

Agenda
CSSS Annual General meeting
3:30 p.m. AST Tuesday June 27
Room 134, Cox Building, Dalhousie University, Truro Campus

Started: 3:33 PM

1. Call to Order: Amanda Diochon. Mover: Angela Bedard-Haughn, Second: Dave Lobb. No opposed.
2. Approval of agenda: Approved
3. Minutes from 2022 AGM: Lee-Ann Bauman. No known errors or omissions. Mover: Louis. Second: Dave Lobb. No opposed,
4. Business arising from 2022 minutes:
 - a) Soil Sampling and Methods of Analysis (Rich Farrell)
 - i. Open access or publisher? Book originally earned \$22,000, mostly right after publications. Pros and cons of open access. Large changes have occurred: soil carbon, gas measurement, microbial, soil health.
 - ii. Ben Ellert has volunteered to be an Editor.
 - iii. Rich requires more editors and section editors.
 - iv. Dave Lobb agrees that we need to redo it and that open access makes most sense since most people do not buy print copies and it will be easier to update it.
 - v. Mario Tenuta noted that nothing comparable has come out in last 10-15 years so there isn't much competition in this space.
 - vi. Angela agrees that it is time to revise this book and supports it being online. We can edit one chapter at a time when needed and this may help increase consistency of methods used across country.
 - vii. Craig Drury asked if we can link it to CJSS? Anne Naeth thinks that is worth exploring. Could be like the CSSC that is linked to new edition.
 - viii. Richard Heck thinks that the ability to hotlink online via CJSS would be a great addition.
 - ix. Dave Lobb suggested publishing methods review of each section including limitations of each method within the CJSS.
 - x. Brandon Heung was concerned that the book would not be published open access if published through CJSS. Amanda noted that the chapters could still be open access, but this would also provide an easy way to cite them.
 - xi. Rich noted that this will take multiple years.
 - xii. Roland Kroehbl asked if we could make it smart reader compatible for mobile devices? Rich said that may be difficult but will look into this.
 - xiii. Dave Lobb mentioned a method review for wetlands that was published as refereed special issue with 750 pages, so sections are a must.
 - xiv. Louise Pierre-Comeau is in support and would like to help. If it is used on devices, we could also link to videos.
 - xv. Rich asked that if anyone has any suggestions on how to move forward to please contact him.
 - xvi. **Motion 2023-14:** Motion to proceed with development of new edition of Soil Sampling and Methods of Analysis online and open access. Mover: Barbara. Second: Keith Reid. No opposed.

- b) Anti-racism Task Group Update (Amanda Diochon)
 - i. Amanda provided an update on the Anti-Racism Task Force Group noting that there was a stall on the survey results from 2022. The plan is to move forward with survey results and bring it back to membership.
 - ii. A society member asked about intent of survey.
 - iii. Diane noted that the survey was sent out with intent to figure out what people would like to see in society and how they feel about racism.
 - iv. Barbara asked if there will be other task forces created. Diane noted that we were going to start with Anti-racism and move forward from there with separate initiatives.
 - v. Morgan Hamilton asked what is planned process to move forward. Diane noted that there was a list of actions to address with council. Lee-Ann noted that there are issues of confidentiality and that we need to summarize the results before we can send the information out.
- 5. Treasurer's Report: Diane Knight
 - a) Thank you to Preston Sorenson and Sandra Brown for being the 2022 financial auditors.
 - b) See Treasurer's Report:
 - i. Table 1. Lost ~\$30,000 in 2022 due to market fluctuations. 2022 Membership is significantly lower now compared to previous years ~\$11,000 vs. \$15-18,000.
 - ii. See Table 2 for income statement. eBook will no longer be on income statement in 2023.
 - iii. See Table 3 for 2023 Budget. 2023 membership is already \$18,000 so back to normal membership. The CSSS has not heard of any expenses required for WCSS yet and it will probably be a few years before WCSS expenses are required.
 - c) Dave Lobb asked if there is any way to determine if we paid our membership. Diane noted that we don't have an easy way to determine that yet because of the system we currently use. Dave Burton noted that we didn't have a membership cost for conference because there wasn't an easy way to determine who was a member. Amanda noted that this is something we can look into for the future.
 - d) **Motion 2023-15:** Motion to increase student poster and oral awards by double (1st place = \$1,000, 2nd place = \$600, 3rd place = \$400). Mover: Craig Drury. Second: Barbara Cade-Menun. Angela motioned that it is conditional based on the terms of the Trust. No opposed.
 - e) Motion to accept treasurer's report and 2023 budget. Mover: Angela Bedard-Haugh, Second: Bobbi Hegalson. No opposed.
- 6. President's Report: Amanda Diochon
 - a) See President's Report.
 - b) Current registration for the conference was 277.
 - c) Rich Farrell asked if the CSSS genealogy information Amanda put together for the IUSS will be in Newsletter. Amanda noted that it can be.
- 7. Report of Committees:
 - a) Awards Committee: Rich Farrell
 - i. Thank you to Anne Naeth and Craig Drury for their help reviewing student award applications.
 - ii. See Awards Committee Report.
 - iii. The 2023 conference had a huge increase in presentations and posters for judging (40% increase from 2022).

- iv. A society member asked what constitutes an international meeting. Rich noted anywhere outside Canada. CSSS Pedology Award has not been awarded since 2018.
 - b) Education Committee: Amanda Diochon
 - i. See Education Committee Report.
 - ii. Lots of new ideas at meeting today at lunch.
 - c) Pedology Committee: Angela Bedard-Haughn:
 - i. See Pedology Committee Report.
 - ii. Dave Burton thinks that this it is really commendable that the society is taking on the revisions of the CSSC.
 - d) Soil Health Committee: Derek McKenzie
 - i. The Soil Heath Committee was proposed at last AGM. The working group (M Derek MacKenzie, Henry Chau, Emmanuel Mapfumo, Bobbi Helgason, Jeff Battigelli, Laura Van Eerd, Thiago Gumiere, Amanda Diochon, David Lobb, Claudia Goyer, and Charlotte Norris) met four times last year and proposed terms of reference that have been approved by Council. CSSS officially has Soil Health Committee. They plan to meet quarterly.
 - ii. Derek reiterated the purpose of soil health committee:
 - 1. Represent CSSS's perspective on soil health in Canada to national and international organizations.
 - 2. Connect the soil science community to the public, industry, government, and non-government organizations as the authority on soil health.
 - 3. Raise the public profile of the CSSS membership as experts in soil health, and make this expertise more accessible.
 - 4. Communicate with CSSS Council and membership at large on issues pertaining to soil health.
 - iii. Please reach out to Derek if you are interested in joining.
 - e) Communications Committee: Rich Farrell
 - i. See Communications Committee Report.
 - ii. If you like to be a member of the committee, please let Rich Farrell or Henry Chau know.
 - f) 24th WCSS Committee: Richard Heck
 - i. See 24th WCSS Committee report and slides.
 - ii. Surplus from Glasgow \$500,000. Richard is projecting surplus of \$300-400,000 from Canadian WCSS Conference.
 - g) ITPS: David Lobb
 - i. See both ITPS reports.
 - ii. Dave Lobb's position only lasts for the next 2 years. So, if you want to fill the position we can prepare for a nomination. Typically, the representative serves two terms and the USA representative switches representatives on alternate years.
 - iii. The ITPS Secretariat is restructuring the "Pillars" of the ITPS. In two weeks, we will know how things change. David will provide update in Newsletter.
8. CJSS Editor's Report: Anne Naeth
- a) See CJSS Editor in Chief Report.
 - b) Something on Special Collections will be put in Newsletter.
 - c) Josie Sciorotino noted that CSP now has a dedicated Journal development specialist. So, if there are any ideas or suggestions, please let CSP know.
9. Student Representative's Report: Blake Weiseth

- a) See Graduate Student Representative Report.
 - b) Blake thanked the society for support of Graduate Student Mixer last night.
10. Western Councillor's report (website): Rich Farrell for Henry Chau
- a) See Western Councillor's report.
 - b) Currently the most social media views are for the Student Blog Posts, so please encourage your students to submit a blog.
 - c) Rich Farrell noted that the cost to upgrade the website is \$7-10,000. Rich Farrell indicated that it would be able to take our memberships, have member profiles, etc.
 - d) **Motion 2023-15:** Motion to authorize council to create a more functional, user-friendly website for up to \$10,000. Mover Preston Sorenson. Seconder Richard Heck. No opposed.
11. Eastern Councillor's report (newsletter): Adrian Unc
- a) The goal for the newsletter going forward is consistency and predictability.
 - b) Adrian Unc proposed fixed dates for newsletters (3/year).
 - c) He suggested that we could have a special issue immediately after the conference with a brief summary of the meeting from session chairs for what is of interest to the members.
 - d) Adrian Unc put forth the idea of cover story for the Newsletter so he may ask people individually to get this initiative started.
 - e) In March, he sent out a call for thesis defences and Life of Soil Scientist articles but received nothing. If nothing else thesis defences would be very nice.
 - f) Adrian Unc and Henry Chau will develop a common template for the Job Ads going forward.
12. Resolutions
- a) Resolution of Appreciation
13. New Business
- a) Appointment of financial reviewers: Diane Knight
 - i. Volunteers for financial reviewers in 2024: Catlan Dallaire and Chantal Chizen.
 - b) Progress on 2024 Meeting (Vancouver): Morgan Hamilton and Jordy Kersey
 - i. SSSA meeting will be occurring at same time as 2024 CSSS Meeting.
 - c) Interest for 2025 Meeting:
 - i. Mario Tenuta motioned for the Manitoba Soil Science Society to host the 2025 CSSS Meeting in Winnipeg.
 - ii. Richard Heck motioned for the University of Guelph to host the 2025 Meeting in Guelph.
 - iii. Council will send out poll.
 - iv. Dave Lobb noted that the 2025 Global Soil Security group wants to come to Canada.
14. Business arising from the floor:
- a) David Burton updated the society that the Soil Science Society of Atlantic Canada has been formed. 10 founding members. Louis, Cedric, Adrian, Judith are on committee.
15. Adjournment: 5:29 PM

Attendees:

Name	Institution/Employer
David Lobb	University of Manitoba
Louis-Pierre Comeau	AAFC
Cedric MacLeod	MacLeod Agronomics Ltd.
Tandra Fraser	AAFC
David Chanasyk	University of Alberta
Laura VanEerd	University of Guelph
Yajun Peng	University of Guelph
Arati Sapkota	University of Guelph
Jingyi Yang	AAFC
Xueming Yang	AAFC
Chantel Chizen	University of Saskatoon
Angela Bedard-Haughn	University of Saskatoon
Bobbi Helgason	University of Saskatoon
Tom Yates	University of Saskatoon
Michael Preston	University of Northern British Columbia
Xiaopeng Gao	University of Manitoba
Gary Kachanoski	Memorial University
Raphael Derugen	University Laval
Mamo Krishnapillar	Memorial University
Craig Drury	AAFC
Brandon Heung	Dalhousie
Jin Zhang	Dalhousie
Travis Pennell	AAFC/Dalhousie
Derek Lynch	Dalhousie
Adam Gillespie	University of Guelph
Mario Tenuta	University of Manitoba
Claudia Goyer	AAFC
Morgan Tunzelmann	Canadian Science Publishing
Catlan Dallaire	Clifton Engineering
Serra-Willow Buchanan	University of Guelph
Konstantin Dlusskiy	Paragon Soil and Environment
Barbara Cade-Menun	AAFC
Tom Bruulsema	Plant Nutrition Canada
Kingsley John	Dalhousie
Esther Ayito	Dalhousie
Yvonne Uwituze	University Laval
Amana Kedir	Memorial University
Mervin St. Luce	AAFC
Tiequan Zhang	AAFC

Name	Institution/Employer
Zisheng Xing	AAFC
Andrew Hector	AAFC
Gurpal Toor	University of Maryland
Sukhwunda Suin	University of Alberta
Jeremiah Vallotton	Memorial University
Theresa Adesonya	University of Northern British Columbia
Busayo Koduolu	University of Guelph
Sylvia Nyamaizi	University of British Columbia
Thidarat Rupngam	University Laval
M Derek Mackenzie	University of Alberta
Manasah Mkhabela	Manitoba Agriculture
Caroline Halde	University Laval
Michael Briere	University Laval
Keith Reid	Retired
Jim Warren	OMAFRA
Richard Heck	University of Guelph
Preston Sorenson	University of Saskatoon
Jordan Kersey	University of British Columbia
Morgan Hamilton	University of British Columbia
Kate Congreves	University of Saskatoon
Charlotte Norris	Natural Resources Canada
Roland Kroebel	AAFC
Maxime Pare	UQAC
Mengjia Shang	Dalhousie
Anthony Pelletier	UQAC
Andy Hammermeish	Dalhousie
Josie Scoriotino	Canadian Science Publishing

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Meeting location:

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4. Business arising from 2022 minutes
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 - b) Anti-racism Task Group Update (Amanda Diochon)
5. Treasurer's Report: Diane Knight
6. President's Report: Amanda Diochon
7. Report of Committees:
 - a) Awards Committee: Rich Farrell
 - b) Education Committee: Amanda Diochon
 - c) Pedology Committee: Brandon Heung
 - d) Soil Health Committee: Derek McKenzie
 - e) Communications Committee: Rich Farrell
 - f) 24WCSS Committee: Richard Heck
 - g) ITPS: David Lobb
8. CJSS Editor's Report: Anne Naeth
9. Student Representative's Report: Blake Weiseth
10. Western Councillor's report (website): Amanda Diochon for Henry Chau
11. Eastern Councillor's report (newsletter): Adrian Unc
12. Resolutions
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 - b) Progress on 2024 Meeting (Vancouver): Morgan Hamilton & Jordy Kersey
 - c) Interest for 2025 Meeting
14. Business arising from the floor:
15. Adjourn

2023 Secretary's Report:

a) Since the last AGM (on May 24, 2022, in Edmonton, Alberta), the council has met five times by video conferencing. Council voted on 18 motions by email and video conference.

b) Elections Report: The vacant positions for 2022-23 were President-Elect, Eastern Councilor, CJSS Editor-in-Chief, and Graduate Student Representative. Rich Farrell was elected President-Elect. Adrian Unc was elected as Eastern Councilor. Anne Naeth has continued as CJSS Editor-in-Chief. Blake Weiseth was elected as Graduate Student Representative.

