

Science and Policy Committee

Minutes of July 27, 2015 Meeting

Oak A Room, Sheraton Conference Center and Hotel, Greensboro, NC

The committee discussed ways to enhance its outreach, impact, and timelines. The following topics were discussed;

1. Use of Section A of the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation

This would include short, focused submissions on “hot-button” topics and emerging issues derived from the S&PC activities or by individual members, on a more regular basis. Longer submissions that either follow up on or deal with other issues should also be considered.

2. Recruiting people to give focused presentations to the Committee

Several have been suggested and these include;

Doug Karlen on soil health (agreed)

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

Katie Flahive on the importance of watershed management planning (agreed)

Bianca Moebius-Clune, Director, Soil Health Division, USDA-NRCS, Washington, DC - <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/soils/health/?cid=stelprdb1237522> on NRCS’s Soil Health Initiative

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

Matt ?Dolstrum?, NRCS, on the use of narrative and implications for the scientist

3. Other topics for Committee discussion

Climate hubs – regional differences and commonalities, national strategy

4. Revisit the timing of the S&PC Conference call

Several felt that we needed to revisit when the best time to hold a conference call is. While there will be no perfect time, more and more members have conflicts with the current timing of the S&PC call (i.e., first Thursday of the month at 2 pm CDT / 3 pm EDT). A “Doodle” will be sent to members to find the most convenient time.

5. Update the list of the top 10 science and policy issues for each year

The list could be continuously updated, made available of the SWCS website, and forward to the SWCS Board of Directors. We need to keep In mind that our discussions should be providing themes for future conferences