

**Science & Policy Committee  
Conference Call, Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015**

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

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

**Jorge Delgado** gave a brief update on the status of the cover crop and precision agriculture series he is editing and plans to bring them towards conclusion in the next two to three months.

**Annie Binder** led discussion of publications and communication opportunities within SWCS. The outline of her discussion / presentation is given below for those not able to attend those month's call. Committee discussion focused on current SWCS publications and ongoing efforts to enhance the communication of SWCS activities, outcomes, and policy-related commentary. Committee members expressed interest in how new invited editorials could be address by **JSWC**, what topics could be considered, and the review process, prior to acceptance by the Journal.

We agreed to solicit topics related to soil and water conservation and identify experts who might be willing to prepare commentaries and / or reviews for the Journal.

**Science and Policy Committee  
SWCS Publications and Communication Opportunities  
Annie Binder, [annie.binder@swcs.org](mailto:annie.binder@swcs.org)**

**11/3/2015**

**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 These are not peer-reviewed publications and are no longer than 4,000 words with up to 5 figures and tables.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 may be 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 News Briefs
  - 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?



Healthy Land  
Clean Water  
For Life

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?

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm (CST).

**The next meeting of the S&P Committee is scheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 at 3:00 pm EDT.**