



PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

Texas Soil Profiles

2021 PSSAT Officers

President - Shanna Dunn, USDA-NRCS, Corpus Christi

President-Elect - Jamey Douglass, USDA-NRCS, retired, Temple

Vice-President - Lauren Selph, West Texas A&M University, Canyon

Treasurer - Travis Waiser, USDA-NRCS, Kerrville

Editor - Jon Brandt, TerrEval Consulting, Corpus Christi

Past-President - Laurie Kiniry, USDA-NRCS, retired, Temple

In this issue:

- Minutes from the PSSAT Annual Meeting (Feb 3, 2021) -- page 1
- Annual Meeting Reports -- page 5
- Soils News -- page 9
- Appreciation Letter from Jonathan Peters -- page 9
- Call for Newsletter Articles -- page 9

Minutes from the Professional Soil Scientists Association of Texas Annual Meeting February 3, 2021

Meeting conducted online, via Zoom. Meeting called to order at 7:13 p.m.

Online statistics: 33 attendees. Meeting duration: approximately 1-½ hours

Laurie Kiniry, PSSAT President, thanked everyone for attending.

Attendees introduced themselves

Treasurer's Report from Travis Waiser - see pages 5-6 for balance sheets

- Good year for General Fund
- Scholarship Fund was slightly in the red - generous donations from members keep this fund afloat. PayPal is a popular way to pay dues.
- The IRS paperwork for 2020 has already been filed.
- Budget is good for the following year because we're not having a meal nor renting a venue for this year's meeting.
- Dennis Brezina moved that the Budget be approved. Seconded by Wayne Gabriel. Approved by acclamation.

Webmaster Report from Carlos Villarreal - see page 7 for copy of report

- Took over from Jon Brandt in June 2020
- Added several useful links and field tour guides
- Added the Soil Scientist Spotlight - highlighting careers and providing insight for prospective soil scientists. Invited membership to participate.

Editor's Report from Jon Brandt

- We need content - please send photos, articles, and any soil-related items to bolster newsletter
- Talked about the coordinator that fields Ask-A-Soil Scientist questions from the website, maybe a member of the Public Relations and Education Committee.

Minutes from the 2020 Meeting

- Last year's Annual Meeting minutes were published in September 2020 PSSAT Newsletter
- Wayne Gabriel moved that the minutes shown on the screen be approved. Charlie Pehl seconded the motion. 2020 Minutes approved by acclamation.

Scholarship Committee Report from Amanda Bragg

There were three applicants this year, including an applicant from a university that's never participated before (The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley). This was one of the strongest groups of applicants we have received.



Jonathan Peters is this year's scholarship winner. He is an Army veteran and a junior at Texas Tech University - scheduled to graduate in December 2021. He is on the TTU President's Honor List.

Matt Siebecker commented that last year's scholarship winner, Cynthia Jordan, is now a soil science Master's student at Texas Tech University.

Ethics Committee Report from Wayne Gabriel

- If the By-Laws changes are approved, this will be the last Ethics Committee report. The Ethics Committee duties will be covered by the Executive Council.
- Wayne doesn't think we've ever had an ethics issue brought before us, including this year. He has a negative report.

Constitution and By-laws Committee Report from Jamey Douglass

- Changes proposed and published in January 2021 PSSAT Newsletter
- Some of the changes proposed, considering trend of dwindling membership:
 - reduce standing committee number from seven to six committees
 - reduce the number of members on committees
 - staggering tenures on committees

Wayne Gabriel moved that the Constitution and By-Laws changes described by Jamey be approved. Ed Janak seconded the motion. Changes approved by acclamation.

Finance Committee Report from Sidney Paulson

Treasurer's Report was reviewed by the committee. No errors found or questions for Treasurer.

Membership Committee Report from Travis/Carlos

- One new member from last year.
- Informed non-member attendees that application form is on the PSSAT website
- Laurie Kiniry mentioned that PSSAT's 40th anniversary is coming up next year and would like to have as many people as possible be part of it. Please encourage soil scientists to join PSSAT.

