

November 6, 2003 - Request to present the SSSA Board of directors a report on the Goals of the United States Consortium of Soil Science Associations at their meeting on Thursday, November 6, 2003.

Subj: Report to the Board of Directors
Date: 10/7/2003 11:58:39 AM Central Standard Time
From: cgoudreau@agronomy.org
To: j4culver@aol.com

Jim--Attached is a copy of the SSSA Board of Directors Agenda for the Denver meeting. Please note on page 3 that you are scheduled to present a report on Thursday, November 6, at approximately 10:45 AM, on the U.S. Consortium of Soil Science Associations. Please confirm that you will be at the meeting to present your report. Thanks much.

We look forward to having you with us in Denver.

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Agenda for SSSA November 6, 2003 Board Meeting:

10:30-1:30 pm November 6, 2003 SSSA Board Meeting Second Session

10:30am Welcome, introductions, agenda changes - Michael Singer

10:35 MEMBERSHIP
ACS536 Washington Presence
Brad Fenwick, UDSA-NRI will discuss funding opportunities and changes in NRI focus.

S973.10 U.S. National Committee for Soil Science
Report on activities of the U.S. National Committee for Soil Science - Lois Peterson.

S201 – U.S. Consortium of Soil Science Associations
Jim Culver to give a brief overview of the USCSSA goals.

S010 Divisions – General

Divisional Board Representatives will report on their respective Divisional business meetings.

Brief overview of the USCSSA goals -- Jim Culver, Advisory Group USCSSA

Good morning --- I am please to represent the USCSSA in making a few brief overview comments on the USCSSA goals.

As most of you know the USCSSA is a very young organization in terms of time in existence. The brochure entitled “A New Framework for Communication and Networking” provides a good overview of the prospective kinds of goals one might expect from this kind of an organization.

A visit to the USCSSA web site at <http://soilsassociation.org> identifies a number of activities our organization is encouraging. I have summarized several of our goals discussed during conference calls and e-mail correspondence. Several of these are short term goals. These goals are not listed in any level of USCSSA priority.

USCSSA GOALS FOR 2003-2004

1. Update and maintain a current list of official contacts for all 46 soil societies/associations on the USCSSA web site at <http://soilsassociation.org> .
2. Six states do not have a state soils association-- Colorado, Arizona, Montana, Louisiana, Wyoming and Nevada. We would like to support activities that will result in forming societies/associations in those states.
3. State Soils --- Many states have an official legislated state soil. This was done in large part by the individual state soil society/association working with there legislators to get it passed. We continue to support this. But more important we want to support each state soil being represented in the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit. One of our goals in the short term will be to continue to work and communicate with state soil societies/associations and with Valerie at SSSA in doing what we can to facilitate making this goal a reality.

4. Develop the capacity to be effective in soil survey issues – in short have some political impact or influence. Soil Scientists have personally worked in production soil survey in many states where we as soil scientists were able to work with local people, state agencies one university administrators in getting funds and people to do soils survey work. For the most part I would dare say that most every state soil society/association has several active members who know there congressional people by their first name.

There is the current SSSA encouragement of writing your congressional delegation to encourage continued funding for research soil science. Given time we would like to see the capacity of the USCSSA to be active in each state in writing and personally contacting their congressional people on our views on these kinds of issues.

Collectively this from my perspective is one of the greatest capacities of the USCSSA. As a member of a Federal Agency or University one has limited legal ability to have political influence. However as a representative from an individual state soil society/association one has more options and is probably heard by the congressional people in a more positive, effective manner.

5. Be a member of the National Cooperative Soil Survey Conference. Currently except for the National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists the membership of the NCSS Conference is other federal agencies. SSSA and the USCSSA are not currently officially recognized members of the National Cooperative Soil Survey Conference.
6. Strengthen our organizational structure Council and Advisory group. Excellent participation exists from most soil societies/associations but there are opportunities for improvement in several areas.
7. A vehicle to share information between soil societies and associations – Some states have a very active organization however several states struggle to have an active program. We support strong active state soil societies/associations organizations.
8. Encourage certification of soils scientist including ARPACS. Support state legislated certification of soil scientists and activities of the private consulting soil scientists.
9. Increase public awareness of on the value of soils and of soil scientists. Support the 18th Congress of Soil Science.

