

ABRIDGED MINUTES

from the March 17, 2022

APS Council Virtual Meeting

A. Call to Order (Amy C.)

Meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.m. Central. A quorum was present.

Council present: Amy Charkowski, Ron Walcott, Nik Grunwald, Mark Gleason, Jim Bradeen, Lawrence Datnoff, David Gent, Courtney Gallup, Sydney Everhart, Krishna Subbarao, Ashok Chanda

Staff: Amy Hope, Carol Ericson, Greg Grahek, Kurt Rood, Linda Schmitt, Erik Uner, Megan Boatman

Invited: Jim Meffert

B. Financial Health (Kurt/Lawrence)

RECEIVED February statement.

The net profit from operations for the eight months ended February 28, 2022, was \$476,570 which is \$774,202 better than budget and \$54,011 better than prior year. The YTD loss on investments was (\$501,952) and PPP round two loan forgiveness was \$403,418 which generated a total net profit after investments of \$378,036.

Total YTD revenue was \$3,457,561 which was better than budget by \$255,077, and better than prior year by \$147,524. Monthly submissions and paper acceptances continue to be closely monitored and tracked. Journals are favorable to budget by \$265K driven by page and color charges within *Phytopathology* and *Plant Disease*. *PhytoFrontiers* is unfavorable by (\$19K) due to lower author publication charges. PHP/PDMR is favorable by \$33K driven by author publication charges. Annual Meeting income is unfavorable to budget by (\$75K) due to lower registration income; however, the event is favorable to budget because of lower spend in audio visual and payroll. APS PRESS is unfavorable to budget by (\$27K) driven by lower book income. G&A favorable to budget by \$105K due to interest income from investments.

Total YTD operating expenses were \$2,980,991 which is \$519,125 better (lower) than budget and (\$93,513) worse (higher) than the prior year. Total personnel expenses are favorable by \$198K. Remaining favorability to plan was driven by lower expenditures for publications.

All business centers are showing net profit favorable to budget except for *Phytobiomes*.

NOTED FAC will meet April 4 and 8th virtually. Will present FY23 budget to Council during our April 19-21 meeting.

C. Project Dashboard update (Carol)

- Ed Center is still in process. Waiting on committee to start and finish tagging Ed Center content.
- Lapsed Member campaign results: out of 535 lapsed North America located leads. 133 were contacted resulting in 25 renewals. Total dues revenue \$2653.00 vs. campaign cost \$1.49.50, resulting in 39.56% ROI. Overwhelming reason people chose not to renew was either because they left the industry or retired.
- APS Commons – reaching out to a new set of volunteers to return some of the earlier conversations instead of just focusing on job postings. Refocus volunteers in this area

- Noted that Joann Lynch departed SciSoc, and that Eric Fletty will be the interim Director of Education. Will restart a search for Director of Education this fall.
- Early Career Group has been asked to oversee the Frist Timers Event at Plant Health 2022.
- Journals – All APS journals are now publishing without temporary issues. In process of moving Phytobiomes Journal to Aptara, joining PhytoFrontiers at our new secondary vendor. Aptara is meeting expectations after a start-up orientation period. MPMI will follow with its June or July issue moving to Aptara. Additional details available in the [Project Dashboard](#).

D. Strategic Planning Preparation for April Meeting (Jim)

- Will focus on high impact and what the organization can do and can be in the future. Have done a lot of work this past year looking at trends and conversations with industry and how they want to interact with APS. Have had discussions with deans and what trends are impacting plant science.
- Jim will consolidate information and will share background materials for pre-reads before the April 19-21 meeting.
- Will review organizational structure and ensure our resources are aligned with the budget.
 - Charges for committees and make sure they are working on things that are high impact and of interest to them. Having similar conversations with Leadership Institute cohort sessions.

E. Plant Health 2022 Updates (Tressa/Megan)

- Abstract submission closes on March 28. To date have received 45 submissions (2 ePosters)
- Noted Melhus and Schroth submissions are low but expect more to come in by the March 28 deadline.
- Field Trips – submissions open through April 1.
- Poster Update – all posters up at the same time for the duration.
- Mobile App Update – continue to look at sustainability and look at having all our tickets in the app. Will have some paper tickets on hand for those who do not have a mobile phone.
- Registration opens April 18.

F. Plantopia Update (Mark)

- New podcast host is Jim Bradeen
- Production company hired (Association Briefing) They will handle the post recording and launching. Some staff involvement.
- Steering Committee formed – 6-7 members identified and will hold an initial meeting soon. Responsibility of getting interviewees and scheduling,
- Target for 2022 is 12 episodes.

G. Code of Conduct Communication and Constitution Vote (Jim/Linda)

- Linda and Carol drafting article for May issue of *Phyto News* and will forward to Jim Bradeen for comment.
- Constitution vote will be included with the officer election that goes out in May to all eligible voting APS members.

H. Approval of Minutes (All)

MOTION: to approve the February 17, 2022, minutes. *Seconded; motion passed.*

I. Board and Committee Meetings (Amy C.)

Having meetings online allows more people to be able to attend and sustainability as it reduces carbon footprint and costs when held online. Convey new default is virtual.

SHARED final document.

ACTION: Amy C. to include sentence around financial stability to the document.

ACTION: Staff on behalf of the P-Team will communicate to boards and committees to meet online vs. in person.

J. New Working Group (David)

RECEIVED request from Carla Garzon to form a working group focused on Diseases of Industrial Hemp.

Council can authorize a special or ad hoc committee.

Asking to form a working group that would last from 3 to 5 years for networking information and sharing information. Would meet annually to share updates. Would like to meet during Plant Health and some staff support for administrative work. Unclear on how many people would be involved. There are other ways they can interact instead of a committee structure. Utilize things like workshop, webinars, APS Community, etc. Proof of concept.

ACTION: David will get back to Carla.

K. DALN Grant (Amy H.)

- Kitty Cardwell and Carrie Harmon provided updates to Council awhile ago about DALN and assays and methodologies. Received grant (3-year project) and will utilize some APS staff time (staff support is included in the grant).
- Potential of new array for APS.

L. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sister Societies (Nik)

RENEWED MoU with China and Canada through 2024. Italy is the other society that has an expired MoU, but to date they have not yet responded to us.

N. VP Candidates for 2022 Election (Linda)

Nominating Committee has confirmed the two VP candidates for the 2022 Election.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. CDT.