For 2023, positions open on the council will be President-Elect, and Treasurer. Please consider running for a council position, and please vote.

c) Outgoing council members, Angela Bedard-Haughn (former Past-President), Louis-Pierre Comeau (former Eastern Councilor) and Erika Young (Former Graduate Student Representative), are thanked for their contributions to the CSSS council. Incoming council members are welcomed to the council. The CSSS is very grateful to those who let their names stand for election to the Society executive.

As of June 27, 2023, CSSS Council is:

Past-President	Asim Biswas
President	Amanda Diochon
President-elect	Rich Farrell
Secretary	Lee-Ann Bauman
Treasurer	Diane Knight
Graduate Student Representative	Blake Weiseth
Eastern Councilor	Adrian Unc
Western Councilor	Henry Chau
CJSS Editor-in-Chief	Anne Naeth

Canadian Society of Soil Science Treasurer's Report for 2022

Submitted by J. Diane Knight, Treasurer

The 2022 financial files were reviewed by CSSS members Preston Sorenson and Sandra Brown. The reviews are very helpful and appreciated – thank you!

2022 In Review

The volatility of the financial markets in 2022 made the year very challenging. Our long-term investments with CIBC Wood Gundy all lost money (ca. \$30,000) from Jan 1 2022 to Dec 31 2022. Because of the highly volatile markets, no further transfers/reinvestments of funds took place in 2022. In 2021 we had begun to slowly reinvest funds from our historical accounts into new products focusing on best in class investments targeting an Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) approach. To date approximately 2/3 (ca. \$312,000) of our long-term investments (ca. \$464,000) have been reinvested in new accounts. As the markets stabilize we will resume investing in new investment products.

The 2022 Annual Meeting resumed as a hybrid in-person/virtual event and was hosted by the University of Alberta jointly with the Alberta Soil Science Workshop. For the first time since 2019, all student awards were given out. The Annual Meeting was profitable, returning nearly \$40,000 to the CSSS.

Day to day banking and short-term investments are conducted through Sunova Credit Union which was acquired by ACCESS credit union in July 2022. A short-term GIC matured in June 2022 and monies reinvested in a 12-month term GIC (3.2%) which will mature in June 2023.

Balance Sheet – Table 1

Total assets at December 31 2022 were \$532,892 – a decrease of \$37,758 from December 31, 2021. The decrease represents the poor financial market, and increased spending over 2022.

Income Statement – Table 2

Our long-term investment deficit was \$28,927. Sunova accounts generated \$1,045 from interest. Total 'memberships' received for 2022 was \$10,740. In past years, the membership value included memberships and journal subscriptions at the time of registration which were then paid back to CSP as an expense. In 2022 Canadian Science Publishing provided free journal access to all members. Other revenue sources were profits from the CSSS Annual Meeting (\$39,435). Remaining revenue is from royalties from Taylor and Francis publications and two historic trust funds.

Expenses reflect the day to day functioning of the society including our contract with Nancy Zubriski our office manager, office expenses, liability insurance for board members, and income tax preparation. We maintain an annual membership with the International Union of Soil Science (IUSS) which is based on membership numbers. We are not charged for student registrations or retired members. Other major expenses were the communication and social media contract cost (ca. \$ 12,000) and expenses for the eBook (\$11,394). The eBook (Digging into Canadian Soils) is complete (and magnificent!).

Remaining expenses were associated with student travel awards; the oral and poster presentation awards (two 3rd place awards for oral presentations were awarded); two international student travel awards; photo contest and undergraduate book awards (total of \$17,366). We also contributed \$4,481 for promotional materials and a booth at the World Soils Congress in Glasgow, Scotland.

Budget for 2023 – Table 3

Because of continuing financial market volatility I have a modest profit (\$5000) from our CIBC Wood Gundy investments in the 2023 budget. Hopefully I will be proved wrong and the markets will stabilize and grow in 2023. Interest from ACCESS credit union investments is estimated at \$2,000 which includes a gain of about \$900 from a 12 month GIC which will mature in June 2023. As of writing this report memberships received in 2023 totaled approximately \$18,000. The majority of memberships are renewed before the Annual Meeting. The organizing committee for the 2023 Annual Meeting in Truro, NS submitted a budget with a projected profit of \$20,000 after repayment of the \$10,000 conference loan. Other major expenses include our contract with Nancy Zubriski for office operations, a contract with Susan Fisk for communications/social media, and our Award commitments to support our student members. Conference expenses (\$4000) include funding for Lee Ann Nelson (secretary) to attend the conference, banquet tickets for fellow inductees, and incidental office expenses (printing, certificate frames etc). Funding for the ebook is complete. No expenses for the World Soils Conference have been identified for 2023.

The 2023 proposed budget has a slight deficit of \$1,165.00.

Table 1. BALANCE SHEET at Dec 31 2022

CIBC Wood Gundy Cash	8,023
CIBC Wood Gundy Equities	206,517
CIBC Wood Gundy High Interest savings	65,957
CIBC Wood Gundy Mutual Funds (Cash)	153,439
CIBC Wood Gundy Total Assets	433,936
Sunova Credit Union Petty Cash	500
Sunova Credit Union Chequing	50,793
Sunova Credit Union Common Shares	1,000
Sunova Credit Union Savings	17,992
Sunova Credit Union Surplus Shares	842
Sunova Credit Union Term Investment	27,829
Sunova Credit Union Total Assets	98,956
TOTAL ASSETS	532,892
LIABILITY	0.00
EQUITY	
Retained earnings – previous year	570,650
Current earnings/(loss)	(37,758)
TOTAL EQUITY	532,892
LIABILITY AND EQUITY	532,892

Table 2. INCOME STATEMENT Dec 31, 2022

REVENUE	
Change in Wood Gundy Investments	(29,972)
Interest from Sunova SSUP#1	660
Dividends from Sunova Surplus Shares	55
Interest from Sunova Term Deposit	330
Total Investment revenue, interest & dividends	(28,927)
Membership	10,740
CSP Journal Subscriptions	-
Donations	265
Total membership	11,005
Conference Revenue	39,435
Canadian Science Publishing	-
Royalties	590
BNY Trust	486
Net Annual Income Trust	3910
Total Other Revenue	44,421
TOTAL REVENUE	26,499
EXPENSES	
Office contract/expenses	11,562
Insurance	1233
AGM/Student Reception	498
Conference Startup Loan	-
Council expenses	1,949
CSP Journal subscriptions	-
CSA & CSHS Bundle membership	45
IUSS dues	1,843
Website	444
Communication Social Media	12,126
ebook	11,394
Taxes	1,061
Total Operating Expenses	42,155
Bentley Speaking Award	1,200
President's Poster Award	1,000
CSSS Conference Student Travel Awards (12)	8,400
CSSS-CJSS Student Travel Awards (max 2)	4,720
Undergraduate Book Awards	2,621
Student Photo Contest	125
N. Am. Forestry Conf. (\$1,000 every 5y)	-
Member travel to international conf.	-
Publications	-
Total Awards	18,066
World Soils Congress	4,481
TOTAL EXPENSES	(64,702)
NET INCOME (rev-exp)	(38,203)

Table 3. BUDGET FOR 2023

	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2019 Budget	2021 Budget	Budget 2022	Budget 2023
INCOME								
Membership	\$ 17,694.00	\$ 6,640.00	\$ 18,832.00	\$ 10,740.00	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00
Conference Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,800.00	\$ 39,435.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00
WG Investments	\$ 23,710.00	\$ 9,088.00	\$ 29,001.00	\$ (29,972.00)	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Donations		\$ 10,600.00	\$ -	\$ 265.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00
Interest ACCESS CU	\$ 1,049.00	\$ 1,512.00	\$ 1,684.00	\$ 1,045.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,000.00
Royalties	\$ 591.00	\$ 595.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 590.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 600.00
BNY Trust & CNH	\$ 4,604.00	\$ 4,991.00	\$ 4,695.00	\$ 4,396.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
CSP	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Other Income	\$ 245.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 51,893.00	\$ 49,426.00	\$ 71,512.00	\$ 26,499.00	\$ 54,550.00	\$ 47,850.00	\$ 32,500.00	\$ 62,350.00
EXPENSES								
Office Contract/Expenses	\$ 7,021.00	\$ 8,098.00	\$ 8,860.00	\$ 11,607.00	\$ 8,200.00	\$ 8,200.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
Newsletter	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00
AGM/Student Reception	\$ 522.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 498.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 750.00
Council Travel	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Conference Startup Loan		\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00
IUSS dues	\$ 4,333.00	\$ 1,836.00	\$ 1,909.00	\$ 1,843.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Other Operating Expenses		\$ 750.00	\$ 210.00	\$ 489.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,500.00
Website	\$ 3,694.00	\$ 1,009.00	\$ -	\$ 444.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 500.00
Conference Expenses	\$ 337.00	\$ -	\$ 125.00	\$ 1,459.86	\$ -	\$ 125.00	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 4,000.00
Insurance	\$ 961.00	\$ 1,035.00	\$ 1,129.00	\$ 1,233.00	\$ -	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,150.00	\$ 1,250.00
Taxes	\$ 20.00	\$ 1,890.00	\$ 945.00	\$ 1,049.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Receiver General	\$ 21.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	\$ -	\$ 30.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
Communications/Sodal		\$ 2,500.00	\$ 8,526.00	\$ 12,126.00		\$ 7,500.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 12,500.00
CSP subscriptions			\$ 2,350.00	\$ -			\$ 2,350.00	\$ -
eBook		\$ 370.00	\$ 605.00	\$ 11,394.00		\$ 4,600.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 16,903.00	\$ 27,500.00	\$ 24,671.00	\$ 42,154.86	\$ 21,200.00	\$ 28,055.00	\$ 41,565.00	\$ 43,015.00
CSP publication assistance	\$ 3,398.00	\$ 2,827.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -	\$ -
AWARDS								
C.F. Bentley Award (oral) \$500; \$300; \$200	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
President's Award (poster)	\$ 1,100.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
CSSS Student Travel Award (max 12 awards, \$700/award)	\$ 11,200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,400.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -	\$ 8,400.00	\$ 8,400.00
CSSS-CJSS Student Travel Award (international: max 2@\$4000)	\$ 5,509.00	\$ 1,995.00	\$ -	\$ 4,720.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 6,400.00	\$ 4,000.00
CSSS Pedology Travel Award (max \$4000) non-student member	\$ 1,458.00		\$ -		\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
CSSS UG SBook Award	\$ 3,157.74	\$ 2,988.00	\$ 2,426.00	\$ 2,621.00		\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,100.00
N American Forest Conf	\$ -		\$ -		\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Soils Across latitudes	\$ 20,745.00		\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Publications		\$ 494.00	\$ -			\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Student photo contest (\$125 x 4 awards)			\$ 125.00	\$ 125.00		\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Total Awards	\$ 44,169.74	\$ 5,477.00	\$ 4,551.00	\$ 18,066.00	\$ 27,200.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 24,300.00	\$ 20,500.00
World Soils Conference				\$ 4,481.00				\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 64,476.74	\$ 35,804.00	\$ 29,222.00	\$ 64,701.86	\$ 51,900.00	\$ 49,555.00	\$ 65,865.00	\$ 63,515.00
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (12,583.74)	\$ 13,622.00	\$ 42,290.00	\$ (38,202.86)	\$ 2,650.00	\$ (1,705.00)	\$ (33,365.00)	\$ (1,165.00)
NOTE: A budget was not reported for 2020								

President's Report 2022-23

The society continues to be active and involved in soil science nationally and internationally. There are 324 active members (266 last year) including 116 students. There are 141 regular members, 32 Fellows, 13 emeritus and 22 early career members. This is the highest that membership has been in the last ten years. A personal thank you to Nancy Zubriski in the business office for her support and prompt responses.

