

## ABRIDGED MINUTES APS Council Meeting October 24-25, 2023 | Minneapolis, MN

### October 24, 2023

#### 1. Call to Order (Nik)

Meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. CDT. Welcome and introductions were made.

**Council present:** Nik Grünwald, Karen Garrett, Carolee Bull, Ron Walcott, Sydney Everhart, Nicole Donofrio, Jerry Weiland, Nicole Gauthier, George Sundin, Lawrence Datnoff, Bonnie Ownley, Sally Mallowa

**Staff:** Amy Hope, Carol Ericson, Greg Grahek, Erik Uner, Linda Schmitt, Jessica Egyhazi, Melanie Bristol

**Invited virtual:** Pam Harley, David Crotty, Lindsey du Toit, Linda Kinkel, Kevin Ong

**NOTED** copy of presentation slides presented are posted to the APS Council collaborative site.

#### 2. Strategic Planning Updates

**Goal 1: *Advancement in plant health science are accelerated through professional collaboration and data sharing***

##### **Objectives:**

1. *Build upon the success of APS publications*
2. *Increase access to data across platforms*
3. *Increase access to shared research resources*
4. *Expand opportunities to promote innovation (through incubators)*
5. *Increase opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration*
6. *Increase opportunities for academia, industry, government and other stakeholders to collaborate*

#### 3. Open Access Progress, Challenges and Future (George/Greg)

The new Office of Science & Technology Policy (OSTP) policy which will happen in (year) will require any wholly or partially government funded research manuscript or any research manuscript by an author who is a government employee to be deposited to PubAg, a repository, like PubMed. As we all know, a significant percentage of our research falls under this forthcoming requirement. Although US government authors will only be posting peer-reviewed, unedited, and unformatted manuscripts to PubAg, we need to determine how much of a threat this will pose to our subscription revenue, which funds a significant portion of the society's activities.

APS Journals have been impacted by the European movement to open access during the past decade and we've responded by developing two gold open access journals and by flipping MPMI to gold open access. To date, *Phytopathology*, *Plant Disease*, and *Plant Health Progress* have been marginally affected by their "hybrid" status, which embargos most of their content for 12 months.

Invited Pam Harley and David Crotty from Clarke and Esposito to share with Council a proposal which will help us determine our options and strategies for meeting the changes that lay ahead of us with the OSTP mandate and other threats such as transformative agreements. Pam and David have provided strategic

analysis and strategy recommendations for society publishers like ours, such as the Infectious Diseases Society and others.

Clark & Esposito is a consulting firm concentrating on strategic matters related to professional and scholarly publishing. Work with organizations that create, curate and disseminate professional and scholarly information.

APS is a small society – can we have a consortium with other scientific groups? Example: SOCCP.org organization of research societies to try and make a standard set of terms for a transformative agreement.

**SHARED** overview of APS project phases and goals, and project timeline beginning November 2023 – March 2024.

Project Deliverables: What will APS gain through this project?

- Understanding of the exposure of the APS journals to OSTP and other OA mandates.
- Modeled impact on journal revenue of common scenarios that APS might consider (e.g. 1. Green OA route via author manuscript in a repository 2. enforcing Gold APC payment to publish in the journal for compliance, or 3) a full flip to OA for the hybrid journals.
- Understanding of how various APS choices (published article volume, selected OA compliance policy, default OA license type) may play out in transition to OA.
- High-level strategies\* to help APS prepare for the shift to OA while maintaining sustainability and potentially growth for its journal portfolio.
- Key metrics that will be important for APS to monitor over time.

\*Details of strategy implementation plans (timeline, steps, resource needs, costs) would require additional research

## DISCUSSION

- Impact factor will be affected.
- Noted that consultant will work on portfolio strategy.
- Libraries want publishers to bring the deal to them.
- Journal and Brand society matters! Create a campaign and create reasons for researchers to publish with us.

