

## **Minutes, CSSS Annual General Meeting**

**16 May 2016**

Meeting location: Arts and Education Building (AE) 162, Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, BC

In attendance: Maja Krzic, Barbara Cade-Menun, Joann Whalen, Carolyn Wilson, Wole Akinremi, Scott Chang for Xueming Yang, Nathan Basiliko, Amanda Diochon and 27 members

1. The meeting was opened at 18:05 by Maja Krzic.
2. Approval of agenda: Moved by Barbara Cade-Menun, seconded by Margaret Schmidt; carried.
3. Minutes from 2015 AGM: posted online and projected on a screen for membership; moved by Barbara Cade-Menun, seconded by Angela Bedard-Haughn; carried.
4. Resolution of appreciation. Thanked Margaret Schmidt, Kent Watson, Tim Philpott, Maja Krzic of the organizing committee as well as other members of the organizing committee who were not in attendance at the AGM; Barbara Sanapelli and Steve Sheppard in the business office; financial auditors.
5. Business arising from last year's minutes: the sale of the journal but this will be discussed at the end of the meeting by representatives from Canadian Science Publishing (CSP)
6. Treasurer's Report (Kent Watson): see appendix for full report.

The society continues to be healthy financially. Investments were down but this is because of the volatility in the financial markets. Looking at the financials, we forecasted and reported a loss for 2015 that is related to the expenses associated with advancing funds for the conference. These funds plus the revenue from the Montreal meeting are paid back in the year following the conference (2016) and will be reflected in the 2016 budget. With these funds taken into account we don't have a true deficit.

Looking forward to the 2016 budget we agreed at last year's meeting to sponsor the 2016 North American Envirothon with \$10,000. As well a fund for international graduate student travel has also been established. These two items were not reflected in in the initial forecast for 2016. There is currently a line item for NSERC Women in Science and this will come off as the program has ended.

The proposed budget for 2017 forecasts a deficit of \$910.00 but this reflects an advance for the annual meeting, so as in previous years it is not a true deficit. This deficit may be entirely eliminated if the investments perform better than anticipated.

Xiying Hao and Edith Olson have been asked to serve as auditors for the coming year. Edith has agreed but Xiying has not yet responded.

Motion for appreciation/applause from the floor.

Kent Watson moved to approve the budget; Barbara Cade-Menun seconded.

Kent's term is up in 2017. There was a call for members to consider serving as treasurer. This is a position appointed by council. Kent has prepared instructions to guide his successor and is willing to train them.

## 7. President's Report

**Maja (January-April 2016):** Maja chaired the organizing committee for the current meeting and also served as the CSSS representative on that committee. Together with Scott Smith, Maja recruited representatives for the UN-FAO Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS), namely for the following three Global Soil Partnership (GSP) working groups:

- (1) Open-Ended Working Group for the development of Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management (Kirsten Hannam, Canadian rep),
- (2) GSP Pillar 1 on Sustainable Soil Management (David Lobb, North American rep),
- (3) GSP Pillar 2 on Awareness and Extension in Soil (Maja Krzic, North American rep),  
and
- (4) GSP Pillar 4 on Enhancement of the quantity and quality of soil data and information: data collection (generation), analysis, validation, reporting, monitoring and integration with other disciplines (Bert VandenBygaart, Canadian rep to replace Scott Smith).

**Barbara (July-December 2015):** In July, Barbara chaired a luncheon celebrating the 2015 International Year of Soils at the International Stewardship Symposium in Calgary and in October gave a presentation on soil at the Café Scientifique in Saskatoon. In November at the SSSA meeting in Minneapolis, Barbara met with the SSSA president to plan for the joint North American Soil Science meeting (January 6-9, 2009 in San Diego). She will continue to serve as the CSSS representative for the planning committee. While at the meeting she also attended the Agronomic Science Foundation reception and President's Dinner at the invitation of the SSSA President. In December, Barbara attended the Celebration of the 2015 International Year of Soils in Vienna, Austria that was jointly organized by the International Union of Soil Sciences, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the International Atomic Energy Agency, and participated in discussions on future challenges in Soil Science.

## 8. Report of Committees:

- a) Awards Committee: Chair: Joann Whalen; Members: David Burton, David Lobb, and Frank Larney

The Committee reviewed applications for the CSSS Fellow Award, the Pedology Travel Award and CSSS Student Travel Awards.

CSSS Fellow Award: There was one nomination this year. David Lobb (University of Manitoba)

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

CSSS Honorary Membership: There were no nominations this year.

CSSS Pedology Award: There was one application this year, and it was approved by CSSS Council. The CSSS Pedology Award will be given to Dr. Angela Bedard-Haughn (University of Saskatchewan) who attended the course "Hands-on Global Soil Information Facilities" at the International Soil Reference and Information Centre (ISRIC) Spring School in the Netherlands from May 6-13, 2016.

Student Travel Awards: There were 17 applicants (two withdrew) and funding for 12 awards of \$600 each from the CSSS Student Travel Award fund. Monies from the Agricultural Institute of Canada (AIC) permitted 3 awards of \$600 each, with 2 additional awards of \$600 each co-sponsored by CSSS and the Canadian Journal of Soil Science (CJSS). Names will be announced at the banquet.

Student Presentation Awards: This year, there were 49 student presentations in the CSSS competition. There were 33 student oral presentations competing for the C.F. Bentley Awards and 16 student poster presentations for the President's Awards. Several CSSS student members are electing to give additional presentations, but only one oral or one poster presentation are eligible for judging in the student presentation competition. Point to note: In the student competitions, 13 are from BC, 5 from AB, 8 from SK, 7 from MB, 9 from ON and 6 from Quebec and 1 from Nova Scotia.

CSSS Student Book Award: Different universities have established different criteria for this award. At some schools, this prize is awarded to the top student in Introduction to Soil Science course, while at other schools it is awarded to a top undergraduate student majoring in Soil Science or showing a strong aptitude for Soil Science. As of May 15, Joann received names from University of Manitoba, UNBC, Laurentian University, Université de Quebec à Chicoutimi, Université Laval, McGill University, University of Toronto, Dalhousie University, the University of Alberta, University of Saskatchewan, University of Guelph and UBC. The names of Student Book Award Winners will be announced at the Banquet.

New International Travel Award: Reviewed details of the award; \$4000 this year and \$6800 moving forward. Council has approved the award. Applications for the award for this year are due in July and will continue to be accepted until the funds have been award.

Joann moved, Barbara seconded. All in favor.

Barbara suggesting that we incorporate an oral component into the scoring of the posters. Maja mentioned that some judges do not want to speak with the students because of time commitments; Angela agreed. This will be discussed at the judges meeting.

b) Soils Education Committee: presented by Maja Krzic. The Soil Education Ad Hoc Committee of the Canadian Society of Soil Science (CSSS) was established in May 2014 at the annual conference in Banff, AB. The mandate of this committee is to enhance soil science education in Canada at K-12, undergraduate, and graduate levels.

1) Envirothon: CSSS are sponsoring a booth at the North American Envirothon competition this year and developed materials that are being used by students in preparation for the competition. Maja has a hard copy and a pdf will be provided by Envirothon that she will circulate after the meeting via the CSSS webpage.

2) Soil science education at the undergraduate level. Inventory of undergraduate soil science courses and academic programs in Canada

A manuscript will be submitted from this work to CJSS in the next week or two.

3) Conference session on experiential learning

At the 2016 CSSS annual conference Tom Yates and Amanda Diochon organized a session on “Experiential Learning in Soil and Environmental Sciences” with keynote speaker – Dr. Sean Maw (University of Saskatchewan), and 8 oral presentations. Title of the keynote talk was “Experiential learning: Why it works, and how to make it work well”.

c) Pedology Subcommittee: presented by Dan Pennock. Subcommittee formed at 2005 AGM in Halifax because the future of pedology was in question. The subcommittee has since developed the Soils of Canada website, authored a special issue on the soils of Canada in the CJSS and developed a Soils of Western Canada Field Handbook that will be available free online for students. There is momentum around digital soil mapping and there is currently a group working in Canada. The CSSS meeting could be the venue to help support and facilitate this group. He motioned to membership to see if this would be a good idea. Membership agreed. He is looking for co-chairs for that group.

d) International Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS): presented by Dan Pennock (full report with links available in appendix). The ITPS furthers global adoption of sustainable soil management and supports the UN’s Global Soil Partnership. Dan was re-appointed to a second two-year term in June 2015. Since his re-appointment the ITPS has met twice (September 2015 and March 2016). Both meetings were at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome.