Membership is well represented at the meeting. There are 253 registrants, and we have a record number of student presentations. A special thank you to President-Elect, Rich Farrell, for organizing the judging of these presentations and to our judges for being generous with your time.

Asim attended the 22nd World Congress of Soil Science in Glasgow, Scotland (July 31-August 5, 2022) where the bid to host the 24th Congress in Toronto in 2030, led by Richard Heck was awarded to Canada. Richard has since officially established an organizing committee and was a co-host of a breakfast on sharing plans. A big thank you to all members and contributors to these efforts. I would like to highlight the support from Senator Robert Black, who is chairing the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry and specifically their study on soil health. Please consider becoming involved in the planning for the Congress as we move closer to the date.

Asim and Amanda were invited to appear before the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry on behalf of the Canadian Society of Soil Science to provide testimony on the status of soil health in Canada on October 6, 2022. We highlighted the role that our members have played in the process and in the area of soil health, and the importance of education.

Asim attended the 2022 meeting of the Soil Science Society of America in Baltimore, MD (November 6-9, 2022).

In January we signed a Destination Booking Agreement with Destination Toronto for the IUSS World Congress of Soil Science in 2030.

Asim and Amanda attended a meeting of the IUSS on May 29, 2023 where the Strategic Plan was introduced with opportunities for questions. The Strategic Plan is posted on their website.

In May we also executed the copyright transfer agreement with Canadian Science Publishing. This includes the transfer, release and assignment of all copyright and intellectual property from the third edition of the Canadian System of Soil Classification to the CSSS, which will facilitate publication of the fourth edition of Canadian System of Soil Classification.

The society was approached by the Canadian Foundation for Food and Agricultural Education, who is the trustee of Dr Karl C Ivarson's donation about taking over the management and administration of the trust and its awards. We recently submitted an expression of interest for the Ivarson Soil Science Scholarship Trust only.

The CSSS was invited to contribute to an IUSS genealogy document for their Centennial Celebrations. A document was recently submitted outlining our history and contributions to the IUSS, with note of contributions of some of our outstanding members. A special thank you to Les Lavkulich, Bill McGill, Richard Heck, and David Lobb for providing some solid working materials. It really highlighted the need to capture more of the history of our society and its outstanding contributions to share with future generations.

Awards Committee Report 2023

Members: Rich Farrell (Chair), Anne Naeth, Craig Drury

CSSS Fellow Awards: Two nominations were submitted and vetted by the Awards Committee before being submitted to the CSSS council for approval. Both nominations were approved, and the Fellow Awards will be presented at the Awards Banquet on Wednesday June 28th.

CSSS Early Career Professional Award: This is the inaugural year for this award and the Awards Committee received nominations for two very strong candidates. The Awards Committee ranked the nominees and recommended the top candidate to the CSSS council who approved the award. The Early Career Professional Award will be presented at the Awards Banquet on Wednesday June 28th.

Student Presentation Awards: There are 81 students competing for the Bentley Award for best oral presentation, and 52 students competing for the President's Award for best poster.

CSSS Student Book Awards: This award recognizes undergraduates at Canadian universities who demonstrate excellence in Soil Science. Candidates are nominated by their academic department based on their own criteria. The students will receive a print copy of *Digging Into Canadian Soils: An Introduction to Soil Science*. The 2023 recipients are:

Jamie Quinn	University of Northern British Columbia
Amy Wells	University of British Columbia
Dominique Claire-Anne Letourneau	University of Alberta
Matt Robertson	University of Saskatchewan
Niomi Pantel	University of Manitoba
Michael Valiquette	University of Guelph
Mary Anne Arnoldo	University of Toronto
Alex Matthys	Laval University
Camille Wagner	Université du Québec à Chicoutimi

Student Travel Award to Attend the CSSS Meetings: There were 24 complete applications received by the deadline. The committee approved 12 awards of \$700 each from the CSSS Student Travel Award Fund. The 2023 award recipients are:

Gbenga Adejumo	University of Saskatchewan
Chantel Chizen	University of Saskatchewan
Kennedy Choo-Foo	University of Saskatchewan
Grace Gowera	University of Saskatchewan
Morgan Hamilton	University of British Columbia
Jessica Mehre	University of Guelph
Amanda Mitchell	University of Saskatchewan
Clemence Muitire	University of Manitoba
Sashini Pathirana	Memorial University of Newfoundland
Yvonne Uwituze	Université Laval
Priscillar Weniyika	University of Alberta
Erika Young	Memorial University of Newfoundland

CSSS-CJSS Student Travel Awards for International Soil Science Meetings: The Canadian Society of Soil Science (CSSS) and the Canadian Journal of Soil Science (CJSS) jointly sponsor annual awards to provide travel funds for student members of CSSS to attend international soil science meetings. The purpose of this award is to allow student members to broaden the scope of their work and expand their relationships with soil scientists outside of Canada. To date, there have been no applications this year. Applications can still be submitted until September 30, 2023.

The Awards Committee found the application form for the student travel awards to be cumbersome and difficult to evaluate. Thus, we are recommending that the Committee restructure the application form for next year's meetings.

Soil Science for Society Award: There were no nominations this year.

CSSS Honorary Membership: There were no nominations this year.

CSSS Pedology Award: To date, there have been no applications this year. Applications can still be submitted until September 30, 2023.

Respectfully submitted by



Richard Farrell

President-Elect, CSSS

Soil Education Committee Report

The committee met at the annual meeting last year in Edmonton and this year in Truro.

Publication of the French language version of the textbook is in the final stages and should be available for this Fall. The review of the English version was published in Volume 102(2) of CJSS in June 2022. Soliciting formal feedback on the book is still outstanding. A print copy of the textbook will be given to recipients of the Book Award this year. Maja presented on the process of developing the textbook in an education session at the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) Meeting last fall in Baltimore.

We didn't organize a session for this year's meeting and are instead contributing to Richard Heck's session on training. We will organize a session at next year's meeting at UBC in Vancouver and are actively thinking about a theme.

Maja Krzic, Tom Yates, Amanda Diochon, Laura Van Eerd, and Derek MacKenzie have been collaborating on a study examining soil health in post-secondary soils education courses. They have been meeting for the last eight months developing a survey that went live a few weeks ago. The link has been shared with members via email and has been sent to instructors of soils education courses across the country. If you haven't completed the survey and teach soils, please consider completing it. We are interested in instructor attitudes and understanding of the soil health concept and if you don't include it in your course or hate the idea we also want to hear from you 😊. Maja has submitted an abstract to share preliminary findings at the SSSA Meeting this Fall in St Louis.

New members and new ideas are always welcome so please reach out!

Pedology Committee Annual Report 2023

Co-chairs: Angela Bedard-Haughn

Daniel Saurette

Secretary: Brandon Heung

1. Annual meeting occurred June 26, 2023
2. The Pedology Committee, with support from Council, finalized an agreement with Canadian Science Publishing to acquire copyright of the Canadian System of Soil Classification. The Canadian Society of Soil Science is now the copyright holder, which was a critical step for the development and release of the 4th edition (in progress). CSP honoured their first proposal to the CSSS, copyright was transferred for \$2000.
3. In January 2023, the Special Collection of the Canadian Journal of Soil Science Advances in Soil Survey & Classification in Canada (<https://cdnsiencepub.com/topic/cjss-soil-survey>) was completed and all articles were published online. The Pedology Committee extends its thanks to all those who contributed to this successful project!!
4. Starting in January 2023, the Pedology Committee has hosted a series of monthly meetings to discuss the revisions proposed for the Canadian System of Soil Classification (4th edition). In keeping with the 3rd edition, we have named this the Soil Classification Working Group (SCWG). The SCWG has met seven times in 2023 and has just finished initial discussions on all the revisions and updates to the CSSC that were submitted to the Special Collection. Monthly meetings will continue likely to the end of the calendar year to finish these discussions and arrive at consensus on the revisions.
5. The Pedology Committee has set up an email (csss.pedology@gmail.com) and a Google Drive (https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1i50r4LNUL9ZxX4fgwTfwz3J84GYjYF4v?usp=drive_link) to support the work of the SCWG. The Google Drive contains all materials discussed at the SCWG meetings to date. All meetings are recorded and the videos posted to YouTube for those who cannot attend the live sessions because of schedule conflicts. Links to the YouTube videos are in the Google Drive.

6. Dr Brandon Heung led the development of a project proposal to the Open Educational Resources (OER) grant program at Dalhousie University to support specific activities in delivering the 4th edition of the CSSC. The proposal was successful, and funding (\$7000) was secured for technical support for artwork, figures and tables, and for a certified copy editor to assist with review, editing, and formatting.
7. DSMWG Update??

CANADIAN SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETY - SOIL HEALTH COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Proponents

M Derek MacKenzie, Henry Chau, Emmanuel Mapfumo, Bobbi Helgason, Jeff Battigelli, Laura Van Eerd, Thiago Gumiere, Amanda Diochon, David Lobb, Claudia Goyer, and Charlotte Norris

There has never been more interest in soil science nationally and globally. This interest stems from the ability of soils to ensure food security for a growing population and mitigate climate change to protect our environment. Policies and programs will continue to develop and expand in these two areas, and these actions need to be informed by sound scientific data and knowledge. Money is being spent to acquire soil health data, but there is no national leadership for coordinating the output of this research. Thus, this group of CSSS members believes that there is an urgent need to establish a Soil Health Committee. The CSSS represents the national expertise in this area and the Committee will comprise members ready to help build national and global policy.

Mission

The Soil Health Committee of the Canadian Society of Soil Science will promote science communication and provide science-based evidence, expertise, and leadership in Soil Health for academic, industry, government, and public organizations, both nationally and internationally.

Purpose

The purpose of the CSSS Soil Health Committee is to:

1. Represent CSSS's perspective on soil health in Canada to national and international organizations.
2. Connect the soil science community to the public, industry, government, and non-government organizations as the authority on soil health.
3. Raise the public profile of the CSSS membership as experts in soil health, and make this expertise more accessible.
4. Communicate with CSSS Council and membership at large on issues pertaining to soil health.

Membership

The Committee will comprise 8 to 10 individuals from the CSSS membership, including the CSSS President or designate, a second member of CSSS Council, 7 to 8 standing members representing different sectors, including but not limited to: agricultural, forest, rangeland, northern, and wetland soils. The Chair and Secretary will be elected from the committee membership. Individuals from outside the CSSS membership may be invited to participate based on special topic needs.

Goals

These goals are tentative while the committee is being established and feedback will be sought from the CSSS membership.

1. Coordinate special sessions on soil health at CSSS annual meetings.
2. Communicate on soil health for science, industry, government, and public communities.

PROPOSAL

3. Provide support for developing a standard approach and methods for assessing soil health; this could include an inventory of commercial labs that describes what services are being offered.
4. Provide support to establish resources for assessing soil health, including research networking, training, and a national system for archiving and sharing data and reference samples.

Meetings

The Committee will meet quarterly or as needed to discuss items of importance. These meetings will normally be held virtually. The CSSS membership will be invited to participate in these meetings and give feedback on agenda discussion items.

Reporting

The Committee will submit a written annual report to CSSS Council prior to the AGM and will present a summary of that report at the AGM.

In this first year (2023) the committee proponents will circulate the proposal to CSSS Council and membership before the AGM in Truro, Nova Scotia. At the AGM, the committee proponents will seek feedback and make a motion to accept the proposal for creation of the Soil Health Committee.

Financial

The Committee does not expect any financial commitments at this time. Funds to invite keynote speakers may be sought in the future through links with stakeholder agencies for potential sponsorship.

