



**Science & Policy Committee**  
**Conference Call, Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

**Call to Order** at 3:00 (EST) by Committee Chair, Andrew N. Sharpley [sharples@uark.edu](mailto:sharples@uark.edu)

Ten Committee members were able to be on this month's call.

Two new members to the S&PC were introduced and are Naveen Adusumilli from Louisiana State University AgCenter who brings expertise on applied agricultural economics and Mohammad Khakbazan from Agri-Food Canada in Brandon, Manitoba who brings expertise on ag-policy analysis. Welcome to both, who also represent States and Provinces not previously represented on the Committee.

**Jorge Delgado** gave an update on progress on two series of papers for the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation; one on "Precision Conservation" and the other on "Cover Crops," which are both nearing completion. From this discussion **Jorge Delgado** circulated information on the 7Rs of nutrient management and soil and water conservation that can be found at <http://infoag.org/presentation/5/357/>). We discussed the possibility of developing a new section of the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation (JSWC) along the lines of "Research Editorials in Science and Policy." The Committee agreed to prepare a short statement on the intent of this section for review by the S&PC prior to forwarding it to Jorge who would then present the idea to the Editorial Board of JSWC.

The Committee discussed ways to increase the visibility and output of S&PC and **John Peterson** offered to circulate white papers and statements from the Committee to a wider conservation audience, when appropriate. It was also suggested that enhancing S&PC activity might also benefit from clear discussion topics with invited speakers where appropriate. We will look into the possibilities of using some form of web conferencing, which would allow slides to be shown, such as Adobe Connect. The main hurdle here will be to find a software package that everyone can log into. Those who have been tapped up already and have agreed to present are;

Annie Binder on communication within SWCS and the role of the S&PC

Katie Flahive on the importance of watershed management planning.

Doug Karlen on soil health.

Harrison Pittman, Director, National Agricultural Law Center - <http://nationalaglawcenter.org/>.

Hopefully, we can have a short statement or white paper that would accompany these discussions, which could then be distributed via JSWC etc. additional topics will be suggested by Committee members in the coming weeks.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm (CST).

**The next meeting of the S&P Committee will be June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 3:00 pm EST.**