The major initiatives undertaken this past year include:

i. Publication of the first Status of the World's Soil Resources Report in December 2015.

The report was released on World Soil Day 2015 at ceremonies in Rome, Vienna, and the UN Headquarters in New York. Dan was the presenter of the report at UN Headquarters in New York. The report is available online (see his report for link).

ii. Preparation of First-Draft of Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management

In its 2013-15 term, the ITPS developed a revised World Soil Charter, which was later adopted by the FAO Council. The ITPS was next asked to draft Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management (VGSSM) for review and adoption by FAO member states. These were considered, revised, and finally adopted at the March 2016 meeting, and have since undergone further review by an Open-Ended Working Group. They will be considered at the GSP Plenary in June 2016. This document is not legally binding but is important for leveraging the importance of soils.

iii. Inclusion of Soil Issues in the UN Sustainable Development Goals

The work of the UN and its agencies is guided by the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Soil was included in several of the SDGs, and soil organic carbon change was included as one of the many indicators to be used in SDG monitoring. The inclusion of SOC as an indicator led to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issuing an invitation to the ITPS to jointly host a Global Soil Organic Carbon Conference during the first quarter of 2017. The IPCC had previously been somewhat uninterested in the work of the ITPS, and the proposed joint conference is viewed as a major step forward.

Dan's term is ending in May 2017. The CSSS must make a nomination for his replacement and the candidate has to be approved by the federal government. The meetings are held in Rome. There is a considerable amount of writing involved so this requires a large time commitment.

9. CJSS Editor's report: presented by Scott Change for Xueming Yang. See attached report.

On behalf of Xueming, Scott acknowledged the service of the retiring members of the Canadian Journal of Soil Science (CJSS) Editorial Board for their dedicated service to the journal: Dr. Francis Zvomuya (Editor-in-Chief), Dr. Richard Angel (Associate Editor, AE), Dr. Nicolas Belanger (AE), Dr. Jean Caron (AE), and Dr. Mario Tenuta (AE) and called for appreciation (round of applause). He welcomed new members of the Editorial Board: Dr. M. Anne Naeth (Editor), Dr. Woo-Jung Choi (AE), Dr. Lori Phillips (AE), Dr. Ren Tusheng (AE), Dr. Judith Nyiraneza (AE), Dr. Wei Zhang (AE) and Dr. Xudong Zhang (AE) and reviewed the current Editorial Board; there are currently 24 associated editors.

Scott acknowledged the peer reviewers and thanked them for their valuable contribution to the publications of CJSS, among them Drs. Bernie Zebarth, Anushka Umali Rajapaksha, Katelyn

Congreves, Judith Nyiraneza, and David Burton have been selected as our Outstanding Reviewers for 2015. There was a call for appreciation (round of applause).

The hard work by Dr. Scott Chang, our Special Issues Editor, and his Guest AE team who are responsible for the special sections and special issues that highlight emerging and hot topics of interest to our readers was also acknowledged. Appreciation was expressed to Tim Fenton (retired in Dec 2015) and Laurie Scott in the journals office.

Scott reviewed the challenges facing CJSS and encouraged membership to submit high quality papers and to consider reviewing when called upon. The impact factor for the journal is increasing over time as has the ranking (currently 20/34). The journal has been acquired by CSP, which will be reviewed later.

Over the past year there were 137 submissions with 104 decisions. There were 33 papers accepted (32% acceptance rate). The Canadian acceptance rate was 77%. Papers were rejected before the review because of flaws in the experimental design or that the data were insufficient. Papers were rejected after review because of lack of novelty or the lack of revision based on reviewer feedback.

The number of days from submission to decision is improving but there is still room for improvement. A big part of the delay is finding reviewers.

There are currently 4 special issues in the works: 1. Sustainable management for cow pastures, 2. Soil interfaces for sustainable development, 3. Precision agriculture and soil water management in cranberry production, and 4. GHG in agricultural systems.

10. Student representative (Carolyn Wilson): There are currently 102 student members. Carolyn conducted an email survey of members and had a 30% response rate. Overall members felt satisfied with membership. Suggestions for improvement were more awards, opportunities for outreach, etc. Carolyn organized the student event at Duffy's Pub and the CSSS approved a budget for food for the event. She also organized merchandise for sale at the meeting, which included hats, key chains, mugs and T-shirts.

Maja called for appreciation for Carolyn's efforts in organizing merchandise (round of applause).

11. Western Councilor (Wole Akinremi): There were 10 updates for the website, which included the newsletter and awards. If there are any modifications please let Wole know. For example, Frank Larney informed Wole that the pedosphere website is obsolete so the link should be removed. As well sponsorship needs to be acknowledged on the website for AIC student travel. The Soils Handbook and International Award for Graduate Student Travel will be posted on the website. Wole acknowledged Bobbi's help in the transition. He asked everyone to go to the website.

Maja mentioned developing a general template for the conference website because developing one was very time consuming. This could be linked to the society website that there is better integration. Maja suggested having this year's conference website as the template so that we don't have to start from scratch. Everyone was in favour as it cuts down on the work.

12. Eastern Councilor (Nathan Basiliko): There were no concerns raised by members in the East. There are two newsletters prepared per year. The next one is slated for August and Nate is currently accepting submissions. Carolyn Wilson is organizing "From the Field" on a student from Joann Whalen's group. Marcus Phillips (PhD student at Carleton University) is interviewing Darwin Anderson (Professor Emeritus, University of Saskatchewan) about history of CSSS. Please forward any ideas for the newsletter to Nate.

### 13. New Business

a. Appointment of financial reviewers (Kent Watson): Xiying Hao and Edith Olson are currently the reviewers. Hida Manns agreed to be the third auditor.

b. North American Envirothon competition (Maja Krzic): Maja is looking for volunteers to help on the ground at the Envirothon competition.

c. Update on 2017 CSSS meeting (Trent University, June 10-14; Hida Manns for Mehdi Sharifi): The meeting will be held in Peterborough at Trent University. Hida gave an overview of Trent University's campus and emphasized the environment and education.

d. Call for proposals for 2018 CSSS meeting (Maja Krzic): Maja asked for proposals for the 2018 meeting and the possibility for co-organizers.

e. Request for sponsorship of 2018 North American Forest Soils Conference/International Symposium on Forest Soils (Maja Krzic for Paul Hazlett): There was a request for sponsorship for the NA Forest Soils Conference. An overview of items to sponsor for the event was provided. Sponsorship ranges from \$300-\$2,000. In the past the CSSS has provided \$1,000 in sponsorship. Membership was in agreement that the CSSS would provide \$1,000 in sponsorship for the 2018 North American Forest Soils Conference.

f. 2019 meeting, joint North American meeting in January 2019 (Barbara Cade-Menun): Barbara is on the organizing committee (January 6-9, 2019 in San Diego). Everything will be at the same location (accommodation and venue). The SSSA will manage and handle all the money. We need to have an AGM every year but it would mean that we would have a 2018 and 2019 meeting in addition to the joint NA meeting, which is a lot. There will be a call for proposals for sessions in the next year. We lost a lot of money when we had the AGM in San Antonio and the preference would be to not have the AGM at the San Diego meeting. As well, the Treasurer's report wouldn't be ready. Dan Pennock mentioned that we aren't visible at the SSSA meeting because our society has much smaller membership. Denis Angers felt that it is important to keep the AGM at the Canadian meeting. Everyone was in agreement. Barbara suggested partnering with CSA or CGU for the meeting in 2018. Consensus was that CGU would be a good fit. We would need a representative from CSSS for the technical committee. We can still have a

presence at the NA meeting and members were strongly encouraged to propose sessions and volunteer.

g. Continued affiliation with AIC (Barbara Cade-Menun): We were paying \$1,000 per year and we had a link with the journal. The fees are now \$1,5000 and we aren't getting much. Barbara suggested having an online vote with the elections. Dan Pennock asked if we have affiliations with other groups. Barbara said yes: IUSS. Ron McNeil asked if the executive or someone else could write up something for membership that outlines what AIC offers and does for us. This would educate membership so that an informed decision can be made on continuing the affiliation.

Barbara took the opportunity to acknowledge Maja's 3M National Teaching Fellowship, which was profiled in McLean's magazine.

14. An overview of the Canadian Science Publishing (CSP) (1.e. who we are, how we support the CSSS, why publish with CSP, initiatives): Mike Boroczki (Business Development Director) and Mike Donaldson were also present.