**RECOMMEND** we communicate to our members that when they publish in APS journals it supports APS financially. Suggested the APS Publications Board and Editors be out publicly to promote our journals and activate them as recruiters and ambassadors for our journals.

**MOTION:** to engage Clarke and Esposito for \$40,000 in FY24 (*currently not budgeted*) to assess risk to APS journals income from the OSTP mandate requiring peer reviewed *First Look* version articles to be posted in PubAg if the research is US government funded or includes US government scientists as authors. And to identify and recommend potential business model strategies to reduce risk and sustain APS journal finances in support of APS programs for the good of our science. *Seconded; motion passed.*

**ACTION:** Staff will review and bring findings back to Council about looking into joining a consortium to lobby for publishing. Two were recommended:

- <https://www.socpc.org/>
- <https://byscientistsforscience.org/members/>

**ACTION:** Add publishing consortium discussion on future Council agenda.

## 5. PDMR Task Force Progress and Recommendations (George, Greg, Erik)

The PDMR Task Force has finished its work and has a recommendation to Council to approve.

- For the past 17 years PDMR has been published on its original platform with few upgrades.
- In 2018, When PMN became Grow: Plant Health Exchange, with an upgraded web platform, and Plant Health Progress moved to the APS Journals site, PDMR was left unchanged.
- PDMR's content is highly regarded, but its user interface and submission structure are using old technology and workflows.
- In 2022, APS Council appointed a task force to modernize PDMR.
- Our Impact Factor consultant recommended PDMRs be published in a Web of Science-indexed journal.
- In Q2 of 2023, we surveyed PDMR authors and users, based on questions raised during the task force's initial discussions.
- Using information from the survey, a group comprised of staff, Sara Villani (EIC of PDMR), Kerik Cox (EIC of Plant Dis), Beth Gugino (EIC of PHP), and myself put together a recommendation for consideration by the full task force.
- **SHARED** PDMR Task Force Report survey.

**PDMR Task Force Recommendation:** Merge with *Plant Health Progress*; articles will appear similar to a *Plant Disease Note*.

- MS Central Submission
- Published in *Plant Health Progress* at an APC between \$375 and \$475
- Free to Read like PD Notes
- PDMR editors become PHP Trial report editors, equivalent to PD notes editors
- PDMR Editor-in-Chief becomes PHP Associate Editor-in-Chief (in charge of PDMRs)

**NOTED** Would not do in First Look but would publish as we go in just publish (prior to issue)

PD Notes Model:

- Short with no abstract and few references (less than 2 pgs, depending on consultant recommendation)
- Table included as an eXtra (with link from the text that opens the table in a new tab)
- If Clarivate (Web of Science) views PDMRs as they do a PD note
  - Citations to PDMRs would count in the PHP impact factor calculation, increasing
  - PDMRs would not count in the denominator of the calculation.

ROI: A new custom stand-alone PDMR site start-up would cost \$150K to \$200K to build with ongoing annual expenses around \$75K - \$125K without the functionality that comes with the journal models, which provide a more efficient workflow. Our costs are going up, so these margins are tighter than we would like, especially if we only publish in the low range of 100 or fewer PDMRs per year.

Will sponsors or authors subsidize archive expense?

- Phase 1: Archive 1-3 back volumes covered by sponsor support (~\$75K to \$100K per volume)
- Phase 2: Based on sponsor further support cover archive costs for other volumes after first year.

- Continue with legacy site to serve remainder of back content.

**NOTED** it's important to get sponsor support in advance of implementation. We would like to see sustainable.

**MOTION:** to move future PDMRs from their current site to *Plant Health Progress* sometime in 2024, with timing and schedule to be announced by January 30, 2024. *Seconded; motion passed with one abstention.*

**CONSENSUS** that if sponsor support can be achieved will move 1 to 5 years of legacy PDMRs to the Atypion site. (Cost TBD - estimated cost of \$75K to \$100K or more).