Public Relations and Education Committee

- Laurie mentioned there is a chair for each committee, except for this one - asking for a volunteer.
- Jon Brandt mentioned he spoke with Nathan about having a "speaker's bureau" comprised by PSSAT members. What prompted this discussion is that several PSSAT members have given classes and been involved with the Texas Master Naturalist program and Master Gardeners. Laurie commented that would be a good thing for that committee to consider.
- Dennis Brezina volunteered to be the PR/Education Committee chairman.
- Sidney Paulson moved that Dennis Brezina be approved as PR/Ed Chairman. Jon Brandt seconded the motion. Vote by membership not required.

Licensure Committee Report from Ed Janak - see page 8 for copy of his summary

THE VALUE OF PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENCE LICENSURE TO
THE PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH, SAFETY, AND
WELFARE IN TEXAS



Original document revised and compiled by PSSAT Committee

- Ed summarized the report from the PSSAT Committee for TBPG Sunset Review (PCTSR)
- Discussed parts of §851.22 - mentioning there is no waiver available for the Council of Soil Science Examination (CSSE) - Professional Practice
- Ed suggested that the Committee be disbanded.
- He was appointed to the Texas BPG in 2019. His tenure expires in 2025. Please contact him if you have any questions. There will be a seat for a soil scientist in 2025, since he will not be reapplying for reappointment.
- Wayne Gabriel asked about including the committee's report in the newsletter.

- Laurie commented that the document could be utilized by the PR/Ed Committee
- Susan Casby-Horton said the document is quite large - difficult to include in the newsletter. Wayne said there might be some good excerpts to include.
- Committee transmitted the report to Carlos Villarreal (PSSAT President at the time). He forwarded it to the Sunset Committee. Issue tabled for five years and will consider again in the future.
- Laurie Kiniry asked if there was any more discussion about the Committee Report
- Jon Brandt suggested to Carlos that we just put the whole document on the website. It would be easier than trying to publish excerpts in the newsletter. Ed Janak concurred. Wayne said the website would be a good place to archive it. Susan Casby-Horton - it could provide some information supporting the PSSAT 40th anniversary commemoration. Laurie said we will just put the report on the website. Laurie confirmed that the Committee is now disbanded.

New Business

- Wayne Gabriel mentioned that it would be nice to include a summary of PSSAT accomplishments, history, etc. as part of the 40th Anniversary commemoration. Also, Zoom meetings can allow more membership contact and facilitate technical sessions. Wayne volunteered to help Dennis Brezina with this. Laurie has mentioned to Shanna Dunn (President-Elect) she will also volunteer for 40th Anniversary.
- Wayne shared the 25th Anniversary logo. His daughter is working on updating the logo to reflect the 40th anniversary (1982 - 2022).
- No other new business

Nominations for Officers

- Nominations for Officers - published in January 2021 PSSAT Newsletter
- Travis did not receive any mail-in absentee votes.
- Absentee Ballot shown on the screen. Any additions to the ballot? None.
- Ed Janak moved that the nominees be approved. Wayne Gabriel seconded the motion. Nominees approved by acclamation.

New Committee Chairs

Laurie Kiniry named the new Committee Chairs:

- Scholarship - Amanda Bragg
- Nominations - Laurie Kiniry
- Finance - Jon Wiedenfeld
- Constitution and By-Laws - Jamey Douglass
- Membership - Jamey Douglass
- Public Relations and Education - Dennis Brezina

Laurie Kiniry made concluding remarks. Thanked attendees and committee chairs for their work. Virtually passed the gavel to Shanna Dunn.

Shanna thanked Laurie, especially embracing the challenges this last year and having an online annual meeting. She presented a Willow Tree figurine to Laurie in appreciation for her leadership this last year - she will be mailing it to her.

Shanna mentioned there are some upcoming tours and other things in the works to help commemorate PSSAT's 40th anniversary. There are some exciting things coming up for PSSAT the next couple of years.