CSP is pleased and excited about partnership and will review the progress to date. They will also provide an overview of CSP and outline plans for moving forward.

In October 2015 CJSS was acquired from AIC. CSP met with the Editor in Chief; there was an announcement to media, industry, and stakeholders; CJSS was integrated into NRC Research Press and Scholar One; a marketing and promotional plans was developed for the journal; the partnership was formalized and a MOU was signed; financial support provided for awards and meeting; policies and the guide for authors was updated; the first issues was published.

CSP began in 1929. In 1970 there were 9 NRC Research journals. In 1994 it became NRC Research Press. In 2009 there were 15 titles. In 2010 it transitioned in Canadian Science Publishing and in 2015 acquired CJ Plant Science, CJ Animal Science and CJSS. There are independent and not for profit. Revenues are reinvested and support societies through awards and sponsorship. They now publish 21 titles; have a staff of 54; 2300 articles published per year; are headquartered in Ottawa. They have international readership.

Looking ahead: content development program; maintain rigorous peer review process; nurture partnerships between the journal and the society; disseminate, promote and share CJSS articles with the widest audience.

Commitment: consult; support; sound financial management and new technologies; solicit best content; comprehensive marketing program; expand subscription; provide exceptional author services; broaden reach and discoverability of research.

How they support CSSS: \$30 page charge; student travel awards; meeting sponsorship; promote at events.



Strategies: reach out to next generation using social media to ensure journal remains relevant; expand international profile of journal; promote key articles; encourage CSSS members to be involved in CJSS; encourage CSSS members to suggest topics for special issues that will have high impact.

Encouraged membership to stay connected.

Member asked for webpage support. Mike said maybe but not sure how feasible that would be. Easiest avenue would be for society to have a link to journal of the website and vice versa.

Nate asked about page charges and if it could be reduced if the journal was making enough money. Mike said it may be a draw to the society because they are discounted. Mike said it may be possible to drop the page charges but 1/3 of revenue right now comes from page charges and this may mean an increase in subscription rates. Nate said page charges are really trivial. We need to be careful because subscriptions may be dropped if the price increases.

Wole asked about open access because of Tri-Council. Mike said the journal has Gold open access (paid) and also green-away where the article goes into a repository. CSP has an agreement with the University of Toronto. An accepted manuscript can go into T-space repository and it also goes into Google Scholar. With Scholar One if you check that you want the manuscript in the repository they will submit it for you.

Paul Sanborn asked about supplementary materials and where they may be deposited. Mike mentioned that data and data management will be the next big thing.

Member asked about IP and if that has changed. Mike was not sure.

15. Business from the Floor: There was no business arising from the floor.

Meeting adjourned at 20:17.

**Agenda**  
**CSSS Annual General Meeting**  
**6:00 p.m. Monday May 16, 2016**

Meeting location: **Arts and Education Building (AE) 162, Thompson Rivers University,  
Kamloops, BC**

1. Call to Order: Maja Krzic
2. Approval of agenda
3. Minutes from 2015 AGM: Amanda Diochon
4. Resolution of Appreciation
5. Business arising from 2015 minutes
6. Treasurer's Report: Kent Watson
7. President's Report: Maja Krzic
8. Report of Committees:
  - a) Awards committee: Joann Whalen
  - b) Education sub-committee: Maja Krzic
  - c) Pedology sub-committee: Dan Pennock and Angela Bedard-Haughn
  - d) Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils: Dan Pennock
9. CJSS Editor's Report: Scott Cheng for Xueming Yang
10. Student Representative's Report: Carolyn Wilson
11. Western Councillor's report (website): Wole Akinremi
12. Eastern Councillor's report (newsletter): Nathan Basiliko
13. New Business
  - a. Appointment of financial reviewers: Kent Watson
  - b. Update on CSSS sponsorship of North American Envirothon competition: Maja Krzic
  - c. Update on 2017 CSSS meeting (Trent University, June 10-14): Hida Manns for Mehdi Sharifi
  - d. Call for proposals for 2018 CSSS meeting: Maja Krzic
  - e. Request for sponsorship of 2018 North American Forest Soils Conference/International Symposium on Forest Soils: Maja Krzic for Paul Hazlett
  - f. 2019 meeting, joint North American meeting in January 2019: Barbara Cade-Menun
  - g. Continued affiliation with AIC: Barbara Cade-Menun

14. An overview of the Canadian Science Publishing (CSP) (i.e., who we are, how we support the CSSS, why publish with CSP, initiatives): Mike Boroczki (Business Development Director)

15. Business arising from the floor

16. Adjourn

## **Secretary's Report:**

a) Since the last AGM (in June 2015 in Montreal), council has met once in person (here in Kamloops on Sunday) and twice by telephone conference call. Council voted on 13 motions, by email and telephone conference.

b) Elections Report: Vacant positions for 2016 were President-Elect and Western Councilor. Joann Whalen was elected President-Elect and Wole Akinremi was elected as Western Councilor. For 2016, positions open will be President-Elect, Eastern Councilor and Graduate Student Representative. A call for nominations will be sent out in October and elections will be held in December. Please consider running for a council position, and please vote.

c) Outgoing council members (Bobbi Helgason and David Burton) are thanked for their contributions to CSSS council. Incoming council members (Joann Whalen, Wole Akinremi and Xueming Yang) are welcomed to council. The CSSS is very grateful to those who let their names stand for election to the Society executive.

As of May 1, 2016, CSSS Council is:

<b>Past-president</b>	Barbara Cade-Menun
<b>President</b>	Maja Krzic
<b>President-elect</b>	Joann Whalen
<b>Secretary</b>	Amanda Diochon
<b>Treasurer</b>	Kent Watson
<b>Student representative</b>	Carolyn Wilson
<b>Eastern councilor</b>	Nathan Basiliko
<b>Western councilor</b>	Wole Akinremi
<b>Journal editor</b>	Xueming Yang

## Canadian Society of Soil Science Treasurers' Report for 2015

Kent Watson Canadian Society of Soil Science Annual General Meeting, May 15 - 18, 2016  
Kamloops, British Columbia

### Financial Reports for 2015

The CSSS 2015 income expense statement shows the society continues to be healthy financially. The revenue for our Wood Gundy Investment Accounts was down \$9,377 over 2014 (\$16,325) but still generated \$6,592 in revenue. Conference revenues from the 2015 Montreal conference did not come in until the 2016 fiscal year and are \$24,632.96 and will be reflected in the 2016 books. A \$10,000 loan in 2014 to the Montreal organizing committee was paid back in 2016 and will appear on the 2016 books. There was an error in the amount we were paid from the Banff Conference and we had to pay back \$3,710 for the 2014 in 2015 and this is reflected in the 2015 books.

The forecast for 2015 was a loss of \$3,438.00. Our loss was \$4,151.68. However, with the \$24,632.96 for the 2015 conference and the repayment of the \$10,000 start-up loan we generated an approximate revenue of \$30,481.00 for 2015.

However, in 2016 the CSSS council agreed to a one time support of \$10,000.00 for Envirothon. An international student award has also been established and \$4000.00 will be spent in 2016. This award will increase to \$10,000.00 per year in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. This award is offset from income from AIC and CSP Journal income funds. There was a budgeted surplus for 2016 of \$540.00. This is forecast to be approximately a \$20,481.00 income for 2016.

### CSSS Operating Funds Income and Expenses

Income for 2015 is generated from three broad sources. Our Wood Gundy Investments generated \$6,592 in Income. Credit Union earnings were \$1,044. Other revenue from membership, royalties, BNY Trust and CNH Capital totaled \$28,054. Total income was \$35,692 down from \$66,273 in 2014. This decrease was for two reasons. There was no conference revenue and the conference start-up loan made in 2014 had not been paid back. The conference revenue generated in 2015 and the loan were paid in 2016 and will be reflected in the 2016 books as noted above.

Operating expenses in 2015 were \$27,966. They were \$38,045 in 2014. The Conference organizing committee did not take a \$10,000 start-up loan in 2015. Student awards totaled \$11,877 in 2015 and \$10,956 in 2014. In 2015 there was a \$921 increase in the Undergraduate Book Award. Total Expenses were \$39,844. Revenue – Expenses resulted in a \$4,151 loss for 2015. The budgeted loss was estimated to be \$3,438.

