

**ABRIDGED MINUTES**  
**from the October 5, 2022**  
**APS Council Meeting**  
**Denver, CO**

**A. Call to Order (Walcott)**

Meeting called to order at 9:08 a.m. Mountain. A quorum was present.

**Council attending:** Ron Walcott, Nik Grünwald, Karen Garrett, Amy Charkowski, Jim Bradeen, Lawrence Datnoff, Courtney Gallup, Sydney Everhart, Nicole Donofrio, Nicole Gauthier, Geroge Sundin

**Invited:** Jim Meffert

**Staff:** Amy Hope, Carol Ericson, Greg Grahek, Laura McGrady, Erik Uner, (virtual: Linda Schmitt, Megan Boatman, Tressa Patrias)

**B. Strategic Plan Table (Jim)**

Goal C and B done. Need intervention on Goal A yet. Will continue to build on this and add specifics into it. Allows us to look at progress we're making, what's not working, what we're learning.

**SHARED** strategic plan table chart. Will use this going forward.

**Next steps:**

- Complete the draft plan table/review
- Summarize the questions and recommend next steps for committees
- Develop a communication plan to get information back to committees
- Develop a task force action plan
- Budget and resource assessment

**Volunteer Structure**

- Began to categorize different groupings of volunteers and categorized areas:
  - content delivery
  - Subject matter/scientific expertise
  - Career pathways (professional development component, networking and support component, (LI, Family & Caregiver, Grad Student, Careers 101, Teaching, Regulatory, Extension, etc. Subject matter could fall in here too.
  - External (Public Policy, Outreach)
  - Will create an International Engagement Task Force
  - Internal (nominations, foundation, finance, PN news, awards & honors)
- Task force put together to look at how we consolidate and content and what we do and develop framework. Different way of looking at things.
- No longer have offices, boards, or committee names in titles. Focus on what they do NOT what they are.
- Communication strategy (internal communications will come as framework as we work on external communication)

**NOTED** an overhaul of the [Manual of Operations and Bylaws](#) will need to be done.

## **NEXT STEPS:**

- Framework chart drafted and will share with Council to determine what we call things.
- Need to map out communication strategy
- Will have different messaging to Volunteer groups, externally to membership, and critical stakeholders.

## **C. Financial Health (McGrady/Datnoff)**

**RECEIVED** August statement.

The American Phytopathological Society's (APS) fiscal year begins on July 1st. The August 31, 2022, financial summary represents two months of activity for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. APS's financial results are reported monthly to leadership.

The net operating loss for the two-month period ended August 31, 2022, was (\$40,867). The net operating loss compares favorably to the budget by 137,080. The investment portfolio increased by \$150,931 (Line 33), the majority of which is unrealized gain. This results in a total net gain for the period ended August 31, 2022, of \$110,064.

Total revenues exceeded the budget by approximately \$52,000. Much of the positive variance relates to subscription revenue for *Phytopathology* and *Plant Disease*. Total operating expenses compared favorably to the budget. Much of the positive variance relates to staff payroll charges and payroll reimbursements from the SciSoc organizations under management. All business centers compared favorably to the budget at this time.

## **D. Meetings (Lawrence/Tressa/Megan)**

### **1. Site selections/health and safety around Plant Health meetings (Lawrence/Tressa)**

Lawrence provided background about health and safety and wellbeing of our LGBTQ+ and women's health with some of state's laws with the repeal of Roe vs. Wade. What are other societies doing? Had discussions with a few other societies for their input.

**APS Value Statement when considering Cities for Annual Meeting:** *APS is a global community of individuals with a shared interest in plant health. Our diversity is represented in our international membership, professional interests, cultural and educational backgrounds, as well as diversity in age, racial, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, and other social dimensions. This diversity ensures a wealth of perspectives and enhances the quality of our work and interactions. The locations and venues selected for our annual meeting must support this overall experience through state and local laws, policies, and practices.*

Council approved this statement previously, and we now include this Value Statement in any Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Annual Meeting.

Discussion followed that we should remove the word "must" and use "strive" as well as adding reference to mental and well-being.

**ACTION:** Council to wordsmith value statement and send final copy back to Tressa.

**ACTION:** Linda will send [shared doc](#) for comment to amend the value statement.

**Memphis 2024**

**CONSENSUS** to do a volunteer day for Memphis 2024 and to reach out to DEI early to get it on their radar.

**TABLE** other items presented to future agenda to discuss and look into remote access options as well.

**Committee session selections (Megan)**

- Shared information on how sessions are selected and ranked.
- After initial slotting, look at areas that we're missing.
- AMB doesn't look at Subject Matter committees sponsoring the session but at the CONTENT.

**SHARED:** Special Session Sponsoring Committee document

**ACTION:** Staff will look at place on submission form to house feedback that can be shared with future committees who submit proposals.

**E. Annual Reports (CALs, ICO)**

Complete listing of reports is located on the Council collab site under [Annual Reports Dashboard](#)

**RECEIVED** summary of committee annual reports.

No reports submitted from Tropical Plant Path, Teaching, and Emerging Diseases and Pathogens Committees.

Annual reports were submitted by nearly all Subject Matter and General Policy Committee in 2022. Committee participation in virtual meetings was high, with multiple committees also choosing to meet in person at the annual conference. Year-round engagement was high, driven by the Leadership Institute cohort series and continued messaging to pursue committee initiatives beyond the annual conference sessions and workshops. Committees are clearly shifting their mindset toward meeting and delivering content beyond the annual conference. However, as we become more accustomed to COVID, committees are realizing the value of in-person meetings at the annual conference as well.

Action items for Council from committees focused in large part around central coordination/standardization of activities.

**SHARED several items that warrant discussion by Council were centered on:**

**RECEIVED** ICO summary on boards/offices annual reports.

**F. Friend of APS Award Nomination (Amy)**

**RECEIVED** nomination from American Seed Trade Association for Richard Dunkle, Ph.D., for the Friend of APS Award.

**NOTED** that proposal will be brought to PPB to decide.

**G. Approval of Minutes (All)**

**MOTION:** to approve the September 15, 2022, minutes. *Seconded; motion passed.*

*Meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m. Mountain.*