

A ROUNDTABLE ON MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTIST

Co-Sponsored by

**U.S. Consortium of Soil Science Associations(USCSSA)
and
Soil Science Society of America (SSSA)**

Action Plan: Updated - August 22nd, 2003

Purposes:

1. To conduct a roundtable meeting where the needs and interests of professional soil scientists will be shared and discussed.
2. To develop a coordinated effort between the USCSSA and the SSSA to provide improved services to professional soil scientists.
3. To strengthen the working relationships between the USCSSA and the SSSA in order to meet future needs of the members of both organizations.

Procedure and Responsible Individuals:

1. The roundtable is scheduled for Tuesday, November 4th at 7:30 p.m. It will be held in the Colorado Convention Center, Room A209. The formal program will last one hour, but the room and “cash bar” will be available until 9:30 p.m. for those that wish to stay and talk.

Current status of plans: Tom Sims has contacted ASA-CSSA-SSSA headquarters and arranged for the room, refreshments, “roundtables” and cash bar.

2. The roundtable will be publicized by SSSA via the CSA News, the “Society News Flash”, and by other means (e.g., our web site). The USCSSA will also publicize the roundtable by communicating directly to each of its member organizations by a direct mailing and by e-mail. Members of the planning committee are encouraged to communicate information about the roundtable to others as well, such as by division list-serves, state or regional newsletters and websites. (Responsible: Tom Sims and Sara Uttech, SSSA and Jim Culver, USCSSA).

Current status of plans: An article on the roundtable was in the June 20, 2003 “News Flash” distributed to ASA-CSSA-SSSA members by email. A more detailed article appeared in the July CSA News. In early fall all

SSSA division officers will be contacted by Tom Sims and asked to attend and invite their members to participate. A special email will be sent to all undergraduate students and graduate students informing of the roundtable. An article will be placed in the CSA newsletter distributed at the meetings. Jim Culver will contact member organizations of the USCSSA and encourage their participation.

Actions Needed: Please distribute information about this roundtable to other organizations and interested groups (copy of the CSA article is attached for your use).

3. SSSA will investigate the possibility of obtaining CEUs for those attending the roundtable. If possible, this will be included in all advertising. (Responsible: Luther Smith, ICCA).

Current status of plans: Luther Smith has investigated this and it does not appear possible to provide CEUs for participation in the roundtable.

4. There will be short welcoming and overview remarks by Mike Singer for SSSA and Jim Culver for USCSSA. These remarks will address the efforts of both organizations to provide greater support for practicing soil scientists and to develop a stronger working relationship between SSSA and USCSSA. (Responsible: Mike Singer, SSSA and Jim Culver, USCSSA).

Current status of plans: Mike Singer and Jim Culver are set for the welcoming remarks.

5. After the opening remarks, there will be a panel discussion on specific ideas and options by which SSSA and USCSSA could meet the needs of practicing soil scientists. The panel will consist of several individuals with input from others on the planning committee. Panel topics and panel members include: (Responsible: Planning committee to identify topics and speakers, Tom Sims and Jim Culver to follow-up with contacting them).

Current status of plans: The following individuals will serve on the panel. All have been contacted and have agreed to make a short presentation on the subjects described below.

Needs and Opportunities for the Professional Soil Scientist: Margie Faber, Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England.

- a. *SSSA's Role in Meeting the Needs of the Professional Soil Scientist - Certification, Education, and Technology Transfer.* Tom Rice, SSSA S236.1 Membership Identity and Visibility committee and Luther Smith, Executive Director, ICCA program

- b. *Enhancing Recognition of Soil Science as a Professional Discipline*: Bob Kendall, National Society of Consulting Soil Scientists.
- c. *Role of Professional Soil Scientists in the the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit and the 18th World Congress of Soil Science*: Patrick Drohan (Smithsonian Exhibit) and Lee Sommers and John Kimble (18th WCSS).

After the panel discussion, there will be roundtables set up to address each topic covered by the panel. The panel members will coordinate discussion at the roundtable for their topic. There will be additional roundtables provided for others that wish to share information and obtain input at this meeting. Some possibilities discussed to date are:

Current status of plans: The following have agreed to set up “roundtables” after the panel discussion and (i) provide information, handouts, etc. on their organizations; (ii) collect feedback for use by the planning committee after the Denver meeting.

Actions Needed: Please review the following list and suggest any additional roundtable topics and individuals who could cover these topics.

- d. Council of Soil Science Examiners (Dawn Tracy)
- e. S236.1 Membership, Identity, and Visibility (Tom Rice, Chair)
- f. ARCPACS (Luther Smith, Myra Peak and John Zupancic)
- g. “How can soil science organizations unite to promote common goals in affecting local, state, regional and national policy”. (Tom Fenton Professional Soil Classifiers of Iowa)
- h. Smithsonian soil science exhibit and 18th WCSS (Val Breunig)

Follow-up: After the meeting in Denver, we will schedule a conference call to discuss options and plans for future activities. (Responsible: Tom Sims and Tom Rice, SSSA and Jim Culver, USCSSA).

Current status of plans: Tom Sims and Jim Culver will arrange for a conference call in early December of 2003 to discuss the next steps in our cooperative efforts.