

**Canadian Society of Soil Science - Annual General Meeting
Minutes, 2004
Monday Nov. 1, 15:00 - 17:00**

Location: Convention Centre, Rm. 610, Seattle, WA.

1. Call to order (3:03 pm) and welcome (Ed Gregorich).

2. Approval of the Agenda.

Motion AGM – 1 – 2004: To approve the agenda, Moved by David Kroetsch, 2nd Denis Angers. Carried

3. Approval of the 2003 AGM minutes.

Motion AGM – 2 – 2004: To approve 2003 meeting minutes, Moved by Alain Plante , 2nd Craig Drury. Carried

4. Business arising from the 2003 AGM minutes (Ed Gregorich). None.

5. President's Report (Ed Gregorich).

**CSSS PRESIDENT'S REPORT
2003-04**

It has been an honour to serve as the 50th President of CSSS. In serving as President over this last year I was impressed by the level of commitment shown by members of council and Society members and am grateful for their support. In this report I will summarize several activities and issues, some of which may be mentioned in my newsletter articles and reports from other CSSS officers, but are gathered here in a single report.

CSSS membership The number of CSSS members has steadily increased over the last few years and is now at an all-time high of more than 420. Student members make up about 25% of total membership, and I interpret this relatively large proportion of students as a positive indicator of the health and future of our Society.

CSSS VIETCANSOL project In late spring, I traveled with a Canadian team to Vietnam to review the VIETCANSOL project. This project is one of three related to soils in AIC's International Twinning Partnership Program in which Society members participate (the others are in Costa Rica and Sri Lanka). This project illustrates the key role that Canadian soil science plays internationally, sharing resources and expertise in regions of the world where soil conservation efforts make such a difference in the lives of local farmers.

Scientific conference The annual CSSS scientific conference has been set for May 15-18, 2005, with the involvement of three science societies: the Geological Association of Canada, the Mineralogical Association of Canada, and the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists. The meeting will be held on the campus of Dalhousie University in Halifax.

New CSSS Working Group A Soil Classification Working Group has been established, led by Charles Tarnocai, Dan Pennock, and Darwin Anderson. The objectives of this national-level group are to oversee and update the Canadian System of Soil Classification, thereby preserving and maintaining the great storehouse of knowledge about Canadian soils.

CSSS business office A secure Internet service was established this year for CSSS members. This new service, accessible at the CSSS website, makes it easier to sign up and pay for membership, vote, and register for conferences. Also located at the CSSS website is a careers site that functions quite well for people seeking jobs and those posting job openings.

CSSS publications Work has begun on a 2nd edition of the CSSS-sponsored publication **Soil Sampling and Methods of Analysis**. This revised edition will have nearly 80 chapters written by Canadian and international soil scientists. Martin Carter and I are serving as chief editors, assisted by 14 associate editors.

CSSS council I thank Joann Whalen (eastern councillor), Don Flaten (treasurer), Vimy Glass (Grad. student rep.), Martin Carter (CJSS editor) and Gary Parkin (secretary) for their hard work on Council this past year. I am grateful to Alain Plante, Frank Larney, and Maja Krzic, who helped to prepare for and organize the joint CSSS-SSSA meeting in Seattle. I also thank Anne Naeth, Gerry Coen, and Eric Beauchamp, who served on the Awards Committee. I welcome to Council Anne Naeth as incoming President, Craig Drury as President-Elect, and Xiying Hao as incoming western Council member. Thank you to Ahmet Mermut, retiring Past President, and Frank Larney, retiring Western Councillor, for their dedicated service to the Society. These people worked hard on Council and did their job well – it has been a pleasure to work with them.

Ed Gregorich

-420+ members now – 25% students.

-63 students presenting here.

Vietnam – CSSS project: excellent level of commitment by Don Acton, reports are available on the internet.

-we will be meeting with GAC\MAC May 15-18, 2005 in Halifax.

-a working group on soil classification has been formed.

-the CSSS President's term of office is now the calendar year.

Motion AGM – 3 – 2004: To accept the President's report , Moved by Ed Gregorich, 2nd Bert van Denbygaart. Carried

6. Treasurer's Report (Don Flaten).

-trust fund mandate to keep it growing at the inflation rate.

-operating fund had a \$3000 deficit last year.

-budget for 2005: preserve capital base for the Bentley trust – modest expenses.

Alain Plante: should we consider a funding drive to supplement the Bentley fund? – investigate more corporate sponsorships for graduate student travel awards.

Ed Topp: Who manages the trust? Don Flaten: CIBC Wood Gundy in Winnipeg.

Motion AGM – 4 – 2004: To approve the Treasurer's report, Moved by Don Flaten, 2nd Gary Paterson. Carried

Motion AGM – 5 – 2004: To appoint Bob Ehlers and Rhonda McDougal as auditors, Moved by Don Flaten, 2nd Dan Pennock. Carried

7. Election Report (Gary Parkin)

President-Elect election conducted in late 2003; results were Anne Naeth: 78 votes, Craig Drury: 63 votes.