## 6. Publications Policy Regarding Use of AI and application in other societal areas (George/Greg)

In July, Nik asked the Publications Board to review our A.I. policies for journals to make sure it was aligned competitively with other journal policies and allows for the advantages of A.I. in addition to guardrails against its misuse. After several meetings and discussions on the topic, the Publications Board, along with Nik and Ron approved this new version which is posted in the journal author instructions. Today we would like some discussion around how it might be applied to other society content.

<https://apsjournals.apsnet.org/page/authorinformation#AI>

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Large Language Models (LLM)

- The use of an Artificial Intelligence (AI) assisted technology to improve grammar, language, and writing is permitted if the resulting content remains representative of the author's own original work and does not generate new concepts, results, or perceptions within the manuscript. When using Large Language Models (LLM), or similar generative AI tools such as Open AI ChatGPT, authors must ensure that the content of the manuscript is a description of their own original research, i.e., authorship of all text in an APS publication requires human attribution and oversight.
- The application of AI to research methods and bioinformatics in the context of analyzing and classifying data is permitted, if its use is disclosed in the Methods and Materials section of the manuscript describing the process in which the AI technology was used.
- The use of AI-generated image manipulation is not allowed!
- It is expected that Authors are solely responsible for the content of their manuscripts. APS aligns with the [COPE position statement](#) that *"AI tools cannot meet the requirements for authorship as they cannot take responsibility for the submitted work. As non-legal entities, they cannot assert the presence or absence of conflicts of interest nor manage copyright and license agreements."*

**QUESTION:** Are there other areas in our society that we need to address AI as well? Noted have shared with Annual Meeting Board as well. Education around AI? Session on LLM could be symposium at Plant Health 2024, fits into theme.

**ACTION:** Karen to provide George with feedback around AI policy.

## 7. Data Task Force Creation (Nik/Erik)

Met with consultant and have potential list of members and Brianna is working with OPSR for industry names. Task force members would be those with deep experience in current and pending trends

associated with sharing data among researchers, the regulations and requirements anticipated by the US federal government and relevant international governing bodies to support open access and collaboration.

**ACTION:** Council to send additional Data Task Force names to Nik.

**Goal 2: A growing workforce has the skills necessary to ensure sustainable plant health.**

**Objectives:**

1. *Increase availability of professional resources for scientists throughout their career.*
2. *Increase active engagement/recruitment and retention of diverse populations*
3. *Increase availability of shared undergraduate/graduate curriculum focused on plant pathology*

**8. Seed Pathology Course Update (Lindsey/Melanie)**

- 12-week online course held on Tuesdays (Sept 19 – December 5, 2023)
- Course organizers and instructors include Ric Dunkle, Lindsey du Toit, Gerbert Hiddink, Gary Munkvold, plus additional instructors.
- Shared Seed Pathology Fundamentals:
  - 422 participants from 51 countries. 223 non-members, 54 new members. (noted Zoom caps at 500)
  - Have >100 on the waiting list for the on-demand course to be offered in 2024.
  - \$57,494 revenue generated, including \$12K in sponsorships.
- Next Course? Recommendations from 'Fundamentals' course attendees & instructors:
  - Diversity of needs & target audiences (Regulatory/policy, Industry – seed production, seed testing, seed treatments, NGOs, Researchers, Students.
  - Topics: Broad vs. narrow, Low-hanging fruit, market/demand assessment, Offer crop, pathogen-, & test-specific courses as modules?
  - Course recordings for-credit courses at universities and assignments and discussions added by instructors at institutions.
  - Lessons from 'Fundamentals' course include offering group registration rate, enhanced use of Discussion Forum on LMS platform. Survey attendees on Dec. 5.
  - Timeframe, instructors for next course(s), partnerships (ASTA, ...)
- Council members thanked Lindsey, Melanie and the team for their hard work and are very impressed with the popularity and what was accomplished for this course. This course will be a great model to build off for other projects where there is a gap that APS could fill. Thinking long-term see a group charged with identifying future courses and finding gaps of specialty topics or where departments no longer teach. (e.g. pathology related taxonomy courses). Badging concept (Taxonomy badge, etc.)

