Van Rees and Angela Bedard-Haughn working with a local organizing committee to plan the annual meeting, which coincides with the 100th anniversary of the Department of Soil Science, University of Saskatchewan. A great turn out is expected with 213 registered to attend.

At our last AGM, the CSSS agreed to provide \$5,000 support for the creation of a Canadian, open source Introductory Soil Science textbook. A small editorial board (Maja Krzic, Fran Walley, Rich Farrell, Amanda Diochon, and Maxime Paré) is working with a cadre of authors on this project. Maja Krzic led the team in writing a successful proposal to BCcampus to further support the project.

The CSSS bid to host the 2026 World Congress of Soil Science (WCSS) in Toronto was not successful. However, the organizing committee, led by Dr. Richard Heck in conjunction with Tourism Toronto and the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, received much positive support for the bid, and documentation has been put on file with the CSSS for future bids.

CANADIAN JOURNAL OF SOIL SCIENCE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF REPORT FOR CSSS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Dr M Anne Naeth

July 10, 2019

Editorial Board

Dr Newton Lupwayi completed his term as Editor-In-Chief in December 2018; we are grateful for his work, guidance and leadership with the Canadian Journal of Soil Science. Thank you to the Associate Editors that ended their terms in 2018 for their dedicated service to the journal: Drs Miles Dyck, Judith Nyiraneza, Tusheng Ren, Valerie Viaud. Thank you to the Associate Editors who renewed their time with us: Drs Woo Jung Choi, Tandra Fraser, Bobbi Helgason, Lori Phillips, Wei Zhang.

The support, professionalism and expertise provided by the Canadian Science Publishing (CSP) staff are highly appreciated. Thank you to Laurie Scott, Editorial Assistant; Tamer Elbokl, Managing Editor; Jacqueline Costigan, Scientific Publishing Editor; Melanie Slavitch, Peer Review Manager; and Judy Busnarda, Director, Publishing Operations. We gratefully acknowledge the peer reviewers and thank them for their valuable contribution to the publications of CJSS.

Congratulations to the outstanding reviewers for 2018: Dr Martin Entz, Dr Dave Morris, Dr Karen Thompson. We are grateful for their consistent and expeditious delivery of comprehensive, discerning reviews to the authors of our journal.

2019 Editorial Board

Editor-in-Chief: M Anne Naeth

Associate Editors: Nathan Basiliko, Jean-Philippe Bellenger, Asim Biswas, David Burton, Woo Jung Choi, Tandra Fraser, Claudia Goyer, Bobbi Helgason, Wei Hu, Sheng Li, Aimé Jean Messiga, David Pelster, Lori Phillips, Fereidoun Rezanezhad, Ben Thomas, Mohammad Valipour, Andrew VanderZaag, Wei Zhang, Noura Ziadi.

Journal Metrics

The 2 year impact factor has been dropping steadily after a rise in 2016; the 5 year impact factor dropped from 2017. The rank among soil science journals is dropping after being relatively steady from 2013 to 2016. However, total citations are increasing. The immediacy index is up and down; it refers to the average number of times an article is cited in the year it's published (indicates how quickly articles in a journal are cited).

Metric	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
2-year impact factor	0.949	1.085	1.590	1.210	1.382	1.000	0.912
5-year impact factor	1.633	1.934	1.930	1.427	1.337	1.269	1.059
Total citations	-	2861	-	2529	2543	2326	2158
Immediacy Index	-	0.493	-	0.071	0.300	0.400	0.136
Rank in category	31/35	26/34	22/34	23/34	20/34	23/33	23/33

Other metrics of interest include the eigenfactor, the percent of estimated time library users spend with the journal. That of CJSS for 2017 relative to other soils journals was 25/34. The article influence score, a measure of average influence of each article in the journal over the first 5 years after publication, was 19/34. Relative to the mean score of 1.00; CJSS score of 0.527 indicates each article has below average influence. The SJR indicator, is a measure of a journal's impact, influence or prestige. CJSS is

51/140 at 0.520. The h index at 19 in 2017, puts CJSS outside the top 20 ranking in the soil sciences category. By comparison the number 20 ranked journal has an h index of 23.

Special Issues, Reviews

Special issues and reviews are of critical importance for a journal as they contribute significantly to improvements in impact factor. There were no special Issues published in 2018 and only one in progress for 2020. There was interest in a couple of special issues but the proponents were not ready to commit. Note the top downloaded article in 2018 was a review on the role of amendments in soil reclamation, published in a special issue on reclamation in 2012. The seventh most popular article downloaded in 2018 was a literature review on application of x-ray computed tomography to soil science published in 2008. The most downloaded article in 2018 that was published in 2018 was a review of preferential water flow in soil science.