2023 Communication Committee Report

- As part of the Society's efforts to develop a modern communications strategy, a communications and social media plan were developed by CSSS Communications Intern (Samantha Fowler), past society President (Nate Basiliko), and previous Western Councillor, (Richard Farrell). A Communication Committee was proposed by the council. The first Communications Committee meeting was held on March 22, 2022, to set up the terms of reference which is currently being circulated among members. The communications committee members include the Western Councillor (Chair). Eastern Councillor (Co-Chair), Past President, a member of the Education Committee, CJSS Editor-in-Chief, and 2 Adhoc members.
- Council has approved the terms of reference for the communications committee in 2023.
- The communications committee members in 2023 include the Western Councillor (Chair, Henry Wai Chau). Eastern Councillor (Co-Chair, Adrian Unc), Past President (Asim Biswas), a member of the Education Committee (Maja Krzic), CJSS Editor-in-Chief (Anne Naeth), and 2 Ad hoc (Richard Farrell and Nate Basiliko) members.
- The communications committee has met to discuss matters related to:
 - The recent email spamming to members in 2022 originated from a spoof email address. Subsequent accounts where the spam emails originated from, registered on the forums were deleted. No further spam emails were detected but the communication committee remains vigilant. Any concerns can be raised with the communication committee.
 - The communication committee supported the rehiring of the social media manager for 2023 to the council which was approved.
 - As a non for profit organization, what is the stance of CSSS when dealing with controversial issues? It was determined the committee will convene to discuss on a case-by-case basis, and bring any recommendation forward to the council in relation to communication which may affect our members and the wider soil science community.
 - A dedicated email will be created for the committee so all inquiries will arrive at a central source.
- The communications committee would like to thank the ongoing support from Nancy Zubriski (Admin), Susan Fisk (Social media manager), and Shirly Ho (Webmaster contractor).

CSSS COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Mission:

The mission of the CSSS Communications Committee is to inspire understanding and stewardship of Canada's soil resources by engaging scientists, practitioners, and students of soil science for the exchange of ideas and information, and to foster collaboration among the soil science and non-specialist communities.

Purpose:

The purpose of the CSSS Communications Committee is to support CSSS activities by advising Council on matters of communication.

Membership:

The CSSS communications committee consists of six (6) individuals, including the Western Councillor, Eastern Councillor, a member of the Education Committee, past president, a CJSS editor, and two *ad hoc* members.

Goals:

The CSSS Communications Committee aims to:

1. Foster active outreach and communications activities to increase the visibility of the CSSS and promote soil science to the public.
2. Identify the Society's communications needs and priorities through appropriate consultation and develop policies and guidelines respecting both internal and external communications of the CSSS.
3. Identify necessary budgetary requirements related to the delivery of communications.
4. Support the efforts of Council and other CSSS committees or working groups by consulting around:
 1. website, newsletter, and email, content and messages to the membership, media and public generally,
 2. the dissemination of media-worthy content, and
 3. media enquiries.
5. Provide recommendations to the council as to the type and desired reach of any traditional (website and newsletter) and social media initiatives (blog, Twitter, Facebook, etc.) of the CSSS.

Meetings:

The Committee will hold meetings at the call of the chair, a minimum of twice per calendar year, either in person or virtually.

Reporting:

The Communications Committee shall report to Council through the chair of the committee and provide an annual report of activities at the AGM.

24th World Congress of Soil Science Committee of the Canadian Society of Soil Science

June 25, 2023

Ms. Lee-Ann Nelson, P.Ag.
Secretary, CSSS Council

Re: June 2023 Report to CSSS Council

Dear Ms. Nelson,
Please accept this report and distribute it to the CSSS Council.

A) Establishment of the 24WCSS Committee:

- 1) As per vote of the CSSS Council, on 18 January 2023, the 24WCSS Committee was established, with its *Terms-of-Reference*, and with Dr. Richard J. Heck, P.Ag. (University of Guelph) being appointed as its Chair and Dr. Jacynthe Masse (AAFC, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu) being appointed as its Vice-Chair
- 2) The Chair was notified of the CSSS Committee decision, by the CSSS President (Dr. Amanda Diochon), on 18 December 2023. The Vice-Chair was notified of this decision, by the Chair, on the same day.
- 3) During the month of January of 2023, the Chair reached out to the members of the CSSS Bid Committee for the 24th World Congress of Soil Science, to determine their interest and availability to participate, at this time, on the 24WCSS Committee. The following individuals responded positively, and currently comprise the 'general' members of the Committee: Dr. David Lobb (University of Manitoba), Mr. Daniel Saurette (OMAFRA, Guelph), Dr. Kari Dunfield (University of Guelph), Dr. Joann Whalen (McGill University), and Dr. Louis-Pierre Comeau (AAFC, Fredericton).
- 4) On 26 February 2023, the Chair was notified, by the CSSS President, that the CSSS Past-President (currently Dr. Asim Biswas of the University of Guelph) would be the Council Liaison on the Committee.

B) The following is a synopsis of Committee activities since its establishment:

- 1) On 18 January 2023, the Chair informed (by email) Ms. Angela Jefferies (Destination Toronto) and Mr. Rahul Shah (Metro Toronto Convention Centre), of the official establishment of the 24WCSS Committee.
- 2) On 19 January 2023, the "*Destination Booking Agreement ("DBA"), for International Union of Soil Sciences – ("IUSS") World Congress of Soil Science 2030*", dated 10 January 2023, was completed by the signature by the CSSS President.
- 3) On 27 January 2023, the Chair obtained electronic copies of 'Legacy' documents, regarding the 22WCSS, from Dr. Bruce Lascelles and Ms. Christine Berrill of the British Society of Soil Science.
- 4) On 30 January 2023, the Chair sent (by email) final 'clean-copy' versions of the 24WCSS Committee *Terms-of-Reference*, as well as a general *Description*, to the CSSS President and Secretary, as per request.

5) On 01 February 2023, the *24wcss.org* domain was renewed for another 2 years, through *GoDaddy*. Payment was made directly by the Chair, who was subsequently reimbursed by the CSSS.

6) On 03 February 2023, the Chair and Vice-Chair meet (virtually) with Mr. John Daugulis (Vice President, Business Development & Partnerships, Venue West Conference Services) to discuss further the role of a Professional Conference Organiser (PCO), and the procedure for selection.

7) On 27 March 2023, during the 'Ontario Grow Summit', the Chair spoke briefly with Minister Lisa Thompson (OMAFRA), regarding the success bid of the CSSS for the 24WCSS. This was follow-up with an email (from the Chair) to the Minister, on the following day.

8) On 28 March 2023, the Chair sent an email to Senator Robert Black, who attended the 22WCSS, supporting the CSSS bid for the 24WCSS, to update him on the establishment of the 24WCSS Committee, and well a provide an overview of the next major activities of the Committee.

9) On 15 April 2023, during the '2023 AGM of the Ontario Institute of Agrologists', the Chair spoke briefly with Senator Robert Black regarding the 24WCSS.

10) On 25 April 2023, the Chair spoke with members of the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, during their visit to Guelph (as part of their current study on soil health), regarding the 24WCSS.

11) On 04 May 2023, the Chair and Vice-Chair met (virtually), for updates and general planning discussion.

12) On 04 May 2023, the Chair met (virtually), with Alain Brandon (Vice-President, Government Relations and Corporate Social Responsibility) and Ms. Emma Race (Senior Director of Sustainability & Social Impact), both of Loblaw Companies Limited, to provide an overview of the WCSS and specifically the vision for the 24WCSS.

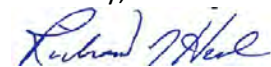
B) Upcoming issues:

1) During the 2023 CSSS Annual Meeting, the Chair will: 1) Provide an oral report to the CSSS AGM; 2) Provide an overview of the IUSS and the 24WCSS at a special breakfast meeting of the CSSS; 3) Provide an overview of the opportunities to leverage 24WCSS activities within the scope of "Preparing the Next Generation of Canadian Field Soil Scientists".

2) Engage the 24WCSS Committee on discussions related to its 'Scope of Activities', with particular consideration to developing the 'IUSS-CSSS Memorandum of Understanding' (due at the end of 2024).

Should CSSS Council require, I can be available for clarifications and discussion during their next meeting.

Sincerely,



Dr. Richard J Heck, P.Ag.

Chair, 24WCSS Committee

24wcss@gmail.com cell: 519-546-9032

July 2023



Food and Agriculture
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Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly

Eleventh session

Hybrid, 12–14 July 2023

**Work of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS)
(GSPPA: XI/2023/4)**

Executive summary

- The annual progress report by the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) complements reports submitted to previous sessions of the Plenary Assembly (PA). It provides a succinct overview of the main activities carried out by the panel and the conclusions reached. The document also introduces the revised ITPS work programme for 2023 and 2024 for consideration and endorsement by the PA. The ITPS Chair is also due to deliver a presentation.
- It may be noted that the members of the fourth panel were appointed at the tenth session of the PA and, since then, they have been working at full speed to continue the activities previously initiated and to support the implementation of new activities.
- The seventeenth working session of the ITPS took place virtually from 17 to 19 October 2022 and the eighteenth working session of the ITPS was held in person for the first time for the fourth panel at the FAO headquarters from 21 to 23 March 2023. The panel has continued to operate through virtual channels throughout the year.

Suggested actions by the GSP Plenary Assembly

The Plenary Assembly may wish to:

- review and comment, as relevant, on the range of activities undertaken by the ITPS over the past 14-month period;
- endorse the ITPS workplan 2023–2024 and invite donors and partners to support it by providing financial and in-kind resources;
- welcome the progress made in the preparation of the second edition of the Status of the World's Soil Resources (SWSR) report and encourage ITPS members to actively contribute to its preparation by involving a wide range of experts from all the regions; and
- invite countries and partners to encourage their experts to participate in the different activities led by the ITPS, particularly during the preparation of the second edition of the SWSR report.

4.1 Report by the Chairperson on the main activities and outcomes of the work programme 2022–2023

1. Over the past 14 months, the present panel has performed the following activities:
 - published two ITPS letters: issue #6 *How can soils continue to sustain the growing need for food production in the current fertilizer crisis?* and issue #7 *A call to protect the world's food basket soils: black soils*;
 - led the organization of the Global Symposium on Soils for Nutrition (GSOIL4N22) held from 26 to 29 July 2022 and the development, review and publication of the GSOIL4N22 outcome document;
 - guided the preparation of the Global Soil Nutrient and Nutrient Budget Maps (GSNmap);
 - supported the launch of the Global Soil Biodiversity Observatory (GLOSOB) in the framework of the International Network of Soil Biodiversity (NETSOB) at the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), held in December 2022;
 - supported the development and implementation of the Recarbonization of agricultural soils (RECSOIL) initiative as a contribution to the implementation of decision 16/COP14 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD);
 - contributed to the preparation of the report on the Global Status of Salt-affected Soils;
 - reviewed the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6 WGIII) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC);
 - led the organization of the Global Symposium on Soils and Water (GSOWA23) to be held in October 2023;
 - supported the preparation and dissemination of the SoiLEX platform and the associated comparative analysis of international and national soil legal instruments;
 - led the preparation of the second edition of the Status of the World's Soil Resources (SWSR) report to be issued in 2025, including the establishment of the editorial board, with one ITPS member representing each region. Dr Dan Pennock has been appointed as Managing Editor of the report and is receiving due support from the GSP Secretariat to allow for an inclusive process towards a comprehensive second edition, especially in depicting the dynamics of soil threats since the first edition published in 2015;
 - contributed to the celebration of World Soil Day (WSD) 2022, including the dissemination of campaign materials, selection of the WSD Award, the Glinka World Soil Prize, and the selection of winners for the poster, booklet and soil cakes contests;
 - led the work of the Working Group to develop the Indicator System of the GSP Action Framework (ISAF);
 - presented several abstracts related to the ITPS/GSP's activities as posters and oral presentations at the 22nd World Congress of Soil Science, held in Glasgow, Scotland from 31 July to 5 August 2022; and
 - contributed to the preparation of the document on the institutionalization of the Global Soil Partnership, including guidance on the implementation of the Action Framework.

4.2 ITPS work programme 2023–2024

2. The ITPS workplan until mid-2024 will include the following:

- ensuring follow-up actions to the Global Symposium on Soil Erosion (GSER19), including advising on the preparation of the methodology to evaluate the costs of erosion and value of erosion control practices as public benefits and for the conservation of ecosystem services;
- supporting the implementation of the GSOIL4N22 outcome document, including the launch of the International Soil Fertility and Fertilizer Network (INSOILFER) and the development of its workplan;
- leading the organization of the Global Symposium on Soils and Water (GSOWA23) in October 2023 and its implementation, development, review and the publication of its outcome document;
- guiding the finalization and launch of the Global Soil Nutrient and Nutrient Budget Maps (GSNmap);
- supporting the implementation of GLOSOB;
- continuing support to the development and implementation of the RECSOIL initiative as a contribution to the implementation of decision 16/COP14 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD);
- contributing to the publication of the report on the Global Assessment of Salt-affected Soils;
- continuing to support and guide the different international networks of the GSP;
- leading the preparation of the second edition of the SWSR report scheduled for 2025. The elaboration of the report will involve the Regional Soil Partnerships through the compilation and analysis of the vast number of materials generated since the publication of the first report in 2015;
- assisting with the celebration of WSD 2023 devoted to *Soil and Water: a source of life*, including the dissemination of campaign materials, selection of the WSD Award, the Glinka World Soil Prize, and the review of submissions and selection of winners for the poster and booklet contests;
- leading the work of the Working Group to develop the Indicator System of the GSP Action Framework (ISAF);
- assisting with the organization of the Global Symposium on Soil Data and Information to be held in 2024;
- preparing and publishing future scientific and technical notes (ITPS letters) on soil pollution and water quality, soil biodiversity, soils and One Health, soil monitoring, biochar, soil management under a changing climate, soil governance, soil awareness, and developing ITPS manuscripts to be published in scientific journals; and
- continuing collaboration with international organizations and panels, such as:
 - International Union on Soil Science (IUSS);
 - Science-Policy Interface of the UNCCD;
 - 4per 1000 Initiative;
 - Operationalizing the International Research Consortium (IRC) on Soil Carbon (ORCaSa) project;
 - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC);
 - International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN);
 - Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); and

- Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative (GSBI).