### CSSS Balance Sheet for Trust and Operating Accounts

Equity in the CSSS Trust Fund increased again in 2015. The trust fund increased in value from \$369,881 from December 31, 2014 to \$376,474 by December 31 2015, an increase of \$6,592. A number of accounts became due during 2015 and the proceeds were placed into Mutual Funds. As of December 2015, the Trust fund held approximately 29% (drop of 5%) income investments, approximately 17% (decrease of 1%) of its assets in equity funds and approximately 53% (increase of 5%) in mutual funds. The majority of the Trust Fund is held as a series of different types of bonds with interest rates ranging between 4.16% and 5.53% and staggered maturity dates from September 2011 through December 2020.

The Credit Union Term TLT1 #2 36-month term deposit came due in 2014 and the monies were placed into the Credit Union Savings account. On January 1, 2015 we had \$60,500.00 in savings generating 1% interest. On January 6, 2015 \$40,000.00 of this was placed in a term account at 2.5% interest. This will generate \$1,050 over 21 months. We have \$62,952 in term deposits. The funds in the CSSS term deposits provide a buffer in case of large and unanticipated CSSS expenses. The CSSS remains financially healthy.

(Note that the Wood Gundy Fund is a trust fund and is to be held as such into the future. This fund generates revenue that is used, when need be, to offset the student awards when needed. The principals are not to be cashed in. In other words, the \$6,592 increase this could be used to offset student awards if required. This would be paid back into the trust fund when funds became available in the future).

### **Budget Proposed for 2017**

There are no major changes anticipated for the 2017 financial year (Table 1). The term deposits in the operating accounts will increase interest earnings. Membership revenue is expected to remain at levels similar to 2015. Potential conference revenues from the 2017 meeting are difficult to forecast and has been estimated at \$4000. An advance to whoever is organizing the 2017 conference has been included in the budget as an income and as an expense. If an advance is requested, it would show as an expense and an income and the **proposed budget deficit of \$910.00** would not change.

Membership income was budgeted at \$24,000 in 2014 and 2015. However, over 2013, 2014 and 2015 they have been under that and the budgeted income for 2017 has been set at \$21,000 which is just under the 2015 actual which was \$21,049.

Table 1 also presents the historical actual, approved and proposed budget. Actuals for 2013, 2014 and 2015 are presented along with the approved 2014, 2015, and 2016 budgets.

Table 2 is the Balance sheet from Jan 1, 2014 to Dec 31, 2014. Table 3 is the Income statement from Jan 1, 2014 to Dec 31, 2014.

The Books were sent to our auditors Xiyang Hao and Edith Olson. Both auditors found the books to be in order.

An email request has been sent to see if they would be willing to audit the books in 2017 for 2017.

I would move that the society give Xiyang Hao and Edith Olson a vote of thanks for their work in auditing this year's books.

**Table 1. CSSS Proposed and Historic Budgets plus Historical Income and Expenditures**

	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	Approved 2014 Budget	Approved 2015 Budget	Approved 2016 Budget	Proposed 2017 Budget
<b>Income</b>							
Membership and Publication Fees	\$23,771	\$18,325	\$21,049	24,000.00	24,000.00	20,000.00	21,000.00
Conference Income	\$0	\$22,512	\$0	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	4,000.00
Income from Trust Received	\$18,678	\$16,325	\$6,593	7,000.00	7,000.00	13,000.00	6,500.00
Other Income	\$81,071	\$0	\$349	300.00	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
Charitable Donations	\$711	\$773	\$0	50.00	50.00	500.00	50.00
Interest Earnings on Chequing and Savings Accounts	\$1,872	\$1,916	\$1,045	1,500.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,100.00
Royalties	\$1,416	\$1,456	\$2,406	600.00	600.00	800.00	1,500.00
BNY Traust & CNH Wire in Capital C	\$3,319	\$4,963	\$4,251	2,472.00	2,472.00	2,500.00	4,000.00
AIC and CSP Journal							10,000.00
Transfers from Trust and Retained Publications Earnings	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$130,837</b>	<b>\$66,270</b>	<b>\$35,693</b>	<b>\$37,922</b>	<b>\$47,922</b>	<b>40,600.00</b>	<b>58,150.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>							
Operating Expenses							
Office Contract/Expenses	\$8,949	\$7,862	\$8,097	7,500.00	7,500.00	8,000.00	8,100.00
Newsletter/Proceedings	\$1,630	\$477	\$4,199	2,500.00	2,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
AGM / Student Reception	\$0	\$350	\$874	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Council Travel	\$1,979	\$8,466	\$4,391	1,000.00	2,500.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Conference Startup Loan	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0		10,000.00		10,000.00
AIC Dues	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,500	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,500.00
IUSS dues	\$1,886	\$1,371	\$1,391	1,600.00	1,800.00	1,600.00	1,500.00
Other Operating Expenses	\$71,131	\$173	\$2,347	500.00	500.00	500.00	2,000.00
CSSS and Soils of Canada websites	\$4,692	\$676	\$647	3,000.00	3,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Digital Financial Records	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Postage	\$1,673	\$0	\$1,270	2,000.00	1,800.00	1,000.00	1,500.00
Bank Service Charges	\$5	\$12	\$7	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
Receiver General	\$30	\$20	\$0	0.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$102,975</b>	<b>\$30,407</b>	<b>\$24,723</b>	<b>\$20,130</b>	<b>31,160.00</b>	<b>20,160.00</b>	<b>33,660.00</b>
Publications Fees Paid (CJSS, CJPS, CJAS, Agri-week)	\$3,334	\$4,442	\$3,245	5,500.00	5,000.00	4,500.00	5,000.00
Expenses Payable by Bentley and Publications Trust							
- Bentley Speaking Award	\$1,000	\$1,200	\$1,000	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,200.00	1,000.00
- President's Poster Award	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,200	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,200.00
- Student Travel Award	\$7,200	\$7,200	\$7,200	7,200.00	7,200.00	7,200.00	7,200.00
- CSSS Conference Travel Award		\$0					
- Undergraduate Book Award	\$633	\$556	\$1,478	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
- NSERC Women in Soil Science (5000 for 5 Yrs)	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
- N. American Forest Conference (1000 every 5Yrs)				1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
- Special Trust Fund Projects (CSSS Journal?)	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00		0.00	
- Member travel to International Conference		\$3,695			4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00
- International Student Travel Award							10,000.00
- Envirothon							
<b>Total Expenses Payable by Trust</b>	<b>10,833.31</b>	<b>14,651.00</b>	<b>11,878.00</b>	<b>12,200.00</b>	<b>15,200.00</b>	<b>15,400.00</b>	<b>20,400.00</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$117,142</b>	<b>\$49,500</b>	<b>\$39,846</b>	<b>\$37,830</b>	<b>\$51,360</b>	<b>40,060.00</b>	<b>59,060.00</b>
<b>Net Income Over Expenses/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$13,695</b>	<b>\$16,770</b>	<b>-\$4,153</b>	<b>\$92</b>	<b>-\$3,438</b>	<b>540.00</b>	<b>-910.00</b>

Table 2 Balance Sheet Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2015

**CSSS****Balance Sheet As at 31/12/2015****ASSET****Current Assets**

CIBC Wood Gundy (Cash)	0.00	
CIBC Wood Gundy Income Inve...	110,589.02	
CIBC Wood Gundy Equities	65,821.70	
CIBC Wood Gundy Mutual Funds	200,063.41	
CIBC Wood Gundy Total Assest		376,474.13
Sunova Credit Union Chequing	5,039.42	
Sunova Credit Union Savings	4,790.52	
Sunova Credit Union Petty Cash	134.03	
Sunova Credit Union Surplus S...	386.11	
Sunova Credit Union Common ...	925.00	
Sunova Credit Union Accounts T...		11,275.08
Credit Union Term TLT1 #2 36 ...	0.00	
Credit Union Term TLT2 #1 84 ...	22,952.59	
Credit Union Term TF21 #3 21 ...	40,000.00	
Sunova Credit Union Term Total		62,952.59
Funds Payable to Operating		0.00
Accounts Receivable	0.00	
Total Receivable		0.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>450,701.80</b>

**TOTAL ASSET** 450,701.80

**LIABILITY****Current Liabilities**

Accounts Payable	0.00
Suvona CU Uncashed Cheques	0.00
Funds Payable to Operating	0.00
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**TOTAL LIABILITY** 0.00

**EQUITY****Owners Equity**

Retained Earnings - Previous Year	454,853.48
Current Earnings	-4,151.68
<b>Total Owners Equity</b>	<b>450,701.80</b>

**TOTAL EQUITY** 450,701.80

**LIABILITIES AND EQUITY** 450,701.80



Table 3 Income Statement Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2015

