

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the AGU Technical Committee on Soil Systems and Critical Zone Processes.

The meeting took place on 3 Dec 2012 from 6:15 pm to 7:15 pm in Rm. 125 of the Moscone Center North Building in San Francisco.

Members of the Technical Committee present:

Lin, Henry  
Pachepsky Yakov (committee co-chair)  
Sztein, Ester  
Vereecken, Harry  
Young, Michael

Committee members calling in:  
Fricks, Barbara (committee webmaster)  
Wallenstein, Matthew  
Jennifer King

AGU session chairs:  
Davidson, Eric (Biogeosciences)  
Lettenmaier, Dennis (Hydrology)

Invited:  
Brüggemann, Nicholas  
Bui, Elizabeth  
Mohanty, Binayak

Yakov Pachepsky presided.

Introductions and welcomes were made and exchanged. Yakov Pachepsky briefly recalled the reasons and the process of the committee creation by Biogeosciences and Hydrology sections.

Eric Richardson and Yakov Pachepsky summarized the Biogeosciences Executive Committee meeting held earlier on the same day. In particular, they mentioned the report of the fellows committee and the need to work more actively on the search of prospective fellow candidates and the status of judges for the student poster award. They also discussed the new Sulzman medal award for mid-career women scientists, the change in the AGU calendar for committee work and nominations, and Tuesday's business meeting and informal reception that can be used for promotion of committee agenda and recruiting.

The updates on two committee initiatives were made.

Harry Vereecken gave an update on the successful effort to organize a topical soil Chapman conference that he led. The proposal of the AGU Chapman conference "Soil-mediated drivers of coupled biogeochemical and hydrological processes across scales" was approved by AGU. The conference will take place at the University of Arizona Biosphere 2 science research facility in the fall of 2013. Details of

the proposal are available at the committee website <http://www.soils-agu.ethz.ch/news-and-events.php#ancre3>. The conference flyer and the AGU conference website are under preparation.

Michael Young informed about the status of the conference "Soil Systems and Critical Zone Processes. Integrate Life Support Functions across Disciplines" that received the approval of the ETHZ and support of the US National Academies, government and international agencies and programs (NSF, NEON, SoilTrec, CGIAR, Fluxnet, WFSC), and scientific societies (ESA, AGU, EGU). Information on the conference is available at the conference website <http://www.intersoil2013.ethz.ch/index.php>

The committee website was demonstrated and its status discussed. Work of the current webmaster, Barbara Fricks was noted and duly appreciated. It was proposed to research possible benefits from and benefits of using social networks, such as Facebook and Twitter.

The meeting agenda item on rotation of committee chairs and members was addressed by Dennis Lettenmaier. The hydrology section of AGU has established bylaws that regulate committee functioning. Committee leadership and members are appointed by section chair after the committee proposes changes and discusses them at the level of the current section leadership.

Prospects of working with and in the other scientific societies were discussed. Michael Young informed about the initiative to create the soil committee in the Geological Society of America. Eric Davidson detailed the existing MOU with Soil Science Society of America as a blueprint for working with other societies. Eszter Stein mentioned contacts with the International Union of Soil Sciences. Yakov Pachepsky noted that soil-related AGU FM 2012 sessions included almost 20% of presenters from geomorphology and climate change sections. Committee discussed with Elizabeth Bui about the feasibility and ways of involving G section in the committee activities. A committee internal discussion on this matter was proposed.

The current and future influence of the committee on the soil research representation in the AGU FM meetings was discussed. Henry Lin suggested several approaches to making soil topical sessions more attractive. It was decided to use the new AGU programmatic format SWIRL to link and emphasize AGU soil research at AGU 2013 meeting, and to task Yakov Pachepsky with making inquiries into this matter.

Highlights of the soil-related presentations at FM AGU 2012, including the Langbein lecture "The Soil Underfoot: Green Water and Global Food Security," were mentioned.