Journal Statistics

There were 157 regular submissions to CJSS in 2018, up from the past at 150, 167, 137, 120, 126 for the years 2017 through 2013, respectively. These submissions resulted in 129 publications, consisting of 117 articles, 4 reviews, 8 short communications.

Average time for original submission to e-First improved in 2018. Original submission to file export was 189 days in 2018, similar to the 187 in 2017 and down from the 269 in 2016. File export to e-First was 32 days in 2018, considerably less than the 62 in 2017 or 57 on 2016.

Decision rates are not changing much since 2013. There is a much larger portion of submissions rejected than accepted.

Metric (%)	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Accept Rate	38	40	42	50	32	36	39
Reject Rate	62	60	58	50	68	64	61
Reject Without Review	15	29	35	26	39	40	30

Total full text downloads increased by 41,085 or 23% in 2018 over 2017. Total country distribution changed for the following countries relative to 2017: United States increased by 6%, India increased by 1%, China decreased by 7%, France decreased by 4%, United Kingdom decreased by 1%, Canada decreased by 1%, Germany decreased by 1%. Access to the journal was from 150 countries; USA 22%, Canada 12%, China 9%, India 7%, German 2%, Australia 2%, Brazil 2%, Philippines 2%, France 2%, South Africa 2%, Indonesia 1% and other countries combined 35%.

The main reasons for rejection without review were flaws in the experimental design, presented data were insufficient to support conclusions, lack of relevance to the journal. Of the papers sent for review, the main reasons for rejection by Associate Editors were lack of novelty or insufficient improvement of a manuscript based on peer review comments.

2019 Western Councilor's Report

The primary activity of the Western Councillor during the period from June 2018 through June 2019 was the update of the CSSS website, starting shortly after the conclusion of the annual meeting in Niagara Falls, ON. Updates to the CSSS website included:

- Information regarding the winners of the CSSS Student Travel Award, the C.F. Bentley Award (oral presentations), and the President's Award (poster presentations)
- Recipients of the CSSS Fellow Award
- Photographs of the award winners were loaded to replace those from the previous year
- Minutes from the 2018 AGM and the CSSS Education Committee meeting were uploaded to the site
- July and December 2018 Newsletters
- April 2019 Newsletter

Following the election of new members to Council, the website was updated with regards to the new President (Fran Walley), Past President (Noura Ziada), President-elect (Nathan Basiliko), Eastern Councillor (Louis-Pierre Comeau), Student Representative (Gazali Issah), and CJSS Editor-in-Chief (Anne Naeth). Note: there was no change to the Secretary (Amanda Diochon), Treasurer (Edith Olson), or Western Councillor (Rich Farrell).

In July 2018 a request was made to the CSSS membership (via the newsletter) for input into a potential redesign of the CSSS website – resulting in only two responses. Nevertheless, Rich initiated discussions with Shirley Ho (the CSSS Webmaster) about a redesign to modernize the site and make it easier to navigate. Council approved a budget for this in fall 2018, and after discussions with Shirley it was decided that she and Rich would work on the redesign after all the summer 2019 conferences being hosted at the University of Saskatchewan were completed.

In December 2018, Shirley Ho renewed our hosting agreement with *Web Hosting Canada* that was set to expire on January 29, 2019. Shirley will look into the options so that there is no interruption to our web service.

Requests from several members for items needing to be posted (e.g., graduate student & postdoctoral opportunities, as well as several faculty positions) were received and processed.

Updates and revisions to the web pages for the Soil Education Committee and Soil Pedology Sub-committee were made at the request of committee co-chairs.

Information regarding the following conferences was uploaded to the CSSS website:

- the international *Rhizosphere 5* conference will be held in Saskatoon July 7–11, 2019;
- the 2019 annual meeting of the CSSS, to be held jointly with the CSAFM, will be held in Saskatoon July 9–13, 2019; and
- the *2019 ASA-CSSA-SSSA International Annual Meeting* to be held in San Antonio, Texas November 10–13, 2019.

The application form for the Student Travel Award was updated for 2019. As well, the website was updated to indicate that the amount of the individual awards was increased to \$700 (from \$600) and that there are a maximum of 12 awards available in any given year.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Shirley Ho for her assistance with tasks requiring greater coding skills than my own. It continues to be an adventure ☺

Rich Farrell, Western Councillor