**CSSS**  
**Income Statement 01/01/2015 to 31/12/2015**

**REVENUE**

<b>Change in Assets CIBC Wood Gundy</b>	
CIBC Wood Gundy (Cash)	6,991.55
CIBC Wood Gundy Income Investments	-1,651.65
CIBC Wood Gundy Equities	-928.00
CIBC Wood Gundy Mutual Funds	2,180.95
<b>Total Change Assets CIBC Wood Gundy</b>	<b>6,592.85</b>

<b>Revenue Sunova Credit Union</b>	
Sunova Credit Union Chequing	0.00
Sunova Credit Union Savings	214.93
Sunova Credit Union Surplus Shares	53.89
Sunova Credit Union Commin Shares	0.00
Sunova Credit Union Accounts Total	268.82
Credit Union Term TLT1 #2 36 mo	0.00
Credit Union Term TLT2 #1 84 mo	776.17
Sunova Credit Union Term Deposits	776.17
<b>Total Revenue Sunova Credit Union</b>	<b>1,044.99</b>

<b>Other Revenue</b>	
Membership & Journal - Cheque	120.00
Membership & Journal - Online	20,928.71
Active Network Fees	0.00
Total Membership Revenue	21,048.71
Conference Revenue	0.00
Royalties	2,405.67
Charitable Donations	0.00
Other Income	0.00
CNH Wire In Capital C	501.36
BNY Trust	3,750.00
Lanyon Solution	148.97
Calendar Sales	200.00
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>28,054.71</b>

**TOTAL REVENUE** 35,692.55

**EXPENSE**

<b>Expenses</b>	
General Travel Expenses	0.00
Office Contract/Expenses	8,097.60
T-D Visa A&A	0.00
Newsletter/Proceedings	4,198.74
Currency Exchange	6.50
AGM/Student Reception	873.93
Conference Fees to Host Orgaination	3,710.00
Council Travel	680.51
AIC Dues	1,500.00
AIC Subscription	3,245.03
IUSS Dues	1,390.79
Other Operating Exxpenses	2,346.78
CSSS and Soils of Canada Websites	646.72
Digital Financial Records	0.00
Postage	1,270.11
Bank Service Charges	0.00
Receiver General	0.00
Expenses Total	27,966.71
Publication Fees (CJSS, Agri-week)	0.00
<b>Operating Expenses Total</b>	<b>27,966.71</b>

Printed On: 17/03/2016

Table 3 Income Statement Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2015 con't

**CSSS**  
**Income Statement 01/01/2015 to 31/12/2015**

<b>Payed by Bently &amp; Publication Trust</b>		
Bently Speaking Award	1,000.00	
President's Poster Award	1,200.00	
Student's Travel Award	7,200.00	
CSSS Conference Travel Award	0.00	
Undergraduate Book Award	1,477.52	
Awards Total		10,877.52
NSERC Women in Soils (5000 for 5ry)	1,000.00	
N Am. For Conf. (1000 every 5yrs)	0.00	
Special Trust Fund Projects	0.00	
Total Projects Paid by Trust		1,000.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>11,877.52</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>		<b>39,844.23</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>		<b>-4,151.68</b>

## **CSSS President's Report**

July 2015 – April 2016

### Barbara Cade-Menun

July: Chaired a luncheon celebrating the Year of the Soil at the International Stewardship Symposium in Calgary.

October: Gave a presentation on soil at the Café Scientifique in Saskatoon.

November: I met with SSSA president at the SSSA meeting in Minneapolis to plan for the joint North American Soil Science meeting to be held in San Diego January 6-9, 2019. SSSA will not meet with ASA and CSSA in autumn 2018, but will meet jointly with other soil science societies in January 2019 instead. I will serve as the CSSS representative for the planning committee for this meeting. I also attended Agronomic Science Foundation reception and President's Dinner at the invitation of the SSSA President.

December: Attended the Celebration of the 2015 International Year of Soils in Vienna, Austria that was jointly organized by the International Union of Soil Sciences, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the International Atomic Energy Agency, and participated in discussions on future challenges in Soil Science.

### Maja Krzic

2015-2016: Chaired the organizing committee for the joint 2016 CSSS-PRSSS annual meeting in Kamloops, BC and also served as CSSS representative on that committee

March 2016: Scott Smith and I recruited representatives for the UN-FAO Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS), namely for the following three Global Soil Partnership (GSP) working groups:

- (1) Open-Ended Working Group for the development of Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management (Kirsten Hannam, Canadian rep),
- (2) GSP Pillar 1 on Sustainable Soil Management (David Lobb, North American rep),
- (3) GSP Pillar 2 on Awareness and Extension in Soil (Maja Krzic, North American rep), and
- (4) GSP Pillar 4 on Enhancement of the quantity and quality of soil data and information: data collection (generation), analysis, validation, reporting, monitoring and integration with other disciplines (Bert VandenBygaart, Canadian rep to replace Scott Smith).

## Awards Committee Report 2016

Chair: Joann Whalen; Members: David Lobb, David Burton and Frank Larney

CSSS Fellow Awards: There was one nominations this year, and it was approved by CSSS Executive. The Fellow Award will be presented at the Banquet.

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

CSSS Honorary Membership: There were no nominations this year.

CSSS Pedology Award: There was one application this year, and it was approved by CSSS Council. The CSSS Pedology Award will be given to Dr. Angela Bedard-Haughn to attend the course "Hands-on Global Soil Information Facilities" at the International Soil Reference and Information Centre (ISRIC) Spring School in the Netherlands from May 6-13, 2016.

Student Travel Awards: We had 17 applicants (two withdrew). We had funds for 12 awards of \$600 each from the CSSS Student Travel Award fund. Monies from the Agricultural Institute of Canada (AIC) permitted 3 awards of \$600 each, with 2 additional awards of \$600 each co-sponsored by CSSS and the Canadian Journal of Soil Science (CJSS). The award recipients were:

Student	University	Degree	Presentation Type	Award source
Zhor Abail	McGill	PhD	Oral	CSSS Student Travel Award
Mayowa Adelekun	U Manitoba	PhD	Oral	CSSS Student Travel Award
Amanda DeBruyn	U Guelph	MSc	Oral & Poster	CSSS Student Travel Award
Ahmed Lasisi	U Manitoba	MSc	Oral	CSSS Student Travel Award
Haixiao Li	U Laval	PhD	Oral	CSSS Student Travel Award
Mi Lin	McGill	PhD	Oral	CSSS Student Travel Award
Sirajum Munira	U Manitoba	PhD	Oral	CSSS Student Travel Award
Shayeb Shahariar	U Sask	PhD	Poster	CSSS Student Travel Award
Khalil Walji	UBC	MSc	Oral	CSSS Student Travel Award
Xiaoyue Wang	U Sask	PhD	Oral	CSSS Student Travel Award
Carolyn Wilson	Dalhousie	MSc	Oral & Poster	CSSS Student Travel Award
Yakun Zhang	McGill	MSc	Oral & Poster	CSSS Student Travel Award
Leonardo Leon Castro	McGill	PhD	Poster	AIC Student Travel Award
Jason Lussier	UBC	MSc	Oral	AIC Student Travel Award
Siddhartho Paul	UBC	PhD	Oral	AIC Student Travel Award
Prem Pokharel	U Alberta	MSc	Oral	CSSS-CJSS Student Travel Award
Anya Reid	UBC	PhD	Oral	CSSS-CJSS Student Travel Award

Student Presentation Awards: We have 33 students competing for the Bentley Award for best oral presentation, and 16 students competing for the President's Award for best poster. In total, we are judging presentations from 49 student members. Several CSSS student members are electing to give additional presentations, but only one oral or one poster presentation are eligible for judging in the student presentation competition.

Point to note: In the student competitions, 13 are from BC, 5 from AB, 8 from SK, 7 from MB, 9 from ON and 6 from Quebec and 1 from Nova Scotia.

Student Book Awards: Different universities have established different criteria for this award. At some schools, this prize is awarded to the top student in Introductory Soil Science, while at other schools it is awarded to a top undergraduate student majoring in Soil Science or showing a strong aptitude for Soil Science. As of May 15, I have received names from University of Manitoba, UNBC, Laurentian University, Université de Quebec à Chicoutimi, Université Laval, McGill University and University of Toronto, Dalhousie University, the University of Alberta, University of Saskatchewan, University of Guelph and UBC. The names of Student Book Award Winners will be announced at the Banquet.

