



Minutes of the CSSS Soil Education Committee Meeting, July 12, 2019

2019 CSSS Annual Meeting, Saskatoon, SK

Meeting Agenda

- 1) Open access Canadian Introduction to Soil Science textbook – Editorial Board: Fran Walley, Maja Krzic, Rich Farrell, Amanda Diochon and Maxime Pare
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DISCUSSION

12:00 PM Maja opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Approximately 30 members were present.

The focus of the whole meeting was on the progress of the open access textbook. Members of the Editorial Board wanted to ensure the following:

- a) that all lead chapter authors are aware of the style guidelines
- b) that each chapter has several co-authors and that at least one of them is instructor of the introductory soil science course

During the meeting we discussed the timeline, upcoming deadlines and next steps.

Background

Dan Pennock initiated the idea of the Canadian e-textbook at the meeting in Montreal in 2015. The main textbook used in our introductory courses is Brady and Weil's Nature and Properties of Soils, an American textbook which is great but expensive and solely focused on the US. There is therefore a need to a free or inexpensive e-textbook that can be used to deliver Canadian introductory soil science courses. BC Ministry of Higher Education is currently promoting e-textbooks through BCcampus funding for open textbooks



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(<https://bccampus.ca/open-education/>) and in fall 2018 the Editorial Board was able to obtain a \$10,000 grant from them for our textbook. This is accompanied with additional \$5,000 provided by CSSS.

The open access textbook will cover the main basic concepts of soil science, including soil genesis and classification, soil chemistry, soil physics, soil biology and soil provisioning services (e.g., nutrient cycling, carbon sequestration). The material will also be relevant for courses focused on importance of soils from multiple perspectives (e.g., crop production, environmental science, forestry). Soils of Canada will be highlighted, with recognition of regional differences in soils and soil management and production potential, with expanded information provided for location-specific discussions.

The open textbook format, will allow individual course instructors to tailor the textbook material to their specific region and/or perspective. The book will be published with a Creative Commons Share-Alike License (CC-BY-SA) which is a copyright license that gives other people the right to share, use, modify, remix and otherwise build upon it as long as they provide attribution to the original open textbook and share their new creations under a similar open license.

Meeting adjourned at 13:35.