**9. Curriculum Task Force Update (Amy Charkowski/Carol)**

Had a meeting in Denver and a call yesterday. Have been collecting syllabi from undergraduate level. Have collected 25 different course syllabi already.

Problem Statement: Plant pathology literacy is low in the United States. To increase plant pathology literacy at the undergraduate level, we will propose a simple structure to allow design of course

materials for undergraduate plant pathology classes or modules in introductory or advanced undergraduate classes. (integration with other fundamental classes like intro bio, genetics, etc.)

Participants: Alma Laney, Leonor Leandro, Jennie Fagen, JP Dundore-Arias, Loren Geisler, Doug Rouse, Bill Weldon, Russell Ingram, Sydney Everhart, Boris Vinatzer, Shunping Ding.

Larger Goals include define literacy (provide syllabi as a resource, input from stakeholders as a resource (Bill and Russell can provide job descriptions) and could include both what they know (conceptual) and what they can do (practical). Need to clarify common misconceptions and include topics beyond biology (IPM, disease management, social issues).

Curriculum Tasks: will provide input to the following questions by Nov 10, 2023:

- What concepts/knowledge do we expect students to have at intro and advanced level?
- What are the student learning outcomes?
- What topics are covered in lecture
- Which textbooks or other resources are used?
- What lab exercises are included in class?
- Summarize job descriptions; role of plant pathologists in the team
- Impact of the field of plant pathology
- Role of internships (would be differentiator at undergrad level)
- If available, student feedback or employer feedback
- Review the ASPB and ASM Core Concepts
  - Should we use this structure?
  - Should we include social sciences and/or concepts of disease management as part of plant pathology literacy?
- Goal is to wrap up work by end of 2023. It's out there – just needs to be pulled together and synthesized.
- APS could potentially provide modules. Content might end up in APS Education Center.

**ACTION:** Include Curriculum TF recap to Council on December agenda and invite Amy C.

#### **10. APS Foundation John Sherwood Gift and Next Steps (Ron/Amy/Carol)**

- [The Marie & John Sherwood Fund Purpose](#): to foster engagement of APS membership and students at minority serving institutions to enhance minority representation in US graduate programs and in organizations that employ plant pathologists.
- How do we come to understand the barriers?
  - Targeted survey?
  - Follow-up meeting with minority serving institution representatives?
    - What are the barriers – needs assessment NSI, HBSU, invite them to a APS meeting and meeting with them to have plant pathology as a curriculum. Engaging them and understanding their needs and asses.
  - Follow-up plan once barriers are better understood and relationships developed.
- Noted AULF has list already and recommend that we continue to have AULF stay connected with this.

**ACTION:** Carolee to send names and types of programs/universities to Amy H. that could be good for broader outreach to students in general.

**ACTION:** P-team to task a group (including reps from Divisional Forum and AULF) to lead the Sherwood Fund activity effort and identify candidates for task force to invite and determine next steps.

### **Goal 3: Our science impacts decisions leading to a sustainable future**

#### **Objectives:**

1. *Improve our collective ability to communicate the impact of our science.*
2. *Increase the understanding of the impact of climate change*
3. *Increase the impact of plant science on public policy decisions*
4. *Increase the ability for critical audiences (growers, foresters, private sector, etc.) to make decisions based upon our knowledge*

#### **11. Leadership appointments (All)**

**ACTION:** Council to review and update historian role and qualifications needed in the MoO. Once updated, a call for volunteers will be sent out to the membership.