Shanna Dunn adjourned meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Annual Meeting Reports

Treasurer's Report

Summary of Financial Information					
BANK OF AMERICA CREDITS					
General	\$475.83				
Scholarship	\$499.00				
	Total Credits \$974.83				
BANK OF AMERICA DISBURSEMENTS					
General	\$714.05				
Scholarship	\$1,500.00				
	Total Disbursements \$2,214.05				
	Difference (\$1,239.22)				
Bank Balance 1/1/2020	\$8,802.52				
Bank Balance 12/31/2020	\$7,563.30				
	Difference (\$1,239.22)				
PAYPAL CREDITS	\$1,344.00				
PAYPAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$51.23				
	Difference \$1,292.77				
PayPal Balance 1/1/2020	\$32.71				
PayPal Balance 12/31/2020	\$1,292.77				
	Difference \$1,260.06				
CASH ON HAND AND IN BANK – 1/1/2020	\$8,835.23				
CASH ON HAND AND IN BANK – 12/31/2020	\$8,856.07				
	Difference \$20.84				
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> General Fund at Beginning of Year \$4,190.23 </td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"> Scholarship Fund Beginning of Year \$4,612.29 </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"> General Fund End of Year \$3,952.01 </td> <td style="padding: 5px;"> Scholarship Fund End of Year \$3,611.29 </td> </tr> </table>		General Fund at Beginning of Year \$4,190.23	Scholarship Fund Beginning of Year \$4,612.29	General Fund End of Year \$3,952.01	Scholarship Fund End of Year \$3,611.29
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General Fund End of Year \$3,952.01	Scholarship Fund End of Year \$3,611.29				

**Professional Soil Scientists Association of Texas
2021 Proposed Budget**

General Fund	
INCOME	
Dues - Current Members (49)	\$490
Dues - Student Members (2)	\$20
Dues - New Members (1)	\$10
2021 Annual Meeting Fee (45 Meals)	\$675
Merchandise (from current and new inventory)	\$250
	TOTAL \$1,445
EXPENSES	
2021 Annual Meeting (Catering)	\$675
Postage	\$25
Website (Account Fee and Domain Registration)	\$155
2021 Photo Contest (Printing, Frames, Ribbons)	\$0
Merchandise	\$200
Sponsorship - Awards Soil Judging Contest	\$0
	TOTAL \$1,055
	Difference \$390
Scholarship Fund	
INCOME	
Dues - Current Members (49)	\$735
Dues - New Members (1)	\$15
Donations - Sustaining Members	\$250
Interest Income	\$1
	TOTAL \$1,001
EXPENSES	
Scholarship	\$1,500
	TOTAL \$1,500
	Difference (\$499)
Net Income (\$109)	

Webmaster Report

PSSAT Webpage Report

Annual Meeting – February 3, 2021

Website

Changes:

- Scholarship committee email address has been added to submit scholarship applications
- Added SoilWeb link on the **Information on Soils** page. This is a great resource and is an alternative to web soil survey
- Added a few more Field Tour Guides (Conservation and Sustainable Ag Field Tour, March 2020) and Newsletters on the member page

The biggest change has been the Soil Scientist Spotlight. This is an opportunity to highlight our members and gives members an idea of what a soil scientist career looks like. Kelly Attebury was our guinea pig and his missive is awesome! We have a template for interested members to fill out to guide the bio.

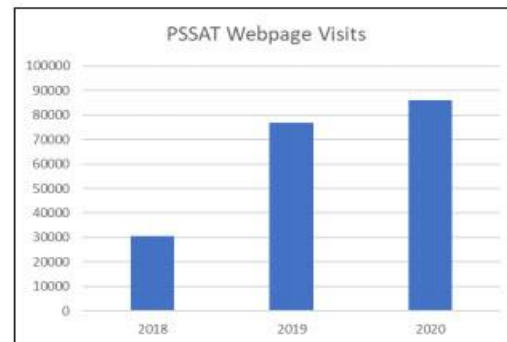
Other than that, I appreciate Jon's guidance and encouragement this past year and I look forward to serving as the webmaster!

Webpage Visits

Visitors from 76 countries viewed the webpage. There were more visits from people in the United States than from any other country. The top five countries visiting our webpage were:

- Great Britain
- Canada
- Ukraine
- Denmark
- China

Number of visits to the webpage in 2020 was approximately 12% higher than that in 2019. The site averaged 7,168 visits/month last year.