4.3 Preparation of the second edition of the Status of the World's Soil Resources Report

3. Over the past 14 months, the present panel has performed the following activities in furtherance of the preparation of the SWSR report:
 - completed a first draft of the summary of new information on the threats to soil functions, published in the 2015 report;
 - established a review process for the summaries of soil threats and the regional assessment of threats to soil functions;
 - recommended the appointment of Megan Balks (New Zealand) as Review Editor of the report;
 - established Regional Assessment Panels for each region consisting of the ITPS members for that region and the Chair of the Regional Soil Partnership;
 - established subregions for regions and revised the table of contents for the report in accordance with these subregions;
 - initiated the selection of lead authors for the Regional Assessment chapters; and
 - initiated the writing of a stand-alone document on the thresholds for individual soil threats beyond which significant impairment of soil functions can occur (in accordance with the definition of sustainable soil management established in the revised World Soil Charter).
4. The workplan until mid-2024 includes the following items:
 - completion of the first draft of the Regional Assessment chapters for the seven GSP regions;
 - initiation of the review process for the Regional Assessment chapters;
 - review and revision of the summary of the new information (since 2015) on the threats to soil functions; and
 - preparation of a working paper on global and regional thresholds for soil threats.

July 2023

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Food and Agriculture
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Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly

Eleventh session

Hybrid, 12–14 July 2023

Report on Regional Soil Partnerships (GSPPA: XI/2023/8)

Executive summary

- An effective network of Regional Soil Partnerships (RSPs) is key to the achievement of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP)'s mandate and objectives, as specified in its terms of reference (ToRs). To date, all regions and, in many cases, subregions have established RSPs.
- The seven RSPs have implemented various activities and initiatives in line with GSP global activities and other considered priorities for each region, obtaining significant results.
- The Secretariat has continued to make use of all available funds and opportunities to support the viability of the RSPs where possible, particularly concerning the implementation of regional activities. It is noteworthy to mention the efforts made by the chairs of the RSPs to strengthen communication and cooperation among all members in each region.
- The GSP Secretariat has organized two virtual meetings with the chairs of all RSPs in 2022 and 2023. They briefed each other on respective challenges, stressed the need for adequate support in overcoming them, and discussed proposals on how to promote interregional cooperation and adapt regional structures and governance to the new GSP Action Framework 2022–2030. It was agreed that meetings would be held at regular intervals, depending on the urgency of matters to be addressed.
- The GSP Secretariat launched a survey among the GSP national focal points to gauge their perception of the relevance of the RSPs and what their roles should be in achieving the targets set out in the GSP Action Framework.

Suggested actions by the GSP Plenary Assembly

The Plenary Assembly may wish to:

- welcome the progress made by the RSPs in the implementation of activities and advocacy for sustainable soil management (SSM);
- call on all GSP partners, both Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Members and non-state stakeholders, to be fully involved in RSP activities and establish strong supportive networks of experts in each region;
- welcome the results of the survey on the future of RSPs and encourage RSP chairs to consider the findings and seek to implement the suggested actions in coordination with the GSP Secretariat;
- invite the RSP chairs to take the lead in identifying regional priorities and activities that can be implemented in the context of the new GSP Action Framework and assist the mobilization of resources;
- reiterate the need to lend strong support to the RSPs through resource mobilization and facilitation of prominent regional activities, including those of the technical networks and soil information systems; and
- encourage resource partners to continue supporting the activities and functioning of the RSPs.

8.1 Survey on the status and future of Regional Soil Partnerships

1. In response to the request of the tenth GSP Plenary Assembly in 2022, the GSP Secretariat has launched a survey among the focal points to gauge their awareness of the relevance of the RSPs and their expected roles in achieving the objectives and targets set out in the GSP Action Framework 2022–2030.
2. The survey was sent by the GSP Secretariat to all GSP focal points via email. Seventy-eight responses were received from national and alternate focal points from the various GSP regions: Africa (15 countries), Asia (10 countries), Europe (12 countries), Latin America and the Caribbean (13 countries), North Africa and the Near East (5 countries), North America (2 countries) and the Pacific (1 country). In total, the survey received responses from 58 countries. It is important to note that some countries submitted more than one response.
3. The survey provided insights on how to develop regional activities on a voluntary basis on the ground and how to address region-specific challenges related to soils. Respondents also highlighted the importance of promoting technical and scientific exchanges, organizing awareness raising activities and campaigns, exchanging experiences at regional and interregional levels on the mobilization of financial resources, formulating regional projects, and promoting collaboration between FAO regional and country offices as well as regional and national soil-related activities.
4. The main conclusions drawn from the survey are detailed below:
 - i. Usefulness of the RSPs: according to the survey results, the usefulness of the RSPs was rated by the respondents, at 7.7 out of 10. This indicates that the RSPs are considered valuable mechanisms for promoting soils at the regional level and highlights the importance of continuing to support them to achieve the objectives of the GSP.
 - ii. Adequate use of the RSPs: 61.5 percent of respondents considered that the GSP is maximizing the benefits of its RSPs, while 38.5 percent expressed that the involvement of the RSPs and all member countries in GSP activities could be improved. To improve this situation, the need for better planning and allocation of sufficient resources at local, national, and regional levels was highlighted, along with closer cooperation among countries within a region.
 - iii. Role of the RSPs in the new GSP Action Framework: according to the responses to this question, the main role of the RSPs is to coordinate and promote SSM practices at the local, national, and regional levels and to advocate for greater attention to soil in the regions. The RSPs collaborate with the GSP Secretariat, FAO regional offices and members in their respective regions, and provide guidance and leadership in the development of activities in their countries.
 - iv. Governance of the RSPs: 86 percent of respondents considered that the RSPs should maintain their own governance, including chairs, vice-chairs, secretariat, and steering committee, where applicable. It was also highlighted that the RSPs should strengthen their cooperation with FAO Regional Conferences and FAO Regional Groups. This indicates strong support for the RSPs to maintain their own autonomy in decision-making and collaboration with relevant regional bodies.
 - v. Working groups and group chairs for the different areas of action at the regional level: 82 percent of respondents are in favour of setting up specific working groups led by working groups' chairs for the different action areas relevant to the region, replacing the previous

pillar structure. This suggests that there is support for a more specific and focused approach to address soil-related issues in the context of the RSPs.

- vi. Inclusion of regional partners in decision-making at the RSP level: respondents suggested that regional partners should be involved in decision-making on short- and long-term plans, whenever necessary and in a clear, scheduled, and structured consultation process. They should also be involved in discussions and selection of objectives and priorities, the definition of strategies and the allocation of resources.
- vii. Interactions between RSPs and GSP technical networks: 99 percent of respondents are in favour of fostering support and interactions between RSPs and global technical networks, to address priorities at regional level but with the benefit of global experiences and visions.
- viii. Specific actions that should be conducted by the RSPs: according to the responses, the main activity of the RSPs should be to promote scientific exchanges on SSM among countries (87 percent of the responses). It was also considered important for RSPs to promote technical exchanges within and outside the region on issues related to regional and global objectives and areas of action, to promote collaboration with FAO regional and national offices, and to encourage and support subregional partnerships on soils, all of which received 78 percent of the responses. RSPs are also considered to have a role in keeping all countries in the region informed about what countries are doing on soils and to organize regionally-coordinated activities and awareness-raising campaigns (72 percent). The RSPs should promote exchange of experiences on financial resource mobilization for soil and regionally coordinate soil information products (e.g., maps, indicators and assessments), as well as develop regional activities on a voluntary basis, based on regional consensus and in line with the initiatives and programmes of the GSP (70 percent). As a final priority, it was suggested that the RSPs should focus on formulating regional implementation plans and securing funding for their effective implementation.

8.2 African Soil Partnership

- 5. The sixth plenary meeting of the African Soil Partnership (AfSP) was held on 26 and 27 April 2022. The AfSP governance was renewed, and Anne Muriuki from Kenya was elected as the new AfSP Chair. In addition, three vice-chairs were elected to represent English-speaking, French-speaking and Portuguese-speaking countries. The aim is to improve communication between the countries of the region and to support the AfSP Chair in the fulfilment of her duties. Ramagkwale Klaas Mampholo of South Africa was elected Vice-Chair for the English-speaking countries of the AfSP. Mamoudou Traore of Burkina Faso was elected Vice-Chair for the French-speaking countries of the AfSP. Antonia Dos Santos Neto of Sao Tome and Principe was elected Vice-Chair for the Portuguese-speaking countries.
- 6. With the support of the regional Chair and vice-chairs, the new regional facilitator in the GSP Secretariat, Filippo Benedetti, held bilateral meetings with the GSP focal points of the following countries: Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eswatini, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, the Central African Republic, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone and Uganda. These meetings were held between December 2022 and January 2023 with the objective of gathering information on the main threats to soils in each country, existing relationships with FAO country offices and other institutions operating in the country, as well as getting a better overview on the ongoing soil projects in each country and potential financial resources and donors. Another round of bilateral meetings will be held in the second half of 2023.

7. On 19 April 2023, a webinar entitled Soils and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was held in English for AfSP focal points to present the GEF funding opportunities that can be accessed through the development of soils projects in the region. The same webinar will also be repeated in French and Portuguese in the second half of 2023.
8. A webinar on sustainable soil and fertilizer management in Africa, with a case study from Uganda, was organized on 24 April 2023 under the South–South Cooperation project.
9. The African Union Commission (AUC) is organizing the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit (AFSH) to be held in July 2023 to be attended by heads of State. As part of the summit, a Soil Initiative for Africa (SIA) is being developed. FAO has been involved in the early consultative phases and the AfSP is invited to contribute to ensure that the continent's agronomic and economic development plans consider the restoration of Africa's soil health and fertility as a cornerstone.
10. An official World Soil Day (WSD) celebration was organized in [Djibouti](#) in 2022, while about 30 events were held by countries in the region and featured on the [WSD events map](#).

8.3 Asian Soil Partnership

11. An extraordinary meeting of the Asian Soil Partnership (ASP) was held on 2 August 2022 to discuss the implementation of the GSP Action Framework 2022–2030 and its impact on the region. However, no final decision was made and the ASP agreed to wait for the 11th Plenary Assembly and the meetings between the chairs of the RSPs to agree on a common approach to the implementation of the GSP Action Framework. Regular ASP governance meetings were held every three months to discuss regional priorities and review progress in the implementation of the ASP work plan.
12. On 26 April 2023, the concept of soil health was discussed at a regional event organized by the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (France) in Hanoi (Viet Nam) as part of its One Health South-East Asia (OHSEA) project. Based on the recognition that soil health is and should be part of the One Health approach, a side event on the establishment of an Asian soil health action framework was held on 27 April 2023. The framework builds on existing international, regional and national actions, tools, programmes, initiatives and projects on soil, including soil health indicators and index being developed by the GSP. Under the supervision and with the support of the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, the system will help countries in need to include soil health into their national legislation, to avoid duplication of efforts and to make a better use of the available financial and human resources. The regular collection of harmonized data will improve national and regional databases for the implementation of field activities and large-scale projects, and for reporting on international goals and targets like those of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement.
13. The eighth ASP plenary meeting was held on 2 May 2023 to discuss regional priorities and needs, agree on the ASP governance for 2023–2025 and the ASP work plan 2023–2025. The later includes ASP support to the preparation of the regional chapter of the Status of the World's Soil Resources Report 2025. It was also aimed to discuss and agree on the implementation of activities included in the workplan of the Center of Excellence for Soil Research in Asia (CESRA). Additionally, the ASP agreed on the proposal to develop an Asian Soil Health Action Framework to guide countries in developing National Soil Health Action Frameworks. National Soil Health Action Frameworks will be at the core of the institutionalization of the soil health concept and of its inclusion in national policy strategies.

Thus, they aim to increase the political and financial support to the implementation of sustainable soil management in countries.

