

Canadian Society of Soil Science – Education Commission

Annual Meeting – June 24, 2026

Attendees: Amanda Diochon, Chantel Chizen, Nathan Storey, Tom Yates, Clara Ryan, Emmanuel Mapfumo, Adam Gillespie, Andrea Surprenant, Richard Heck, Blake Weiseth, Andy Hammermeister, Samuel Peprah, Saba Daeichin, Brandon Heung, Bharat Shrestha, Lyle Cowell, Dillon Muldoon, Melissa Arcand, Angela Bedard-Haughn, Tahmid Huq Easher, Roland Kroebel, Adrian Unc, Marie-Elise Samson

Meeting started at 12:30pm

1. Approval of Agenda – Blake Weiseth motion, seconded Emmanuel Mapfumo

2. Welcome + Land Acknowledgement – Amanda Diochon

3. Governance – Amanda Diochon

a. Terms of Reference

- The terms of reference have been updated to include governance. Activities have been coordinated by Maja Krzic, Tom Yates, and Amanda Diochon in the past so we have created a new structure where there is a 3-year term and co-chairs rotate off. The full details of the terms of reference have been distributed and will be attached to the follow up email.
- Thank you to Tom for your continued support and mentorship on this committee. Maja will be the next to rotate off and we will be looking for someone to replace her co-chair role.

b. Call of Interest for Co-Chair

- Question – What is the background of this committee and the objectives for those that are new?
 - Tom Yates – co-chairs organize and co-chair the education session at the conference
 - Amanda – The commission leads projects (past ones include Soil for Youth for K-12, virtual soil lab projects, status of soil education in Canada, industry needs from soil science education in Canada. The role of the commission is outlined in the Terms of Reference
- Amanda – Anyone interested in self-nominating for the co-chair position?

- Blake self-nominated himself for the upcoming chair role.

4. Updates on Ongoing Projects

- a. Status of soil education paper revisited 10 years later
 - Looking at what soil science courses are being offered in Canada and what colleges/universities
 - A manuscript has been drafted
 - For those on the sub-committee, revisions or suggestions are due on July 18th
- b. Textbook
 - There was an initiative led by Sandra Brown at UBC and the status is currently unknown.
 - Anyone interested in continuing this project should contact Amanda or Sandra.

Other comments:

- Adding commission content to the CSSS website would be useful
 - Angela Bedard-Haughn – would be natural to include the minutes and other documents on the website so links can be sent out to everyone ahead of the meetings.
- Tom – reminder that at any point people can reach out to the co-chairs explore new project ideas

5. WCSS 2030

Amanda – there is a large opportunity to reach out and think about how we can engage the broader society and younger generations to think about soil. Suggestion from Richard Heck with getting involved with national/regional science fairs. Packages of activities that we could develop for K-12 related to soil science to engage. Q/A's with students or other activities that are ready to roll out. It is important to build awareness and that network as we lead up to WCSS.

6. Call for new projects

Blake – potential for a future extension working group to provide support to academics who want to engage with this topic

- Roland Kroebel is interested in supporting this
- Future ideas for webinars or for the CSSS session topic next year

Clara Ryan – it would be great to have ways for grad students to get involved in soil extension and practice teaching

- Chantel – will follow up with Clara and Andrea to connect with other grad students interested in this topic; a potential future sub-committee?

7. Other business

Brandon Heung – related to the textbook, the original idea was for it to be a living document so call's for new chapters, updates/revision, hands-on learning activities, supplemental materials.

- There was a note to create lecture materials that are related to the textbook chapters.
- There could be a working group related to supporting the textbook
- Andrea Surprenant – question about the textbook and if there is a French version.
 - The French version of the textbook is available but there will be a need to translate additional chapters and content.

Andrea – Association Québécoise de Spécialistes en Sciences du Sol (AQSSS) has been doing ongoing work related to soil education content and outreach. There is need for funding [SOL'ERE](#) to support these initiatives.

Marie-Elise Samson – we have been engaging with students in CEGEP to get students interested in soil science so that we can get more students enrolled in programs

- All it takes is a cool presentation to get students engage
- An opportunity to get metrics and uptake in students engaged/enrolled with soil science with future outreach

Marie-Elise – there is a new textbook from France for teaching soil science

Roland Kroebel – do students know that there are still lots of unknowns about soil? Could we create content related to the mysteries of soil science?

- Possible social media campaign
- Many students are unaware of soil science and this is a way we could find a hook

Adrian Unc – past programs have marketed or incentivized why young people should pursue soil science

- Showing future careers and opportunities with soil science

- Interview soil scientists to show studies

Roland – the CSSS should explore hiring someone to conduct this social media work

- Angela – there was someone hired to do this but uncertain if they are still contracted to do this.

Saba Daeichin how to attract the new generation in soil scientist?

- Example from experience – organic agriculture research project where researchers engaged with farmers and their families; now their children are enrolling in programs

Bharat Shrestha – in rural communities agriculture is dying so engaging with rural communities and giving presentations to them is important

- Materials for K-12
- Indigenous knowledge transfer

Meeting adjourned at 1:30pm