Webpage Cost

- Annual domain registration is \$20
- Web hosting fees: \$45/year (Datarealm)
- Total cost: \$65/year

Ask a Soil Scientist

There was only one request for information/assistance submitted to the webpage in 2020. Three PSSAT members responded: Travis Waiser; Wayne Gabriel; and Cristine Morgan. The question came from Georgia – regarding lawn algae (*Nostoc sp.*).

Prepared by **Carlos Villarreal, Webmaster** and Jon Brandt, Interim Webmaster; February 3, 2021

Licensure Committee Report

PSSAT Committee for TBPG Sunset Review

The Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists (TBPG) underwent the legislative sunset review process during 2017 and 2018. Pursuant to a request by proponents of TBPG's continued existence and function (i.e., the existence of the Professional Geoscientist license) for permission to include the PSSAT logo on the cover of a document explaining the "value of professional geoscience licensure protection of the public's health, safety and welfare in Texas," the PSSAT Committee for TBPG Sunset Review (PCTSR) was appointed by PSSAT President Chance Robinson following the 2017 PSSAT annual meeting. The PCTSR was charged with editing/updating a document produced in the early 2000s by proponents of the then-proposed Geoscientist Licensure Act. I had the honor of chairing the PCTSR, which is without a doubt the hardest working committee I've ever been part of: Kelly Attebury, Jon Brandt, Susan Casby-Horton and Paul Reynolds. We spent countless hours independently and many hours together on the phone, initially "refreshing" the old document and ultimately scrapping it in favor of focusing on the soil science discipline. Although it was a true group effort, Kelly and Jon stepped up to do the heaviest lifting, the result being an informative document that not only served its intended purpose, but which could be useful for other purposes for years to come – as I told the committee in an August 2018 thank you note, I believe it's a very well fleshed-out framework for promotional and educational use to explain who we are and what we do. We provided the finished product to then-President Carlos Villareal, who then provided it to the proponents.

Things did not look good for TBPG in the initial sunset committee reports, and many were surprised at the final outcome, continuation of the TBPG and our license until September 2025. As I understand, public input (which I assume includes our document as well as the comments offered in writing and at the 2018 public hearing) swayed the committee's decision considerably.

The next TBPG sunset review is at least a few years out, so I believe the PCTSR has fulfilled its purpose and it's time to put us out to pasture. However, as mentioned previously, I believe the document we generated has great potential for other uses. As such, I suggest tasking one of the standing committees or an ad hoc committee with exploring that potential.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Janak
PCTSR Chairman

Soils News

USDA 2021 Soils Planner

You can download the PDF here:

<https://nrcspad.sc.egov.usda.gov/DistributionCenter/pdf.aspx?productID=1617>

Chicken Manure

<https://www.soils.org/news/science-news/surprising-power-chicken-manure>

Texas Tech University press release about PSSAT Scholarship

<https://www.depts.ttu.edu/pss/newsroom/posts/2021/02/jonathan-peters-pssat-scholarship.php>

Appreciation Letter from Jonathan Peters

PSSAT Scholarship Committee,

I want to personally thank you for choosing me as the Professional Soil Scientists Association of Texas scholarship recipient. Through this scholarship, I will continue my path towards academic excellence and strive to make valuable contributions as a Soil Scientist.

I am originally from East Tennessee and I joined the Army at age 20. While in the Army, I deployed to Afghanistan in support of operation enduring freedom and was a recipient of multiple military awards. On June 9, 2019, my fiancé and I welcomed our first child Ezlyn into our lives. We are proud parents and your contributions will ensure that I am able to finish my education so that I may provide a future full of opportunity and promise for my loved ones.

As a father, a student, and a veteran, this scholarship will ensure that I will be able to continue my education and relieve some of the financial stress that comes with being a full-time student and having a family. Thank you again. I am honored and will be forever thankful.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Peters

Plant and Soil Science

Texas Tech University

Call for Newsletter Articles

Please send articles, information, or photos that are suitable for future newsletters to: editor@pssat.org

Thank you!