14. In August 2022, CESRA organized a face-to-face workshop on the establishment of CESRA's national research network for the development and implementation of research projects, including the presentation of ongoing CESRA projects with Novotel Bangkok Future Park Rangsit, in Pathum Thani province. The workshop was attended by 90 participants from government agencies, the private sector, and international organizations. By promoting knowledge transfer and discussions, the workshop succeeded in gathering ideas and proposals for the joint development of research and innovation projects that address the SDGs.
15. The first CESRA Forum was organized as a hybrid regional workshop on 19 and 20 September 2022. It was attended by 84 participants from nine countries and raised awareness of farmers' perception and knowledge of SSM. During the discussion, regional soil management issues were emphasized and the role of national and international organizations in CESRA, such as FAO, the Stockholm Environment Institute, Lancang-Mekong Cooperation, and Mekong Institute was clarified. It was agreed that international organizations can play an important role in publicizing and expanding the CESRA network, and for the development and implementation of joint soil research work. Three concept notes were presented during the workshop: (i) soil organic carbon management to mitigate climate change and enhance food security; (ii) soil and water management to combat soil erosion; and (iii) integration of sustainable land management and innovative technologies in areas affected by climate change. Project proposals are being discussed at the second CESRA Forum in May 2023 and at CESRA training workshops from April to September 2023.
16. CESRA developed an e-training course focused on soil health assessment for SSM, with emphasis on the use of simplified techniques for the analysis of soil properties at the field level, and on the practice of SSM. At present, the centre has already developed a module on simplified soil self-diagnostic techniques, but additional material on specific soil constraints to crop growth needs to be developed.
17. In the first half of 2023, CESRA's database on best practices for SSM was launched to disseminate regional experiences on the subject and promote the establishment of technical and scientific cooperation among countries in the Asian region. Initially, the database consisted of 12 best practices on salt-affected soil management from Thailand, but is now being enriched with best practices from other countries following the completion of a technical evaluation. The activity has been sponsored by FAO through a national Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project.
18. In line with the action plan agreed with its members, in 2023, CESRA is investing in the development of a soil information database, in the preparation and publication of additional training courses and related training materials, in the development of the Asian Soil Information System, in the promotion and implementation of the Global Soil Doctors Programme and in the writing of research projects.
19. The ASP is considering the identification of a highly competent soil testing laboratory in the region to act as a Centre of Excellence for Soil Laboratories (CESLab). CESLab will complement CESRA in soil data quality assurance, harmonization of methods, measurements and indicators for sustainable management and protection of soil resources, and training.
20. All countries in the region have contributed to the preparation of the Soil Atlas of Asia, an activity that began in March 2018 and completed in May 2023. The launch of the atlas was

announced at the 2022 World Soil Day celebrations in Rome, Italy, and Jeonju, Republic of Korea, with the publication of a [brochure](#) advancing the key facts and main findings of the atlas. Following the approval of the Atlas at the sixth editorial board meeting held on 20–23 February 2023, the Soil Atlas of Asia will be officially launched at the eleventh GSP Plenary Assembly at FAO headquarters on 12 July 2023. This will be followed by national and regional launch events.

8.4 Near East and North Africa Soil Partnership

21. An extraordinary Near East and North Africa (NENA) Soil Partnership meeting was held on 3 August 2022 to discuss the implementation of the GSP Action Framework 2022–2030 and its impact on the region.
22. The regional TCP project (TCP/RAB/3802) on *Capacity development for sustainable management of soil resources in the NENA region to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals*, initiated in October 2020, ended in April 2023 with the publication of 11 [factsheets](#) on national projects findings, ten national soil laboratory assessment reports (not available online but provided directly to the ministries of agriculture and other relevant ministries of beneficiary countries), one [regional assessment of soil laboratories' capacities and needs](#) and one regional action plan.
23. The eighth meeting of the NENA Soil Partnership was held in person in Muscat, Oman on 7–8 March 2023. The meeting was part of the event *Towards healthy soils in the Near East and North Africa region* that aimed to: a) present the status of soils in the NENA region to raise awareness on the importance of soils in the NENA region, with a focus on identifying regional priorities and needs and regional actions to take; b) discuss the findings of the regional TCP/RAB/3802 project; c) endorse the Muscat Declaration on SSM in the NENA region; d) improve partnerships and cooperation between countries and regional stakeholders; and e) explore financial resource mobilization opportunities in support of SSM. The meeting succeeded in achieving all its objectives and details can be found in the report.
24. Countries in the Near East have also contributed to the Soil Atlas of Asia (see para 16).

8.5 European Soil Partnership

25. The tenth Plenary Meeting of the European Soil Partnership (ESP) was held virtually on 3–4 May 2023. This meeting addressed the role of ESP in the context of European activities, research programmes, and regulations and how to adapt to the new GSP Action Framework 2022–2030 and other global actions relevant to soil management and governance, such as the agreements stemming from the three Rio conventions. At the meeting, the work agenda of the ESP for the period 2023–2024 was discussed and defined.
26. The ESP Chair, the European members of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS), and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC) are leading the preparation of the European chapter of the second edition of the Status of the World's Soil Resources report, to be published in 2025.
27. The EU Soil Strategy 2030 was published in November 2021. It foresees the development of a legislative proposal to map and restore unhealthy soils, based on a set of soil indicators. The strategy and its implementation are embedded in the [EU Green Deal](#), which involves a series of policies and indicators encompassing the Zero Pollution Action Plan, the European Climate Law, Farm2Fork Strategy and the Common Agricultural Policy. This strategy involves the

foundation of the Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health (CA4SH) as the network of networks on soil in Europe; with the GSP and the ESP being considered as important partners.

28. Several research projects have recently analysed the capacity at country and European Union level to monitor the state of soils (including the Joint European Soil Program (EJP) for agricultural soils and the HoliSoils project for forest soils focusing on carbon monitoring). The European Union has launched a European soil monitoring system, the European Soil Observatory (EUSO), located at the JRC. Regarding the establishment of a soil data infrastructure in Europe, the EJP Soils project and the European Environment Agency (EEA) are addressing how to ensure that participating countries comply with the INSPIRE Directive to enable the exchange of environmental geospatial data, as well as with the requirements set out in the GSP's Global Soil Information System (GLOSIS). With the view of developing concrete and innovative solutions to protect soils, one of the five missions for Horizon Europe (the European Union research and innovation programme) is focused on A Soil Deal for Europe. The programme foresees the establishment of 100 living laboratories and lighthouses to lead the transition towards healthy soils by 2030. Several mission targets closely connect with the objectives of the GSP: namely, to promote soil ecosystem services, to detect degraded soils and to promote SSM. In specific support of such actions, the ESP promotes the collaboration of partners in research projects to meet the knowledge needs and gaps on SSM and soil degradation monitoring and prevention.
29. The subregional [Alpine Soil Partnership](#) (AlpSP) has [translated the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management](#) into [German](#) and [Slovenian](#), thus facilitating the dissemination of this important policy document among stakeholders in the subregion. In addition, experts from the AlpSP are leading the preparation of a manual for the sustainable management of mountain soils, to be published in 2023.
30. The subregional [Eurasian Soil Partnership](#) (EASP) held an extraordinary online meeting in December 2022 to review the subregion's progress in the implementation of the work plan 2019-2023 and the need for renewed governance, as no meeting had been held since 2019. It was agreed to hold an in-person meeting in 2023 to address the region's challenges, functioning and governance. The EASP organized its sixth plenary session on 23 and 24 May in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. At this meeting, the various regional and national developments in SSM were presented, the role of focal points was discussed and the need to strengthen or establish national soil partnerships to ensure better cooperation between the different institutes and ministries was discussed. Special attention was given to the different regional and national projects funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the inclusion of GSP tools and initiatives within them, as well as the new funding opportunities in the framework of the GEF-8. Finally, a new work plan was adopted in line with the GSP Action Framework for the period 2023–2026 and the new governance was defined. It was agreed that the EASP Secretariat would continue to be managed by the Eurasian Centre for Food Security.
31. The Ukrainian focal point requested the GSP secretariat to exclude Ukraine and all its experts from the activities of the subregion and to be considered only as members of the ESP. This change has been reflected on the website and implemented in the different ongoing activities in the region.
32. The subregional [Pyrenean Soil Partnership](#) (ASPIr, by its acronym in Spanish), established in May 2021, initiated its activities in three main areas: awareness-raising, the collection of soil information, and soil erosion. Two ASPIr plenary meetings were held in July and December 2022 to prepare a project proposal entitled *SOLPYR - Soils from the Pyrenees. Knowledge for*

a better protection to be submitted to an [Interreg call for proposals](#). The proposal has been jointly developed by the Association Française de l'Étude des Sols (AFAS) and the Sociedad Española de la Ciencia del Suelo (SECS). The ASPir will participate and present its activities at the [XXXIII Spanish National Soil Meeting](#) organized by the SECS and to be held in Pamplona, Navarra, from 12 to 15 September 2023.

33. The subregional [Western Balkans Soil Partnership](#) (WBSP) was established in December 2022 in response to the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans Action plan. The WBSP is governed by the WBSP steering committee (WBSP SC). The WBSP SC has a mandate to develop and decide on the organizational structure and statutes of the WBSP, the work programme thereof, as well as to harmonize WBSP activities with the activities of the European Soil Partnership, and of other similar organizations. The WBSP will also have an advisory board with five members with a function to advise WBSP SC on issues related to governance and other strategic activities. The partnership is created to preserve, protect and restore soils in the Western Balkan region. The WBSP has organized five interim meetings to define the objectives, priorities and work plan of the subregional partnership.

8.6 Latin America and the Caribbean Soil Partnership

34. The Latin American and the Caribbean Soil Partnership (ASLAC, by its acronym in Spanish) held its [tenth regional assembly](#) in hybrid format on 19–22 June 2023 in Mexico, thanks to the support of a regional TCP project of the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (TCP/RLA/3910/C1 – *Posicionamiento político de la agenda de restauración y gestión de los suelos en ALC y adopción de estrategias, herramientas y buenas prácticas alineadas con el manejo sostenible del suelo*). As a result of this regional meeting, an action plan is expected to be adopted in line with the GSP's framework for action and the expectations of its members, guidelines were drawn up for positioning soils in the international and regional arenas, and possible sources of funding for the development of regional activities were identified.
35. ASLAC was particularly active in the celebration of World Soil Day 2022, with some 121 events held across the region and high outreach. The Institute of Geology of the Autonomous University of Mexico (IGI-UNAM) was the winner of the King Bhumibol Award with the project *Suelox* for its commitment to raising awareness of the importance of healthy soils (See global report on World Soil Day in GSPPA: XI/2023/10).
36. The regional TCP [Actions for climate management of agricultural ecosystems with emphasis on water and soil](#) (TCP/RLA/3805) developed a database with more than 300 sustainable soil and water management practices implemented in the region. The 44 pilot areas established in eight countries of the region (Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela) provided valuable inputs for the finalization of the *Protocol for the assessment of sustainable soil management* (see GSPPA: XI/2023/6), including the measurement of SSM indicators. The results of the project were presented at the tenth regional assembly on 20 June 2023, in Mexico.
37. A community of practice (CoP) on soils has been established in the region thanks to the close collaboration of ASLAC with the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, the support of the Argentinean Association of Direct Sowing Producers (Aapresid), and Catholic Relief Services (CRS). This collaboration led to strengthening soil activities in the region. The community of practice was launched in December 2021 and has more than 650 members from over 30 countries, with the aim of promoting SSM. The CoP has developed the

following activities: a) organization of a webinar on *Biofertilizers and other available technologies to address the Fertilizer Crisis in the Latin America and Caribbean Region* held in June 2022; b) publication of a policy brief: *Alternatives for sustainable management of soil fertilization and plant nutrition*; c) organization of a cycle of dialogues on climate and resilient management of agricultural ecosystems (July to September 2022); and d) organization of a webinar on 19 April 2023 to exchange experiences of the Global Soil Doctors Programme in the region. Between 2022 and 2023, more than 30 experiences of CoP members linked to land management have been collected and are being included in a collaborative map that is under construction.