#### **12. Outreach Strategy and Status (Kevin, Jessica)**

As part of a new APS strategic effort, OPRO will work to improve APS's ability to communicate the impact of our science and empower our stakeholders\* to make critical decisions based on the information that we put forth. (\*regulators/policymakers, funders, and producers)

Goals by year end 2024:

- Create a consistent pipeline of relevant knowledge and information driven by use cases, science, and data derived from subject matter committees/ thought leaders.
- Craft these “stories” into compelling and actionable content for selected target audiences.

Long term:

- Establish APS as the recognized” plant health expert” that critical stakeholders (growers, foresters, private sector, etc.) seek out for the insight they need to make informed decisions, while also positioning us to help dictate the broader industry narrative.

Shared how process will work and timeline key dates and deliverables.

**RECOMMEND** OPRO reach out to marketing & communications depts at institutions and figure out a way of how we feed into them and use them as secondary outlet.

#### **13. Public Policy Strategy and Status (Linda K./Amy/Carol)**

Tie progress to our objectives:

- Improve our collective ability to communicate the impact of our science
- Increase the understanding of the impact of climate change
- Increase the impact of plant science on public policy decisions
- Increase the ability for critical audiences (growers, foresters, private sector, etc.) to make decisions based upon our knowledge

Tactic 3A: Identify high impact and urgent issues and utilize them in content development, policy discussions:

- Seed Pathology Issue Coordination
- NPDN Hill Visit
- Workforce Issues
- Lakisha Odom (FFAR) to present at PPB
- In-Person Fly-in January 17-19, 2024. Small group of invited to DC meeting: Mike Boehm, JP Dundore-Arias, Joyce Loper, Linda Kinkel

Tactic 3B: Identify subject matter experts within our membership that can serve as resources or experts.

- Endangered Species Act Webinar and Strategy Session (have had strong leadership from APS)
- Continued Refinement of Fast Response Teams
- Engagement with Industry through OPSR
- Farm Bill Advocacy

#### **14. Consideration of joint meeting with MSA in 2026 (Carolee/All)**

**ACTION:** Carolee to notify MSA that APS Council is supportive of a joint meeting and recommend we look at different meeting models such as collocated, and to identify what are they looking to get out of having a joint meeting with us and what each group's meeting expectations, including DEI and values are.

#### **15. Climate Summit Concept Discussion (Amy)**

- The concept of Climate Summit arose during last spring's Strategic Planning meeting discussions on how plant pathology ties into climate change in Goal C (Our science impacts decisions leading to a sustainable future).
- Could be a 1 ½ day meeting either in front of an APS annual meeting (possibly 2026) and task our committees with providing information on plant pathology and climate change.
- For bigger impact could engage other pathology groups and our sister societies.
- Afterwards could do a white paper with APS Public Policy Board to take to legislators and policy makers.
- Further discussion is needed and what we want to accomplish with a Climate Summit.

**ACTION:** Council to review Strategic Plan to see where else plant pathology and climate change are noted and do a gap analysis. Noted this will be a future agenda item on a Council call.

*Meeting adjourned for the day at 4:06 p.m. CDT.*

## **October 25, 2023**

### **A. Call to Order (Nik)**

Meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. CDT.

**Council present:** Nik Grünwald, Karen Garrett, Carolee Bull (virtual), Ron Walcott, Sydney Everhart, Nicole Donofrio (virtual), Jerry Weiland, Nicole Gauthier, George Sundin, Lawrence Datnoff, Bonnie Ownley, Sally Mallowa

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

### **B. Financial Health**



**RECEIVED** August statement.

The American Phytopathological Society's (APS) current fiscal year began on July 1st, 2023. The financial results discussed here represent two months of activity in the fiscal year 2024.

The net operating gain on the financial snapshot for the fiscal year is \$295,036, which is \$343,357 ahead of the budget. The variance is related to the catch-up invoicing for author and page charges that have been back logged due to previous vendor issues. The investment portfolio performance resulted in a \$11,531 net gain. This results in a total net gain of \$306,567 on August 31, 2023.