**New award: 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) are pleased to jointly sponsor two annual awards (maximum value = \$6800 for both awards per year from 2017-2020) 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. This is expected to build capacity and increase the engagement of students studying soil science at Canadian universities in the international soil science milieu. The terms of reference for this award will be posted on the CSSS website.

Note: There will be a competition for two CSSS-CJSS Student Travel Awards for International Soil Science Meetings with a maximum value of \$4000 (for both awards) in 2016. Please check the CSSS website for more details on the application procedures and deadlines.

Submitted by

Joann Whalen  
President-Elect, CSSS

## **CSSS Soil Education Committee**

### **2016 Report**

The Soil Education Ad Hoc Committee of the Canadian Society of Soil Science (CSSS) was established in May 2014 at annual conference in Banff, AB. The mandate of this committee is to enhance soil science education in Canada at K-12, undergraduate, and graduate levels.

#### **1) Soil science education at the K-12 level**

##### **•Envirothon**

Collaboration with Envirothon (annual academic competition for high school students organized by the NCF-Envirothon, which is a program of the National Conservation Foundation) continued. During fall 2015, a group of 15 CSSS members developed the following four soil science educational resources: (1) ***Soils, Land-Use and Invasive Species lesson plan***, (2) ***Soils, Land-Use and Climate Change lesson plan***, (3) ***Pedology activity sheet***, and (4) ***Soil fact sheet***. This material will help students prepare for Envirothon competitions. The final version of the material was produced in April 2016 and will be posted at CSSS and Soil 4 Youth websites. The CSSS members who developed those educational resources included: Carolyn Wilson, Jessica Arteaga, David Kroetsch, Paul Hazlett, Daryl Dagesse, Richard Heck, Lindsey Andronak, Alison Murata, Mathew Swallow, Edith Olson, Eryne Croquet, Emma Holmes, Maja Krzic, Katie Neufeld, and Lesley Dampier.

CSSS members also have an opportunity to help out at the 2016 Envirothon Competition in Peterborough (July 24-29, 2016) as volunteers as testing buddies, trail escorts, presentation supervisors, judges, workshop leaders and chaperones.

#### **2) Soil science education at the undergraduate level**

##### **•Inventory of undergraduate soil science courses and academic programs in Canada**

To identify which Canadian schools offer undergraduate soils courses, a working group of 9 scientists (under Amanda Diochon's leadership) developed an inventory of all the faculties and/or departments in Canada that offer soil science courses at the undergraduate level. This was accomplished by searching the on-line academic calendars of all post-secondary

institutions in Canada. In addition, academic units offering soils courses were asked by email to participate in a web-based survey to gain a better understanding of their offerings, changes in enrollments, programs and curricula, and number of faculty members teaching soil's courses. The working group is currently finalizing a paper on the findings of this survey and Amanda gave an invited presentation at the 2015 SSSA conference in Minneapolis, MN.

### **3) Conference session on “Experiential Learning in Soil and Environmental Sciences”**

At the 2016 CSSS annual meeting in Kamloops, BC the committee (namely Tom Yates and Amanda Diochon) is organizing a session on “Experiential Learning in Soil and Environmental Sciences” with keynote speaker – Dr. Sean Maw (University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon) and 8 presentations. Title of the keynote talk is “Experiential learning: Why it works, and how to make it work well”.

## **Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils Report on Activities 2015-16**

Prepared by Dr. Dan Pennock  
Canadian Representative, ITPS  
May 5, 2016

The Canadian Society of Soil Science is allowed by the Government of Canada to nominate the Canadian representative on the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils. I was re-appointed to a second two-year term in June 2015. Only ten of the twenty-seven members of the panel were re-nominated for a second term.

The ITPS has met twice since my re-appointment – in September 2015 and March 2016. Both meetings were at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome.

The work of the ITPS can be simply summarized as furthering global adoption of sustainable soil management. Most of its initiatives are through its parent organization, the Global Soil Partnership, but some activities are at the request of other FAO or UN groups.

The major initiatives undertaken this past year include:

### Publication of the first Status of the World's Soil Resources Report in December 2015.

The report was released on World Soil Day 2015 at ceremonies in Rome, Vienna, and the UN Headquarters in New York. I was very pleased to be the presenter of the report at UN Headquarters in New York. The on-line format of the report has been greatly improved since its release, and it can be accessed at <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/c6814873-efc3-41db-b7d3-2081a10ede50/>. The chapter on regional trends in North America has ample coverage of Canadian issues.

### Preparation of First-Draft of Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management

In its 2013-15 term, the ITPS developed a revised World Soil Charter, which was later adopted by the FAO Council (the Charter is available at: [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/GSP/docs/ITPS\\_Pillars/annexVII\\_WSC.pdf/](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/GSP/docs/ITPS_Pillars/annexVII_WSC.pdf/)). The Charter is a very brief, high-level document to guide actions by various players. The ITPS was next asked to draft Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management (VGSSM) for review and adoption by FAO member states. These were considered, revised, and finally adopted at the March 2016 meeting, and have since undergone further review by an Open-Ended Working Group. They will be considered at the GSP Plenary in June 2016.

### Inclusion of Soil Issues in the UN Sustainable Development Goals



The work of the UN and its agencies is guided by the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (more information is available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>). Soil was included in several of the SDGs, and soil organic carbon change was included as one of the many indicators to be used in SDG monitoring. The inclusion of SOC as an indicator led to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issuing an invitation to the ITPS to jointly host a Global Soil Organic Carbon Conference during the first quarter of 2017. The IPCC had previously been somewhat uninterested in the work of the ITPS, and the proposed joint conference is viewed as a major step forward.

### Appointment of Canadian Representatives to Global Soil Partnership Implementation Committees

The majority of the work of the GSP is meant to be done through the seven Regional Soil Partnerships (RSP). In the GSP there are five Pillars of Action – promotion of sustainable soil management, extension and education, research, soil information, and harmonization – and implementation plans need to be developed for each pillar. Three Canadian representatives were appointed to represent the North American RSP on the implementation committees – David Lobb (promotion of SSM), Maja Krzic (extension and education), and Bert VandenBygaart (soil information). I am also the ITPS representative on the promotion of SSM pillar, so Canada is well-represented in this work. Information on the Five Pillars, and the work of the GSP more generally, can be found at: <http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/en/>. Full reports on the ITPS meetings are also available at this site.

**CJSS Editors Report**  
**Xueming Yang, Newton Lupwayi, and Anne Naeth**  
**April 20, 2016**

We express our sincere appreciation to the retiring members of the Canadian Journal of Soil Science (CJSS) Editorial Board for their dedicated service to the journal: Dr. Francis Zvomuya (Editor-in-Chief), Dr. Richard Angel (Associate Editor, AE), Dr. Nicolas Belanger (AE), Dr. Jean Caron (AE), and Dr. Mario Tenuta (AE). We extend a warm welcome to new members of the Editorial Board: Dr. M. Anne Naeth (Editor), Dr. Woo-Jung Choi (AE), Dr. Lori Phillips (AE), Dr. Ren Tusheng (AE), Dr. Judith Nyiraneza (AE), Dr. Wei Zhang (AE) and Dr. Xudong Zhang (AE). The full current Editorial Board is presented below. We also want to acknowledge the hard work by Dr. Scott Chang, our Special Issues Editor, and his Guest AE team who are responsible for the special sections and special issues that highlight emerging and hot topics of interest to our readers. The support, professionalism, and expertise provided by Tim Fenton (retired in Dec 2015) and Laurie Scott in the journals office is very much appreciated and has contributed to the success of our journal. We as well gratefully acknowledge the peer reviewers and thank them for their valuable contribution to the publications of CJSS, among them Drs. Bernie Zebarth, Anushka Umali Rajapaksha, Katelyn Congreves, Judith Nyiraneza, and David Burton have been selected as our Outstanding Reviewers for 2015.