No election was necessary this year as all candidates were acclaimed.

Craig Drury is the new President-Elect and Xiyang Hao is the new Western Councillor.

Motion AGM – 6 – 2004: To approve the Election report, Moved by Gary Parkin, 2nd Dan Pennock. Carried

8. Student Representative's Report (Vimy Glass).

Activities of the Graduate Student Representative this year have been limited to newsletter contribution and participation in council motions and discussions. I have been pleased to see more students submitting overviews of their research to me.

Vimy Glass

Motion AGM – 7 – 2004: To approve the Graduate Student's report, Moved by Vimy Glass, 2nd David Kroestch. Carried

Alain Plante: Will Vimy finish as graduate student representative soon? Yes, in the spring of 2005 (Vimy Glass).

Craig Drury: Number of graduate student members now 60.

9. CJSS Editor's Report (Martin Carter).

Canadian Journal of Soil Science Editor's Report for 2003

This is my second year as Editor of CJSS. I would like to thank both Tim Fenton and Laurie Scott of the AIC Publishing Office for their excellent assistance and expertise. The CJSS is an important international science arm for the CSSS and provides an excellent showcase for soil science research.

Associate Editors

- I. At the conclusion of 2003, Dr. Caroline Preston (soil biochemistry and forest soils) concluded her role as Associate Editor. I would like to thank her for her dedicated editorial work.
- II. A motion passed by the SJC committee of AIC and CSSS Council approved the expansion of the number of Associate Editors from 15 to 20. This reduced the editorial workload and allowed the appointment of Associate Editors outside Canada. The latter development furthers the international profile of CJSS.
- III. In 2004 several new Associate Editors were appointed: Denis Angers (soil structure and physical properties) from Québec, Cameron Grant (soil physics and water dynamics) from South Australia, Henry Janzen (soil biochemistry) from Alberta, Margaret Schmidt (forest soils) from British Columbia, Eric Blanchart (soil ecology) from France, Sean McGinn (agro-meteorology and climate) from Alberta, and Guy Richard (soil management) from France. Also, Craig Drury (soil nitrogen) from Ontario and Cynthia Grant (soil fertility and crop production) from Manitoba have kindly agreed to serve a second 3-year term
- IV. Assistant Editor, Professor O. Brian Allen, Department Mathematics & Statistics, University of Guelph continues to assist CJSS in statistical matters.

Special Issues

- V. A special issue of CJSS (Guest Editors: C. Fox, E. Topp, A. Mermut, and R. Simard) was published in 2003 on Soil Biodiversity.
- VI. For 2004, a Special Section on 'Soil Mycorrhizae and Soil Quality' is now 'in press' (with Guest Editors Chantal Hamel and Denis Angers). Two special issues are in progress: 'Soil Carbon Measurement' (with Guest Editors Scott Smith, David Lobb, and Carlos Monreal), and 'Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Agriculture' (with Guest Editors Bert VandenBygaart, Henry Janzen, and Sean McGinn).
- VII. Some other topics for special issues/sections are in the planning stage: 'Below Ground Productivity in Soil Ecosystems' and 'Recycling Nutrients from Wastes'.

Journal Statistics

- VIII. Submission rate in 2003 was 97 manuscripts. This is an increase over the last two years and just above the four-year (1999-2002) average of 94 manuscripts.
- IX. The ISI impact factor (IF) in 2002 and 2003 was 0.689 and 0.965, respectively. The latter IF was above the five-year average (1998-2002) of 0.760. This places the CJSS just below the major soil science journals (IF for *Soil Science*, *Soil Science Society America Journal*, and *Soil Biology and Biochemistry* are 1.00, 1.38, and 1.92, respectively), and above the *Australian Journal Soil Research* (0.763), which is similar in size and scope to CJSS. To help maintain and increase the IF, 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 international interest.
- X. There has been an increase of manuscript submissions from outside of Canada over the last two years. However, more emphasis could be placed on attracting papers from the United States. The rejection rate (29%) remains relatively low compared to other journals, and is within the range of previous years (17-36% from 1997 to 2002). The overall low rejection rate is probably due to the high quality (both linguistically and scientifically) of most submitted manuscripts.
- XI. In 2003 we published: 51 regular scientific papers, 1 special issue (10 manuscripts). Total pages: 646.

Martin Carter, Editor CJSS

Motion AGM – 8 – 2004: To accept the CJSS Editor's report, Moved by Martin Carter, 2nd Vimy Glass. Carried

10. Annual Conference Reports 2003 –Denis Angers.

-\$600 profit, 39 people participated in the agronomy tour, about 200 at banquet, a number of papers from the conference have been published in CJSS.