The Business Center recap tab shows that operations in all business centers compare favorably to budget on August 31st except for Grow-PHE.

Key metrics from the statement of financial position recap on August 31, 2023, are as follows:

- Total Assets - \$13,706,224 (this is what APS owns)
- Total Liabilities/Deferred Revenue - \$2,592,793 (this is what APS owes)
- Net Assets - \$11,113,431 (this is APS's net worth)

### **C. Plant Health 2023 Survey Summary (Megan/Tressa)**

**SHARED** Plant Health 2023 attendee snapshot from meeting survey:

#### **Survey Responses**

- Overall, 32% Response Rate
- 4.2/5 Rating for Overall Experience
- Networking and Presenting = main reasons for attending
  - Networking (67.86%), Presenting (58.12%)
- Posters receive the highest satisfaction rating, followed by sessions (special & technical) and networking opportunities.

**NOTED** would like to see more graduate students/post docs presenting orals but have received criticism that we've swung the opposite direction by reducing the number of orals. Encourage them to present at division meetings.

#### **Meeting Budget Statement**

Post Covid, meetings are different, and costs have increased significantly. Driving up variance includes increased attendance; costs savings being in 1 space and managing costs. Question- how do we return to a profitable meeting? To put on a meeting in 2023, it costs approx. \$800/per person. Need to keep these things in mind when planning our meetings.

Costs of Meetings:

- Food & Beverage has increased 40\$ (Coffee is \$196 a gallon for 20 cups), fruit and vegetable tray is about \$57, drink ticket is \$19 each.
- AV and internet have increased 30% (about \$150K)
- Hotel rooms increased 20%
- Speaker & Entertainment has increased 20%

Attendees Expectations (*source: Tactics to Help Resolve Competing Priorities in Planning Your Event, 9/7/23 article by Velvet Chainsaw*) Noted that any cutbacks made in these categories can negatively impact your attendee value proposition.

- Professional AV production
- High quality speakers/entertainment
- Food & beverage

Ways to help reduce costs:

- Decrease the event length by several hours or a half-day.
- Use no cost speakers for one of your keynote slots.
- Cut back on general session staging — repurpose the room.
- Reduce the number of concurrent sessions by 10–20 percent.
- Do not livestream.

Ways to increase revenue:

- Raise registration rates
- Increase Sponsorship – have Council members or other volunteers help out securing sponsors.
- Charge more for ancillary meetings

**RECOMMEND** we also include Access to this list.

**NOTED** APS Foundation has some funds available that are not being used. If access is important could repurpose some of these foundation funds and ask the Foundation Board to think bigger and repurpose funds to pay for some accessibility costs associated with annual meetings. (e.g. bringing in ASL). Noted APS could fund raise if funds are mission related.

Survey Responses – Future Planning:

- Topics of Interest include Emerging Diseases, AI, Biocontrol, Microbiome Analysis
  - Targeted content for 2024
  - Share with other APS content streams (i.e., Publications and Education)
- Most Desired Formats for Re-Purposing Content
  - (1) Virtual Posters - starting 2024 requesting pdf copy of poster
  - (2) Published Abstracts – doing already
  - (3) Recordings with Live Virtual Q&A - piloting with Hemp & Cannabis
- Virtual or Hybrid Conference?
  - Not Interested (average 3/10 rating)

AMB Shifts for 2024:

- Soliciting topics to design tracks and achieve desired content
- Encouraging collaboration and engaging session formats
- AMB working directly with session organizers

#### **D. Plant Health 2024 Plenary/Keynote Structure (Nik/Megan)**

- Have confirmed Charity Dean as Sunday morning’s keynote speaker.

- Suggested having only 2 plenary speakers and not having one on Wed due to low attendance on the last day of meeting.