The CJSS was acquired by Canadian Science Publishing (CSP) effective October 1, 2015. Since then some changes have been implemented and most of these changes were described in the CSSS Newsletter (Jan 2016, [http://csss.ca/wp-content/uploads/Jan\\_2016\\_CSSS\\_Newsletter.pdf](http://csss.ca/wp-content/uploads/Jan_2016_CSSS_Newsletter.pdf)). The following are noteworthy to our CSSS members:

1. The new CJSS website was finally ready with full functions as of March, 2016. The CJSS website is very friendly and easy for authors/readers to use. It contains “Just-In”, “e-First” features and “Most Read” and “most Cited” CSSS papers.
2. For papers that are of interest to the general public, CSP may prepare either a press release or blog post for The CSP Blog press release. These papers are accessible for free on the Web so that those without subscriptions are able to read the full-text version. A committee at CSP evaluates submitted ideas and determines whether a press release will be issued.
3. CJSS has been awarded an annual quota of papers that can be published and accessed free of charge to the author (one per issue). These can be spread out among many issues or grouped in one issue. If a paper has a press release issued for it at the request of the Editor, the paper is by default set as Free and comes out of the annual quota.
4. CJSS has been awarded a quota of illustrations that it can print in color at no charge to the author (5 per year). There is no charge to publish illustrations in color on the Web.
5. Social Media: A Facebook page for CJSS has been created: [www.facebook.com/Canadian-Journal-of-Soil-Science-1208571252490857](http://www.facebook.com/Canadian-Journal-of-Soil-Science-1208571252490857). Newly published articles and issues, and news and information relevant to the CJSS community will be posted to the journal Facebook page and the main CSP Twitter account (@cdnsiencepub). The Editorial Board is encouraged to “like” and “follow” CJSS and CSP on social media.

6. Since CSP acquired this journal from AIC, they have been targeting CSP customers who do not yet subscribe to CJSS and promoting CJSS to those institutions. CSP has been communicating with existing CJSS subscribers to ensure they understand the relationship between the journal and CSP, and working with them, so that as few subscriptions as possible lapse in 2016. This is done via CSP's network of international sales agents through 7 agent companies with over 30 representatives outside North America. CSP has staff dedicated to selling in Canada and the USA.
7. CSP has a number of international subscription agreements with individual libraries and library consortia, and offers free access to over 100 developing countries around the world. All major library consortia have renewed for 2015 (most are committed through 2016). These consortia represent close to 1000 institutions from countries that include Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, India, Korea, and the U.S. CSP is working to integrate CJSS into all of these agreements which eventually will bring CJSS to more than 150 countries.
8. Open access: CSP has agreed to honor the CJSS of a one-year embargo for 2015 content and committed to making all content published in 2015 or earlier free one year after publication and to maintaining the open access of this content in perpetuity. No decision has been as to whether or not 2016 and future content will be made freely available after one year. Free access to CJSS content is provided to developing countries through Research4Life, PERii, and TEEAL, ensuring that developing countries get barrier-free access to CJSS. CJSS has been given a free open access quota of 4 articles per year to allow for important articles to be made freely available to the world. These important papers are chosen by the journal Editor(s). Editors will use this quota from 2016.

In summary, since Dr. Drury initiated a major restructuring of the CJSS Editorial Board from one Editor to three Editors for our journal and the journal moved from Osprey to ScholarOne as the manuscript management system, the turn-around time for manuscript evaluation and reply to the authors has been decreasing. In early-transition period of the CJSS from AIC to CSP, the manuscript review process is running as usual with more assistant tools available to the journal editorial teams and more communicating channels to get our published papers to be available to readers/end users world widely.

### **Journal Status for 2015**

There were 137 papers submitted to CJSS in 2015 (Jan 1 2015 – Dec 31 2015), including 112 regular articles, 2 reviews, 5 short-communications, 1 letter to the editor, and 17 special issue paper (Table 1). In 2015 a total of 104 editorial decisions have been delivered with 33 acceptance (32%) and 71 reject (68%). Among these 104 papers, there were 39 papers submitted from within Canada, 17 papers from China and other 48 papers were submitted from 19 other countries (Algeria, Brazil, Czech Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Greece, India, Iran, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Turkey, the United States and Viet Nam) (Table 2). This is slightly higher than 18 countries (total including Canada and China) in 2014. The proportion of manuscripts submitted from abroad has been steadily increasing, with China as the major contributor. However, most of these manuscripts have been rejected, with just 5.8% of submissions from China and 4% from the other 18 countries accepted in 2015. By comparison, only 23% of papers originating from Canada in 2015 have been rejected.

Of the 39 manuscripts submitted by Canadian authors in 2015 with a decision dates between Jan 2015 and Dec 13, 2015, 77% were accepted for publication. By contrast, only 5% of the 65 papers from outside Canada were accepted. A large number of papers submitted by foreign authors were rejected by Editors without review, mainly because there were obvious flaws in the experimental set up, or the presented data were insufficient to support conclusions. Of the papers sent to the review process, the main reasons for rejection by Associate Editors were the lack of novelty, or insufficient improvement of manuscript based on peer-review comments.

In 2015, there were 28 papers published in CJSS regular issues, including 2 short communications and 26 regular papers (Table 3). An acknowledgement of reviewers was also published.

The number of days from submission to decision for the papers handled in 2015 varied, with less than 60 days for 50%, 60-120 days for 44%, and 121-211 days for the remainder (6%), respectively (Fig. 1).

Associate Editors were responsible for handling from 1 to 9 papers per year, on average 4.3 papers per year (Table 4). This number was the average for regular AEs and guest AEs for the Special Issues.

### **Challenges facing the editorial board today**

There are two direct challenges facing the CJSS. First is to recruit high quality papers from both inside Canada and from abroad. Total submission from overseas is steadily increasing in recent years; however, the quality of papers is poor (in general). The number of papers submitted from inside Canada remains relatively steady. These have resulted in steady impact factors for the CJSS over the years. Finding relevant and expert reviewers who could turn around their reviews in a timely fashion is another big challenge for CJSS today and it is the major single factor affecting the turnaround times of papers from submission to final decisions. Sometime a reviewer was found after 6-7 failures. To ease these challenges, we encourage each of our fellow members to submit one (or more) of your high quality paper(s) to CJSS and to find some time to serve as reviewer for 1 or 2 papers from CJSS each year,

### **Journal Impact Factor – CJSS**

The 5-yr impact factors have remained fairly steady in the past years, being above 1.2 in 2013 and 2011. The yearly impact factor varies from one year to the next as it is only based on citations received in one year for papers published in the previous 2 years. We did have a very high immediacy index in 2013 (0.400) and 2011 (0.481) as a result of having a high number of citations for papers that were published in the same year. The half-life of the journal has consistently remained high (greater than 10 years). Our rank among peer-reviewed journals in soil science has been increasing slightly.

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Total citations	2543	2326	2158
Journal Impact Factor	1.382	1.00	0.912
Five-year Impact Factor	1.337	1.269	1.059
Immediacy Index	0.300	0.400	0.136
Rank in category (by	20 <sup>rd</sup> of 34 journals	23 <sup>rd</sup> of 33 journals	23 <sup>rd</sup> of 33 journals

### Special Issues/Sections

The following Special Issues are currently in progress. Special issues remain an important component of our journal as they contribute significantly to improvements in journal impact factor.

1. Sustainable management of cow pastures: case studies in the Maritimes and New England  
Guest Editors: Drs. S. Adl, D. Neher, R. Martin
2. Soil interfaces for sustainable development  
Guest Editors: Drs. J.-P. Bellenger, Dr. J. Whalen
3. Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Sources and Sinks in Canadian Agro-Ecosystems  
Guest Editors: Drs. S.X. Chang, J. Whalen
4. Precision Agriculture and Soil-Water Management in Cranberry Production  
Guest Editors: Drs. S.J. Gumiere J. Caron, S. Pépin, W. Bland, C. Kennedy

### Updated CJSS Editorial Board for 2016

Editor-in-Chief: Xueming Yang (final year of 3-year term)  
 Editor: Newton Lupwayi (2<sup>nd</sup> year)  
 Editor: M. Anne Naeth (1<sup>st</sup> year)  
 Special Issues Editor: Scott Chang  
 Assistant Editor: Roger Cue

Associate Editors (3 year term):

Nathan Basiliko	Angela Bedard-Haughn	Jean-Philippe Bellenger
Asim Biswas	David Burton	Woo-Jung Choi
Miles Dyck	Claudia Goyer	Richard Heck
Bobbi Helgason	Aimé Jean Messiga	Judith Nyiraneza
Yong Sik Ok	David Pelster	Lori Phillips
Tusheng Ren	Paul Sanborn	Mehdi Sharifi
Andrew VanderZaag	Valérie Viaud	Bernie Zebarth
Wei Zhang	Xudong Zhang	Noura Ziadi

### Journal statistics in 2015

**Table 1. 2015 Submissions by Type and Outcome**

TYPE	No.	%	ACCEPTED	REJECTED	WITHDRAWN	PENDING
Paper	112	81.8	-	-	2	-
Short Communication	5	3.6	-	-	-	-

Special Section/Issue	17	12.4	-	-	-	-
Review	2	1.5	-	-	-	-
Letter to Editor	1	0.7				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>31</b>

Information based on original manuscripts with an assigned date of between Jan 1st 2015 and Dec 31st 2015.