38. With the support of the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, two consultancies were conducted in late 2022 focusing on the development of technical elements for the structure of the SSM practices database and the preparation of draft terms of reference, conditions and regulations for the use of the database. This database was completed with information from five countries, namely Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador and Mexico. The consultancy also reviewed the technical requirements for updating and maintaining the Latin America and Caribbean Soil Information System (SISLAC). Digital soil mapping activities continue to be strengthened, with good participation of the region in GSP activities for the preparation of global maps of salt-affected soils, soil organic carbon, soil organic carbon sequestration potential and soil nutrients (see global report in GSPPA: XI/2023/9). A regional mapping group has been consolidated, which collaborates and participates in all the actions committed to in the work plan.
39. The Latin American Soil Laboratory Network (LATSOLAN) is the laboratory network with the largest number of participants (224 registered laboratories). In the interlaboratory comparison exercise held in 2021 and 2022 (see GSPPA: XI/2023/9), LATSOLAN showed an acceptable performance for nitrogen, phosphorus, and carbon essays. However, these data need to be further analysed to identify specific issues to improve the performance of laboratories in the region. There are plans for LATSOLAN to organize a face-to-face meeting to resume interaction among its members: however, the issue of poor effective communication between focal points and national reference laboratories remains unresolved.
40. The SOILCARE project, which has a component for updating soil profile information, creating a Caribbean Soil Information System (CARSIS) and strengthening analytical capacity through the Caribbean Soil Laboratory Network (CARSOLAN) is being implemented in the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean subregion. The project also includes several SSM practices that would serve as pilots with opportunities for scaling up (See GSPPA: XI/2023/6).

8.7 North American Soil Partnership

41. The North American Soil Partnership (NSP), made up of scientists from both Canada and the United States of America, has actively contributed to the International Network on Black Soils (INBS), completing mapping of North America and drafting chapters for the GSP's black soils publication.
42. Within the United States of America, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and partner research agencies, especially the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), as well as the National Science Foundation support activities and collaborations, closely aligned with those of Pillar 3 of the GSP.

43. Canada's Agricultural Climate Solutions (ACS) programme includes the establishment of a Canada-wide network of regional collaborations within North America, led by farmers and including scientists and other stakeholders. These collaboration hubs, also known as "living labs" will continue to develop and share farming practices that best store carbon, reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), and mitigate climate change. Since the [agroecosystem living labs concept](#) was endorsed by G20 Ministers of Agriculture in 2018, efforts continue to advance this approach regionally and globally through discussions between representatives of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)'s living labs, the USDA/LTAR network, on how to build a stronger network of networks on living labs through the Living Soils for the Americas, and other initiatives. The AAFC and France's National Research institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (INRAE) are co-hosting the first International Forum on Agroecosystem Living Labs, from 2 to 6 October 2023 in Montreal, Canada, to mark five years since the agroecosystem living lab concept was first presented by Canada to the Ministers of Agriculture of the G20 in 2018.
44. Government agencies from the United States of America released an announcement regarding the USDA's ARS Agency on Soil Biology and Soil Health Research Team on WSD 2022 via social media including on Twitter, Facebook and the USDA website. AAFC and other Canadian organizations, including the Canadian Society of Soil Science (CSSS) and Soil Conservation Council of Canada (SCCC) also promoted WSD on a variety of platforms (Twitter, Facebook, press releases, newsletters).
45. The Secretariat for the [Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative](#) (GSBI), based at Colorado State University (United States of America), is a partner of the GEOBON Soil Observation Network ([SoilBON](#)) and the Food Web research team. Additionally, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is engaged through a GSBI Secretariat and Scientific Advisory Committee position statement on the importance of the inclusion of soil biodiversity science in the conference of the parties (COP). The GSBI and SoilBON are supporting the establishment of the Global Soil Biodiversity Observatory (GLOSOB) of the GSP, launched at COP15 of CBD in December 2022.
46. The [USDA long-term Agroecosystem Network](#) continues conducting research in different production zones to scientifically evaluate the benefits of both conventional and aspirational production systems over long periods of investigation. Included in these, efforts are focused on evaluating short- and long-term changes in soil health and the associated ecosystem services in these conventional and aspirational production systems.
47. Both countries are supporting targeted research on soil, particularly focused on GHG emissions from agriculture, soil biodiversity and the quantification of soil health through the USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) and the AAFC.
48. During 2022 and 2023, the Kellogg Soil Survey Laboratory (KSSL) actively participated in Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN). The KSSL provided soil spectroscopy training to FAO-GSP GLOSOLAN personnel in service of the GLOSOLAN soil spectroscopy initiative.
49. The KSSL participated in a GLOSOLAN-mediated soil sample exchange and analysis project with the Soil and Water Research Institute (SWRI) of the Islamic Republic of Iran to compare methods for measuring soil inorganic and organic carbon, towards identification of the most optimal standards for measuring both soil properties. Partial results of this study were presented at the Nebraska Society of Professional Soil Scientists–Society for Range Management joint

symposium: Healthy Soil, Healthy Range, held in April 2023. The NRCS Soil and Plant Science Division (SPSD) and KSSL collaboration with SWRI is a positive example of interregional cooperation, as well as an outstanding example of progressive, organized science. Additional presentations and papers are to follow.

50. In late 2022, the Senate of Canada initiated formal hearings on the status of soil health in Canada. These hearings are being held by the Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, and they have included testimony from soil scientists from many universities, government and industry agencies.

8.8 Pacific Soil Partnership

51. The sixth plenary meeting of the Pacific Soil Partnership (PSP) will be held virtually in the second half of 2023 to: a) update the national focal points on GSP activities of regional interest; b) inform each other on national activities on soil; and c) prioritize activities for implementation in the region in 2023-2024.
52. A call was launched to identify Pacific countries with an interest in implementing the Global Soil Doctors Programme. Australia expressed its interest in supporting the programme implementation in the Pacific islands of Fiji and Tonga. Once a promoter is identified in each country, selected experts will be trained on the use of the programme material to train farmers to become Soil Doctors.
53. Around 80 soil laboratories from nine countries in the region have joined GLOSOLAN and the Pacific Soil Laboratory Network (ASPAC) since its establishment in 2019. Four soil laboratories from the Pacific countries took part in the global proficiency test organized by GLOSOLAN in 2022, to assess the quality of the laboratories' analytical performance, especially in determining carbon content in soils.
54. Australia is implementing the Australia's National Soil Strategy to inform land management and improve soil conditions, agricultural productivity, and environmental outcomes. In this regard, the country is allocating AUD 54.4 million over two years to support farmers and land managers to access low-cost soil sampling and certified testing in exchange for sharing their data. This new programme will increase the frequency and quality of soil testing by farmers and land managers and provide access to this data through a secure national platform: the Australian National Soil Information System (ANSIS). The quality, quantity and distribution of information across Australia is under review by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE). Private and public entities will be paid to provide access to existing soil data to be incorporated onto the ANSIS.
55. The Soil Science Challenge Grants Program and the National Soil Package will provide support (1) to researchers to address fundamental gaps in soil science and improve understanding of how to better manage Australia's soil resources, (2) to develop a new accreditation in soil science, and (3) for projects that promote and support the adoption of best practice in sustainable land management. A new National Land Management Classification System has been established.
56. The Australian Government is also developing a five-year National Soil Action Plan to set out how programs and policies will be delivered by all Australian ministries and governmental institutions dealing with soils. The Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) are undertaking the re-sampling of a national wide set of soil carbon sites to assess change since

the original sampling in 2011, and to provide baseline and research data for the calibration and implementation of new soil carbon measurement and sequestration projects.

57. The Pacific Soils Portal has been open to the public for over two years, delivering the best available legacy soils data and knowledge for Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga and Tuvalu. Usage levels have been increasing to about 100 users per month potentially including a significant fraction of academic/student and expatriate users from the Pacific. Although modest by international standards, over 1 200 users undertaking nearly 3 000 sessions averaging eight minutes in duration suggests a high level of engagement. Recent developments include adding another 84 legacy soil profile data points for Fiji: 75 from Nadi Forest soil reports and nine from the Seaqaqa Research Station of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) soil report. At the same time the soil reports were improved to better organize the data and improve readability. A Phase II proposal has been submitted to the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) via CSIRO to load Vanuatu soils data to the portal, introduce raster digital soil mapping products and add more contemporary proximally sensed soil profile data. Discussions have also been held with the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) regarding the expansion of geographic coverage to include the Cook Islands and Niue for which legacy data is available and, which would require minimal harmonization to add to the Pacific Soils Portal.
58. A very large soil mapping programme is underway and carried out by Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research (MWLR), New Zealand, with 23 regional surveys. S-map now covers 37.1 percent of New Zealand, including 67.7 percent of “multiple use land”. Technical advice was also provided to the World Soil Data Centre regarding the development of GLOSIS and contributions were made to various soil ontology initiatives. Data Privacy and indigenous data sovereignty – soil data ownership, soil data privacy and Māori data sovereignty continue to be of national interest and the resulting policies may affect what soil data can be released for use nationally and internationally. There has been a major refresh of the [MWLR Soil Portal](#) and work continues on the new version of New Zealand Soil Description Handbook and improved farm scale soil mapping protocols. MWLR is part of the international ring test of soil spectroscopy ([Soil.Spectroscopy 4 Global Good](#)), both NIR and MIR, led by the Woodwell Climate Research Centre. This initiative is aligned with the GSP’s activities and the GLOSOLAN spectroscopy working group.
59. In Tonga, with CSIRO and the Pacific Community (SPC), 12 soil management training events were conducted including the use of the Palintest kit and had over 200 participants. These were the foundations for starting farmer field schools and the GSP’s Soil Doctor Programme. Staff are now engaged in analysis of the ash from the volcanic eruption and the subsequent tsunami – in Tonga. The CSIRO-led ACIAR Pacific Soils Project has been working in Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu, and implementing training associated with the Soil Doctor Programme.

**CANADIAN JOURNAL OF SOIL SCIENCE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF REPORT
CANADIAN SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Dr M Anne Naeth

June 21, 2023

1. Editorial Board, Canadian Science Publishing, Reviewers

Our Associate Editors make the Canadian Journal of Soil Science possible, and contribute significantly to its operations, development and reputation.

The support, professionalism and expertise provided by the Canadian Science Publishing staff are highly appreciated. Thank you to the editorial team for CJSS: Editorial Director Josephine Sciortino; Journal Development Specialist Morgan Tunzelmann; Peer Review Coordinator Laurie Scott; Production Editor Scott Bryant; Director, Integrity and Engagement Melanie Slavitch; Editorial Outreach Specialist Jenny Crick.

We gratefully acknowledge all of our peer reviewers and thank them for their valuable contributions to publication of our journal.

Congratulations to our outstanding reviewers for 2022: Dr Jeff Schoenau, University of Saskatchewan, second year in a row; Dr Miles Dyck, University of Alberta; Dr Paul Sanborn, University of Northern British Columbia. We are grateful for their consistent and expeditious delivery of comprehensive, discerning reviews to the authors of our journal submissions.

2023 Editorial Board

Editor-in-Chief: Dr M Anne Naeth

Associate Editors: Drs Jean-Philippe Bellenger, Asim Biswas, Henry Chau, Nicola Day, Claudia Goyer, Maja Krzic, Sheng Li, Aimé Jean Messiga, David Pelster, Lori Phillips, Fereidoun Rezanezhad, Mervin St Luce, Mozghan Sepehri, Ben Thomas, Karen Thompson, Mohammad Valipour, Jim Warren, Joseph Yavitt, Wei Zhang, Xining Zhao.

Thank you to Dr Andrew VanderZaag, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Ottawa, for three terms of service as Associate Editor. We have greatly benefited from his work with CJSS.

We have thirteen Associate Editors with terms ending in December 2023, and two with terms ending in December 2024. Let me know if you are interested in joining the Editorial Board, or if you know of someone we should consider inviting.

Reviewers for all areas of our research continue to be difficult to procure. If you are interested in being listed as a reviewer for our journal, or if you know someone we should consider for reviews, let me know. As members of the Canadian Society of Soil Science, if we each committed to review at least one paper a year for our journal, we could speed up the review process and enhance the quality of our journal. Let's make this the year we all commit to this.

2. Journal Metrics, Statistics

The journal's two year impact factor is currently 1.723; up from recent years and just above our previous high of 1.590 in 2016. The five year impact factor is currently 1.989; up from 1.805 last year and slightly above the previous high of 1.934 in 2017. Although journal impact factor is just one of many metrics to quantify a journal, we are happy to see this number rising.

Our current turnaround time to first decision is 46.2 days, up from 44.6 days last year, and down from 55 the previous two years. Turn around time is a major factor for journal submissions so we need to improve on that number to be competitive. We will continue with a larger number of Associate Editors than in previous times to facilitate this goal. Reviewers are getting more difficult to procure and is the main reason for this high turn around time. Mean number of reviewers requested before getting the required number was 9 in 2023, up from 5.6 in 2018.

Our total papers published from 2018 to 2022 are 62, 54, 66, 77 and 76, respectively; to date in 2023 numbers are lower than normal. Our original submissions have declined from 2018 to 2022 with 146, 133, 146, 183 and 145 respectively; to date in 2023 they are lower than normal. Our current acceptance rate is 47%. Acceptances for 2018 to 2022 are 58, 54, 68, 79 and 70, respectively; with lower than normal numbers in 2023.

