

**Science and Policy Committee**  
**SWCS Publications and Communication Opportunities**  
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**Today's conversation:**

1. SWCS Publications
2. Current Efforts to Enhance SWCS Communications
3. Discussion of Potential Outlets for the S&P Committee

**SWCS Publications**

1. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*
  - a. A Section: Open to submissions on timely topics related to soil and water conservation. These are not peer-reviewed publications and are no longer than 4,000 words with up to 5 figures and tables. There are no publication fees, but authors are encouraged to purchase open access.
    - Feature
    - Viewpoint
    - Ideas and Innovations
    - Conservation in Practice
  - b. Research Section: Research manuscripts are submitted through the Editorial Manager peer-review system and undergo double-blind review (about 3 months process). Require authors to pay publication charges, with discounts for SWCS members.
    - Research Editorial: Invited manuscripts that do not follow the traditional research manuscript structure.
  - c. Special issues/sections of the JSWC: Themed issues that have been approved by the Editorial Board. Submitted manuscripts must pass review for publication. An overview paper, literature review, or coordinating A Section feature articles may also be included. Special issues maybe proposed by anyone and are planned 15+ months prior to the anticipated publication date.
  - d. Proposal to the Editorial Board: To propose a change to the journal contents or Editorial Policy, a proposal must be submitted to the Research Editor and Editor for consideration. If accepted, the proposal is then forwarded to the Editorial Board for revisions and a vote. (A proposal may also be held for discussion at the annual Editorial Board meeting in July.) The majority vote will stand as the final decision.
  - e. Editorial Policy: <http://www.jswconline.org/site/misc/JSWC-Editorial-Policy.pdf>
2. Conservogram
  - a. Membership newsletter, emailed to all members monthly.
  - b. Includes Society updates, conference/event news, chapter news, book reviews, and other relevant information. Articles are no longer than 800 words.
  - c. Articles must be submitted to [pubs@swcs.org](mailto:pubs@swcs.org) by the first Friday of the month.
3. Conservation NewsBriefs
  - a. Emailed weekly compilation of conservation-related news articles.
  - b. Sent to over 13,000 subscribers—SWCS members and nonmembers.

- c. Serves to communicate SWCS news beyond the membership.
- 4. Policy Website Page (<http://www.swcs.org/en/policy/>)
  - a. Location on the SWCS website for posting S&P Committee minutes, PowerPoints, position statements, and white papers.

#### **Current Efforts to Enhance SWCS Communications**

SWCS has initiated a project to evaluate our current outreach efforts and develop a strategy for better member and nonmember communications.

#### **Discussion of Possible Future Communications Outlets**

1. What information would the S&P Committee like to communicate?
2. Who is the ideal audience for S&P Committee communications?
3. What kinds of communication pieces would best fit the committee's needs and skills?
4. What recognition is needed to support S&P Committee contributions?
5. What kinds of materials are you interested in receiving/reading from SWCS?
6. Should SWCS make greater efforts to inform policy makers? If so, what level of participation would the committee like to have in this effort?