Motion AGM – 9 – 2004: To accept the conference 2003 report, Moved by Bert van Denbygaart , 2nd Ahmet Mermut. Carried

2004 - Frank Larney.

-acknowledge the help of Alain Plante and Ed Gregorich, met with Tom Sims and others in Dnever, strong visibility of CJSS – cosponsor 8 symposia, 180 presentations including 63 students.

Motion AGM – 10 – 2004: To accept the conference 2004 report, Moved by Gerry Coen, 2nd Dan Pennock. Carried

Gerry Coen: might be useful to have a CJSS representative in the registration area –members can inquire about charges, etc. at the meeting. Carried

2005 – Dave Burton

-Lise Kellman, Chair of CSSS local organizing committee, -GAC/MAC/CAPG are enthusiastic

to meet with us, 8 symposia for CSSS, registration fees about \$400 for members, call for Abstracts opens today and ends Jan. 17/05.

Motion AGM – 11 – 2004: To accept the conference 2005 report, Moved by David Kroestch, 2nd Craig Drury. Carried

11a. Dan Pennock, soils working group, organized by Charles Tarnocai, meeting tomorrow at noon, review Canadian System of Soil Classification.

11. Business Office Report - Steve Sheppard.

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CSSS Office (Steve Sheppard)

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”.

Membership numbers and the Seattle meeting: CSSS has not used member numbers since 1997 when the office function moved to Pinawa. This was a strategic decision on my part: we are few enough that names are sufficiently unique identifiers and certainly more friendly. This year, the ASA office needed to correspond with our members and they use member numbers. As a result, the ASA office generated numbers for you. In future, should we plan to meet with SSSA again, we should assign our own member numbers for that function. Sorry for the confusion this caused for the Seattle meeting.

Membership early-renewal incentive: It is probably a manifestation of the 80/20 rule, because it seems that 80% of the office work is associated with the 20% of members who renew late in the year. Council and I are considering various early-renewal incentives, and your input is welcome. Two ideas are a cash lottery prize given to 1 person drawn from those who renewed before April 1, or a \$20 hike in fee for each person to renew later than a set date (new members joining late in the year would not be affected).

BrainHunter: The CSSS careers site is fully operational (a BrainHunter product and service), and has generated revenue for CSSS. The site has great functionality for both those seeking jobs and those posting job openings. Ideally we might move to this system instead of email, but there seems to be some reluctance on the part of employers to pay the \$150 listing fee. I am a little surprised by this, an investment of \$150 seems small compared to the cost of potentially hiring other than the best person for the job.

SPORG: The on-line membership registration system has been functioning successfully, and does improve the efficiency of the registrar function. The greatest efficiency would result if everyone used it. Of course, there will always be some people who prefer paper copy, and so we will continue to accept both paper copy (mail) and on-line registration. There is a feature of

SPORG we have not fully explored, and that is the password log-in option. The system does not require you to have a password to renew for CSSS, but you can opt to enter a password. If you do not use that option, then each year you have to enter all your address details, whereas if you enter a password, last year's data should be available for you to simply check. The password system may also allow voting. My assumption was that most people will only access the CSSS SPORG site once per year, and may have difficulty keeping track of their password.

Steve S.

Ed Gregorich: late registration fee likely in the future, encourage people to use SPORG, may have electronic voting in the future.

Annemieke Farenhorst: we should consider a 3-5 year membership term option.

Motion AGM – 12 – 2004: To accept the CSSS business office report, Moved by Ed Gregorich , 2nd Martin Carter. Carried

12. David Chanasyk - AIC Update

-effective Jan. 1, 2005, AIC has reverted to an individual membership organization, three membership categories: individual, association, and corporate, www.aic.ca, can register on-line, \$100/year, \$1000 for each organization.

13. Installation of New President (Ed Gregorich and Anne Naeth).

-Ed Gregorich: thanks to Council and especially Frank Larney who is leaving.

-Anne Naeth: accept position with honour and pleasure, encourage young people to join, thanks to Ed Gregorich, the Past-President now.

14. New Business.

-Wayne ? : information on professional sign-offs, reclamation, manure management, environmental farm plans, require professional sign-off, Institute of Agrology, Provincial legislation.

Craig Drury: 2006 meetings where to go?

David Chanasyk: evaluate if we benefit from meeting with other organizations?

Clarke Topp: meet with CGU again in Banff?

Dan Pennock: Banff 2006 a good idea.

David Chanasyk: AIC hires a professional conference planner.

Gerry Coen: IUSS, Philadelphia 2006, tour in Canada?

Guy Meyhus: world congress field trip – Michel ? , field trip to NEUSA and Quebec, crossing the border may be difficult.

Anne Naeth: awards event this year (no banquet), 5-6 pm, cash bar, a new CSSS Fellow.

15. Adjournment.

Motion AGM – 13 – 2004: To adjourn the meeting, Moved by Dan Pennock , 2nd Gary Parkin. Carried at 4:25 pm.