Our highest number of publications by institution are: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (95), University of Alberta (61), University of Guelph (29), University of Saskatchewan (25), University of Manitoba (20), McGill University (19), University of Montreal (17), University of British Columbia (13), University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (13), Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (12), Dalhousie University (12), University of Winnipeg (10), Memorial University of Newfoundland (8), North West Agriculture and Forestry University China (4) and University of Toronto (4).

Our CJSS downloads of PDFS have increased slightly from 2018 to 2022, almost reaching 300,000 in 2022. Total citations have increased steadily since 1995, to well over 4,000 in 2022.

3. Special Issues, Reviews

Special issues (now called collections) and reviews are of critical importance for a journal as they contribute significantly to improvements in citations and impact factors.

We had two special Issues this past year. Advances in soil survey and classification in Canada with Guest Editors Brandon Heung, Daniel Saurette, Chuck Bulmer and Angela Bedard-Haughn. Soil health with Guest Editors Laura Van Eerd, Kate Congreves, KS Anil Kumar and Avanthi Igalavithana.

Future special issues are needed and are being actively recruited including one on soil bioremediation. We are currently seeking authors to commit to reviews on timely topics. Please let me know if you have interest and ideas to discuss for special collections and/or reviews as we should soon be scheduling for the upcoming year.

4. Scope, Articles

With our updated scope we are promoting more international content and interdisciplinary works. We are interested in timely topics such as those linking soil with climate change, food security and sustainable development goals.

We will soon launch Perspectives, a new section for topics of importance in all facets of the soil science discipline. Perspectives articles may focus on a research project or method, a general issue of importance to soil science, historical contexts or future directions. We are interested in hearing from researchers and practitioners across the field of soil science; in different career paths and stages, from early to retired, from academia to industry and government. Through Perspectives, we aim to provide a forum to foster conversations around soil science, its methods, practices and impact, to build the wider soil science community.

5. Journal Cover Photos

Although Canadian Science Publishing is no longer printing issues, we are always looking for good quality photos. These photos can be used in our social media promotion for our issues and collections and for other marketing assets.

We are continuing to run a graduate student competition for photo submissions. The competition has yielded some very good cover photos in the past. The CSSS provides a cash prize for our winners and they get featured in the journal and the CSSS newsletter.

6. Actions For Improving Canadian Journal Of Soil Science

As we have discussed in previous annual report, we are working to enhance our journal's reputation. To do this we need to attract excellent quality research papers and to attract them we need good journal metrics, particularly turn around time and impact factor. A bit of a circular process, but doable with the help of our Canadian Society of Soil Science members to serve as Associate Editors, reviewers and contributors. It is our home journal and its success is in all of our hands. The following are some ongoing action plans we have for our journal.

Work proactively with Canadian Science Publishing to develop and promote our journal, ensuring it continues to attract and publish world class research and remains a high caliber research publication.

Actively encourage and seek regular manuscripts, short communications, review papers and special issues on important and timely topics, and from recognized researchers in their fields.

Incentivize Canadian Society of Soil Science members to consider the Canadian Journal of Soil Science an important journal for their work.

Promote the journal and its community to graduate students; provide author workshops by CSP, eliminate page charges for a number of graduate student publications.

Include international associate editors, to raise our international profile.

Recognize deserving contributors with an editor's choice article in each issue, and annual outstanding reviewers.

Eliminate page charges for Canadian Society of Soil Science professor emeritus, fellows and retired submitters, and encourage them to write review articles and guest edit special issues.

Promote the journal at every opportunity including scientific meetings, webinars, society webpages and other platforms.

Solicit information from our society members on what they would like to see in the journal to make it more appealing to them.

2023 Canadian Society of Soil Science Student Representative Report

Submitted by Blake Weiseth

Since beginning my appointment as Graduate Student Representative in January 2023, my efforts on the Committee beyond attending regularly-scheduled Committee meetings have been largely focused on planning of the Graduate Student mixer event taking place during the CSSS annual conference. Details of the event are provided below:

“An Evening with Senator Rob Black”

What: Senator Rob Black is currently the Chair of the Standing Senate Committees on Agriculture and Forestry and is passionate for Soil Health. In this professional development and networking opportunity, Senator Black will share his experiences on leadership and volunteerism that have influenced his life. A Q&A session will follow the formal presentation.

When: Monday, June 26th 7-9 PM, ADT

Where: Riverview Room
Jenkins Hall
40 Horseshoe Crescent
Truro, NS
B2N 4H5

Cost: Free

Attire: Business Casual

Promotion of the event was achieved via email blast sent to current CSSS student members.

Students were asked to RSVP by pre-registering for the event. As of June 15, 2023, 84 students had pre-registered.

Respectfully submitted by,

Blake Weiseth

Graduate Student Representative- CSSS

2023 Western Councillor's Report

The primary activity of the Western Councillor during the period from 2022-2023 was the update of the CSSS website:

- 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.
- Photographs of the award winners were loaded to replace those from the previous year.
 - Recipient of the 2022 CSSS Fellow Award (Dr. Maja Krzic and Dr. Richard Farrell)
 - Induction of Saskatchewan Agriculture Hall of Fame (Dr. Jeff Schoenau)
 - Recipient of the 2022 ASA, SSSA Fellow Award (Dr. Noura Ziadi)
 - Recipient of the 2022 SSSA Fellow Award (Dr. Ed Topp)
- Minutes from the 2022 AGM and meeting were uploaded to the site.
- March, June, November 2022 and March 2023 newsletters have been published.
- The website was updated to reflect the election of the new President-elect (Richard Farrell), Eastern Councillor (Adrian Unc) and Graduate Student Representative (Blake Weiseth). The website also was updated to note the transition of Asim Biswas from President to Past-president and President-elect to President for Amanda Diochon. Note: there was no change to the Western Councillor (Henry Wai Chau), Secretary (Lee-Ann Bauman), Treasurer (Diane Knight), and CJSS Editor-in-Chief (Anne Naeth).
- Under the professional and graduate student opportunities, International Research and Teaching Opportunities have been added.
- 2022 CJSS author workshop recording was uploaded to the website.
- CSSS communication committee terms of reference have been added to the website.

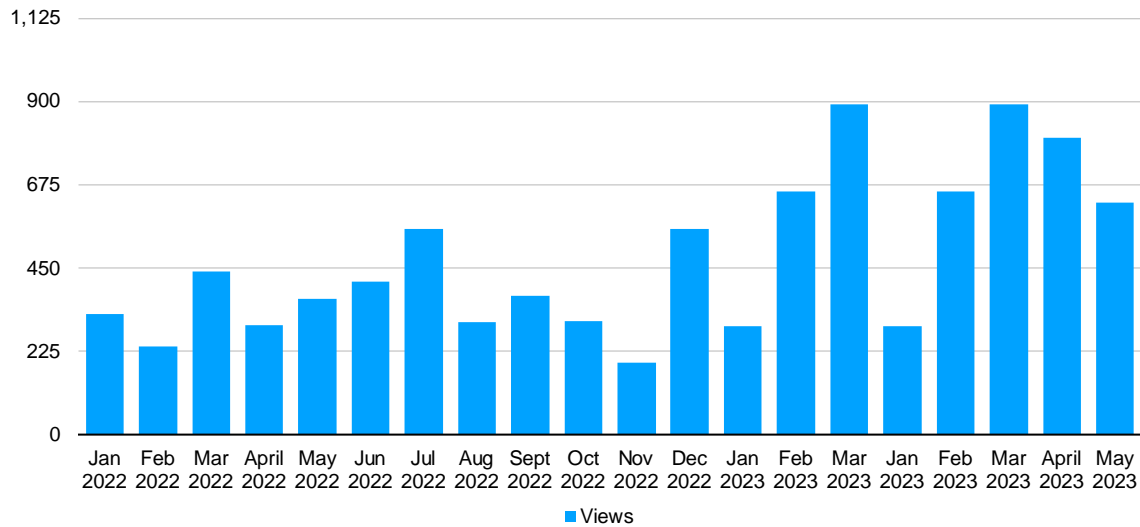
Information regarding several conferences was uploaded to the CSSS website:

- *2023 CSSS Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society of Soil Science, June 26-29, 2023 | Truro, Nova Scotia*
 - *Links have been provided to the <https://www.csss2023.ca/> to streamline deadlines and updates from the conference organizers*
- *4th Global Soil Security Conference 2023, June 26-30, 2023 | Seoul, Korea*
- *2023 ASA-CSSA-SSSA International Annual Meeting, October 29-November 1, 2023 | St. Louis, MO*

Social media update

- **Grounded in Soils Blog update**

GroundedInSoils blog views per month 1/2022-5/2023



GroundedInSoils blog views per month 2022

Month	Views	
Jan 2022	326	
Feb 2022	238	
Mar 2022	441	
April 2022	296	
May 2022	368	
Jun 2022	414	
Jul 2022	555	
Aug 2022	305	
Sept 2022	376	
Oct 2022	306	One blog post only
Nov 2022	194	No new blog posts
Dec 2022	555	
Jan 2023	292	
Feb 2023	656	
Mar 2023	891	
April 2023	802	
May 2023	626	

- To access, subscribe and share the blog, by clicking on the buttons on the top of the

FOLLOW US



CSSS website.

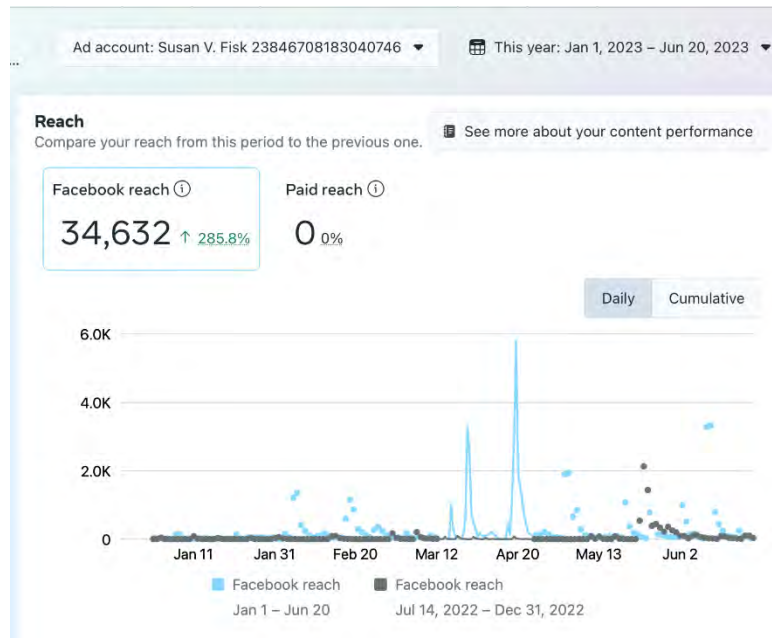
- More original blogs by members, more involvement from members sending photos for a library, etc. is needed.

- **Twitter followers (6/20/23)**

- 2,332
- Posts with photos of soil and/or soil scientists receive the most engagement
- CSSS annual meeting posts have been successful this year, with people clicking to the website reported

- **Facebook followers (6/20/23)**

- 1,200, with reach increasing steadily



- **LinkedIn followers (6/20/23)**

- 485, which may not seem like many followers, but each post gets viewed and links get clicked

Henry Chau, Western Councillor

Eastern Councillor Report
Adrian Unc @MUN
CSSS Newsletter

- Published first newsletter of the year in March 2023
- The consensus is that fixed publishing dates are preferable, to facilitate a more structured approach to news material collection
- Two to three editions were proposed (April, August and December?)
- One special edition to follow the annual meeting and include summaries of the meeting, judging outcomes, etc. (requests will be sent to session organisers)
- A new design for the future newsletter has been proposed in June (the work of an external graphic designer well proposed by Nancy Zubriski). General consensus is that it is visually an improvement. Besides the usual sections (President's Message, Student Photo Contest, Job Board, Announcement for Awards and Scholarships, News from the Society's committees, Links to other relevant meetings in Canada and around the world, In Memoriam) a cover story/feature was proposed. Fixed dates would facilitate this.
- Must keep requesting images, hopefully to build a database to facilitate future graphic updates
- A structured template to be drafted for the job ads; same form for both newsletter and the blog
- In the March 2023 edition there were requests posted for the "Life as a Soil Science Professional", "People News" and "Thesis Defences" section requests for profiles published in the March newsletter; little response, might need to send directed requests

Resolution of Appreciation

Thank you to Nancy Zubriski in the Business Office, Shirley Ho for her help with the website and Susan Fisk for running our social media accounts. Thanks, as well, to our outgoing members of council Angela Bedard-Haughn, Erika Young and Louis Pierre Comeau, financial reviewers Preston Sorenson and Sandra Brown, and outgoing associate editors of the journal. And finally, our organizing committee for this year's meeting. Thank you to David Burton, Brandon Heung, Caitlin McCavour, Weixi Shu, Gordon Price and Kevin Keys.