**Table 2. 2015 processed manuscripts by Country and Outcome. Information based on original manuscripts with an assigned date of between Jan 1st 2015 and Dec 31st 2015.**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Accept</b>	<b>Reject</b>	<b>Accept ratio</b>
Algeria	2	0	2	0.0%
Brazil	1	1	2	50.0%
Canada	39	30	9	76.9%
China	17	1	16	5.8%
Czech Republic	1	0	1	0.0%
Egypt	4	0	4	0.0%
Ethiopia	1	0	1	0.0%
France	1	0	1	0.0%
Greece	1	0	1	0.0%
India	6	0	6	0.0%
Iran	3	0	3	0.0%
Malaysia	2	0	2	0.0%
Mexico	1	0	1	0.0%
Morocco	1	0	1	0.0%
Nigeria	1	0	1	0.0%
Pakistan	9	0	9	0.0%
Saudi Arabia	2	0	2	0.0%
Sudan	1	0	1	0.0%
Turkey	1	0	1	0.0%
USA	8	1	7	12.5%
Viet Nam	1	0	1	0.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>31.7%</b>

**Table 3. 2015 Manuscripts published by section**

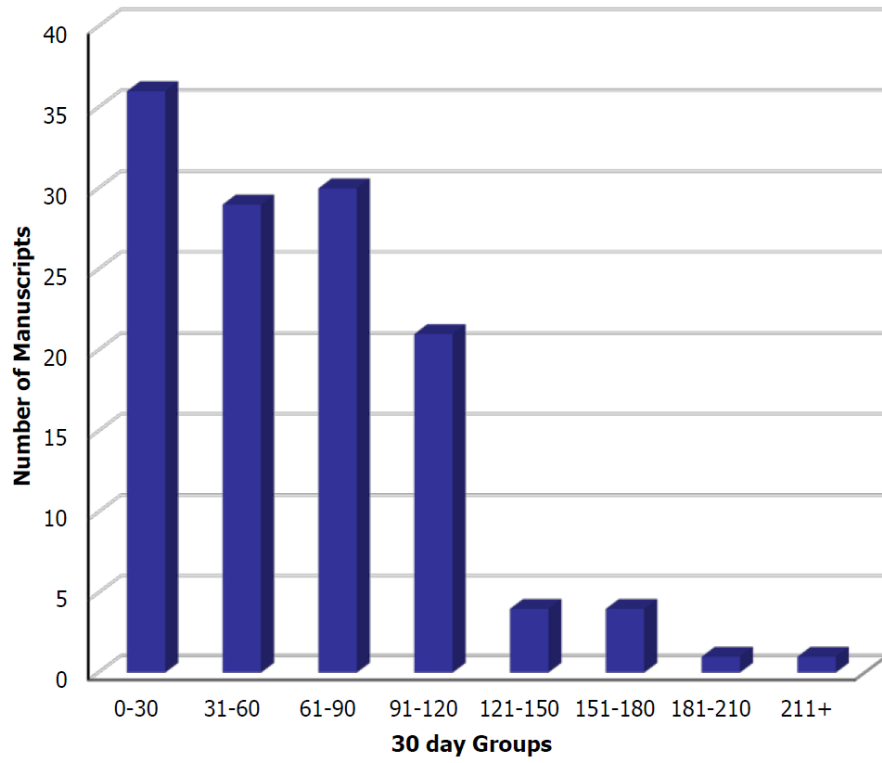
<b>Section</b>	<b>Total</b>
Book Review	0
Ecology, biological processes and plant interactions	7
Composition and chemical processes	3
Physical processes and interfaces	5
Genesis, landscape processes and relationships	2
Contamination and environmental stewardship	3
Management for agricultural, forestry and urban uses	8
Agrometeorology	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>



**Table 4. 2015 Number of Manuscripts Assigned**

<b>Associate Editor</b>	<b>Number of manuscripts</b>	<b>Percentage of Total</b>
AE1	7	5.6
AE2	8	6.3
AE3	9	7.1
AE4	7	5.6
AE5	2	1.6
AE6	2	1.6
AE7	3	2.4
AE8	3	2.4
AE9	1	0.8
AE10	4	3.2
AE11	1	0.8
AE12	1	0.8
AE13	4	3.2
AE14	6	4.8
AE15	1	0.8
AE16	6	4.8
AE17	4	3.2
AE18	1	0.8
AE19	1	0.8
AE20	1	0.8
AE21	6	4.8
AE22	2	1.6
AE23	5	4.0
AE24	2	1.6
AE25	7	5.6
AE26	1	0.8
AE27	5	4.0
AE28	6	4.8
AE29	1	0.8
Guest AEs	19	15.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>100</b>

Information based on original manuscripts with an assigned date of between Jan 1st 2015 and Dec 31st 2015.



**Figure 1. Number of days from submission to decision**

# CSSS Annual General Meeting May 16, 2016

## Graduate Student Report

- Currently, 102 student members (May 9, 2016)
- Communication primarily via e-mail

### 1. Graduate Student Survey

- Responses collected until August 2015
- 28 respondents (30%)
- Majority of students (82%) felt they benefited through membership with CSSS and were satisfied with current communication via e-mail or website
- Students suggested that CSSS enable more soil-related community outreach opportunities, sell merchandise, and provide more opportunities for communication between members (e.g., via online forums, a Facebook page, workshops)

### 2. Student Events: Trivia

- 2015: Montreal on July 7<sup>th</sup> with 48 students in attendance. Total cost for food, trivia host, and prizes was \$542.60
- 2016: Kamloops on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 8pm, located at Duffy's Pub, 1797 Pacific Way. Budget \$500

### 3. Merchandise

- CSSS promotional merchandise will be sold in Kamloops during lunch and coffee breaks

Item	Total Cost \$	Qty	Price per Unit \$	Sale Price \$	Profit \$
Bucket Hats	\$488.73	30	\$16.29	\$15.00	\$450.00
Mugs	\$640.70	72	\$8.90	\$10.00	\$720.00
T-shirt	\$463.20	36	\$12.87	\$13.00	\$468.00
Key chain	\$357.84	250	\$1.43	\$2.00	\$500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,950.47</b>				<b>\$2,138.00</b>

### 4. Promoting Student Involvement in CSSS Newsletter

- A call was sent out to student members of CSSS and two individuals expressed interest in writing for the CSSS Newsletter. They are each working on articles for the next publication.

## Western Councillor's Report

From January to the end of April, there were 10 requests for modifications to the web site that were sent to me from various quarters. Here is a summary of the modifications that I made to the website

### **January 2016**

I loaded the January 2016 newsletter to the website

Web site was modified to replace the contact information for all awards with that of Joann Whalen.

I uploaded the 2016 student travel award application form.

There was a request to re-establish the link on the website to the 2016 Conference

There was a request from Noorallah Juma to delete pedosphere.com from the web page

### **February 2016**

The Award section of the website was update using the information provided by Joann Whalen.

### **March 2016**

There was another request from Noorallah Juma to update the links to Bibliography of Scientific.....

Frank Larney noted that the Subtitle for the Council Members still has 2015 and was updated to 2016

### **April 2016**

**The acknowledgment of AIC sponsorship was added to the web site**

**There was a request from Dan Pennock to upload Soils Handbook to the website. The PDF for this is yet to be received. This will be uploaded as soon as it is sent to me.**

**I will like to Thanks Bobbi Helgason for her help in taking me through the steep learning curve of the website modification.**

**Wole Akinremi**

**Western Councillor**

## **Eastern Councilor's Report**

**Prepared by Nathan Basilliko**

There were no concerns from members brought to the attention of the Eastern Councilor from Ontario, Quebec or the Maritimes over the past year. Two newsletters were disseminated in the fall and winter since the last AGM. Looking ahead, in conjunction with the Graduate Representative, upcoming newsletters will include more graduate student led pieces, including regular "From the Field" profiles on selected CSSS graduate student member research projects, as well as a one-off graduate student led interview (by Marcus Phillips at Carleton U) on the history of the CSSS with Darwin Anderson planned for the next issue. The Eastern Councilor will be on parental leave from May through July, and thus the next two newsletters are planned for August and November (i.e. each delayed one month from the general recommendations for newsletter timing laid out in the duties description for the Eastern Councilor), with calls for items/issues to include made in early July and October.