

Minutes of the AGU Technical committee on soil systems and critical zone processes – Fall 2013

- The meeting took place on 10 Dec 2013 in Rm. 110 Moscone North from 6:45 AM to 7:45 AM.
- Attendance.
 - Committee members in person - Kate Lajtha, Dani Or, Yakov Pachepsky, Elise Pendall, Harry Vereecken
 - Committee Members on the phone - Michael Young, Jennifer King
 - AGU BG section - past-president - Jennifer Harden
 - AGU Hydrology section – president-elect Efi Foufoula, section secretary Terri Hogue
 - NSF The National Science Foundation Critical Zone Observatory Program - program director Enriqueta C Barrera
 - USDA-NIFA - National program leader for soils, ecosystems, and Global Change and Climate Nancy Cavallaro
- TC meeting co- chairs - Dani Or and Yakov Pachepsky
- Following a short introduction of the participants, the fall 2012 SSCZP TC minutes were distributed and approved
- TC-related activities:

Summaries of the committee initiatives were presented. Dani Or informed about the conference on soil systems and critical zone processes integrating life support functions across disciplines in Monte Verita Switzerland (<http://www.intersoil2013.ethz.ch/>). Harry Vereecken reported on the Chapman Conference on Soil-mediated Drivers of Coupled Biogeochemical and Hydrological Processes Across Scales (<http://chapman.agu.org/soil-mediated/>). SSCZP technical committee members led the development and organization of both meetings - the efforts of Dani Or, Michael Young, Harry Vereecken was acknowledged and appreciated. Both meetings were well attended, presented the breakthrough information in the field, provided excellent opportunities for discussions and networking, and offered good opportunities of participation for young scientists.
- The AGU SWIRL (Global Soils):

The first AGU SWIRL on soils was discussed. The establishing the SWIRL was deemed the important step in further promotion of soils among Earth science disciplines. The efforts of Kate Lajtha was acknowledged and appreciated. The participants expressed the general sense that the announced composition of the SWIRL was incomplete and several essential soil and critical zone-related sessions could have been included. The TC feels that the SWIRL committee could benefit from the inclusion of people committed and familiar with the various themes (Soils in our case) which was not the case in 2013. It was suggested that the committee leadership will work on balanced representation of soil sessions and topics in the SWIRL.
- Interactions with other societies and upcoming events:

Michael Young informed about creation of the soil interest group at the Geological Society of

America. Jennifer King informed about discussions with the Ecological Society of America. Both contact were considered to be of interest and further discussions were proposed to outline possible joint activities.

The suggestion of interactions between the AGU and EGU on soil topics and agenda was discussed. Harry Vereecken agreed to contact the EGU Soil System Division leadership to determine and plan productive interactions.

Marc Cramer presented the initiative on creative an international committee on critical zone studies. The initiative was met with interest, and it was suggested to work close with the group as their agenda, activities, and membership will develop.

Yakov Pachepsky informed on preparations for the conference on complex soil systems to be held in September 2014. Committee was positive on supporting this initiate.

- SSCZP TC co-chairs rotation:

The procedure and timing for the rotation of the TC co-chairs was discussed. It was proposed to the Hydrology and Biogeosciences sections that Kate Lajtha will become the new co-chair from the Biogeosciences section. Dani Or has agreed to remain as co-chair for one more to provide continuity in the TC leadership. As the next co-chair from the Hydrology section, Harry Vereecken was proposed and supported by the participants pending approval by the Hydrology section president.

- The meeting was adjourned by the co-chairs at 7:45