**NOTED** that clear communication to our members is needed about revised program format.

#### **E. Memphis Feedback for Plant Health 2024:**

President team and staff working diligently on this.

**ACTION:** Include Memphis/Southern states annual meeting location discussion to future Council agendas.

#### **F. Plant Health 2025 Location (Tressa)**

Sent out numerous proposals but based on our needs and Karen's input the following top 3 locations are being proposed for 2025 include Portland, OR, Spokane, WA and Honolulu, HI.

**NOTED** that Tressa must get back to each of these cities by next week. 2025 is also an IS-MPMI year and will be an international meeting held in July.

**VOTED** unanimously to approve the location and dates for Plant Health 2025 to be Honolulu, Hawaii (August 2-5, 2025).

**ACTION:** P-team will communicate with CDEI about approach and key factors used in deciding city locations for annual meetings.

#### **G. Annual Reports from Committees (Sydney/Nicole/Jerry)**

**ACTION:** Linda to work with CALs on updating [Annual Committee Report Form](#) questions for 2024 reports.

**NOTED** individual reports submitted are listed in the Annual Report Dashboard

**SHARED** highlights:

- Committees have been active and successful over the year. Shows they are taking their roles seriously and the work with the Leadership Institute and training sessions.
- Have seen improved interactions and collaborations between committees.
- Assistance in satellite meetings and collaborations
- Some struggle with attendance at their virtual meetings. Look at holding in-person meetings in alternate years?

**NOTED** Councilors-at-Large (CALs) will schedule quarterly "Open CALs Hour" zoom meetings for committee leaders to drop in and ask questions/discuss/collaborate with other leaders and CALs.

**ACTION:** Include on future Council agenda discussion around in-person committee meetings at annual meeting.

- The Diagnostics Committee is requesting to change their name to Diagnosticians. This is due to concerns about potential overlap with the Plant Pathogen and Disease Detection Committee (who are also requesting a name change). The committee voted on and agreed upon the name change during their annual committee meeting and reflects the majority of committee members who are frontline diagnosticians as opposed to those who develop diagnostics and researchers

who may prefer to be in Plant Pathogen and Disease Detection Committee. Both committees will continue to work closely but they feel having more of a focus for each committee and less overlap will be beneficial and enable the Diagnosticians committee to serve diagnosticians better.

**MOTION:** to approve the subject matter committee name change of Diagnostics to Diagnosticians. *Seconded; motion passed.*

**ACTION:** Linda to notify committee and update committee listing online and the [SME section in the Manual of Operations](#).

- Plant Pathogen and Diseases Detection Committee is requesting to change their name to Disease Surveillance and Pathogen Detection Methods as well as updating their mission and vision statements to the following:
  - Mission: The Disease Surveillance and Pathogen Detection Methods Committee provides a forum to discuss current research issues on method development for plant pathogen detection and disease monitoring; and identify and promote responses to diagnostic method needs.
  - Vision: The Disease Surveillance and Pathogen Detection Methods Committee is composed of APS members interested in issues of method development for the detection of plant pathogens and diseases. The committee will serve as a connecting hub for APS members interested in diagnostic method development and validation and will collaborate with other committees and organizations to identify diagnostic method needs, develop diagnostics methods, validate existing diagnostic methods, and establish databases for diagnostic methods and subject matter experts in this field.

**MOTION:** to approve subject matter committee name change of Plant Pathogen and Diseases Detection Committee to Disease Surveillance and Pathogen Detection Methods and to approve their revised mission and vision and statements. *Seconded; motion passed.*

**ACTION:** Linda to notify committee and will update the committee name, mission and vision statements online and in the [SME section in the Manual of Operations](#).

**TABLED** Sally's Internal Communications Officer (ICO) summary of 2023 annual reports.

#### **H. Approval of Minutes (All)**

**MOTION:** to approve the September 28, 2023, minutes. *Seconded; motion carried.*

*Meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m. CDT.*