



**International Society of Precision Agriculture (ISPA) Board Meeting Minutes
July 20th, 2014
Sacramento, CA**

Participants: John Stafford, President; Ken Sudduth, President-Elect; Nicolas Tremblay, Secretary; Quentin Rund, PAQ Interactive; Raj Khosla, past-President; Tyrell Fickenscher, treasurer; Harold Reetz, Executive Director.

The meeting was called to order at 21:00 by J. Stafford, president of the Board of Directors of ISPA.

Newsletter

- K. Sudduth has managed to produce three newsletters during his term. A few articles are still sitting unpublished. Some English editing has still to be done on one. A release should be made in the next month or so. K. Sudduth will pass on what is left to N. Tremblay. Country reps can do more to stuff the newsletters.
- Board decision: Revise the web site (members benefits) to promise a newsletter twice a year.

Country representatives

- There are 34 represented. The Board has the authority to replace an individual. There should be a slide in the closing ceremony stating “If your country is not there contact us”. Many countries from Europe are not represented. The list of participants to the 12th ICPA should be used as a start. R. Khosla suggests exerting a presence on the Capitol Hill on some issues that we think need political actions. It would establish ISPA as a Society with members from a large number of countries.

Branches

- There is one Branch established in China (Hubei). An initial version of the report has been produced, though incomplete. A revision with corrections has been released since then. An event has to happen, likely next spring.
- Would the Korean Society on Precision Agriculture like to affiliate with ISPA as a Korean chapter? Sun Ok Chung is leader of ACPA, not of the KSPA. President of KSPA is Kyou-Seung Lee, Professor at SungKyunKwan University.
- Representatives from Brazil were interested in establishing a chapter that would however be active in Portuguese, which is not a problem for ISPA.

Divisions

- The Divisions should foster symposia, or chair sessions. Every 2 years there should be a change in Divisions leadership. They should work on white papers on relevant issues. Financial incentives are not necessary but the option to

request funding from the Board for initiatives would also be possible. Such seed money may help leveraging contributions from the Industry.

ICPA pre-conference organisation

- John will announce at the opening session ICPA's policy on taking pictures and getting PPTs off the computers. Instructions will be printed and handed to the session chairs.
- Expenses for putting the meeting together in Sacramento are higher than in the Midwest. It is the 6th time in a row that we have registration costs at the same level. It is often 1300\$ or 1400\$ for other societies outside of agriculture. Participants were happy with the welcoming reception (food).
- The 12th ICPA should be very close to breakeven (2014). It may be slightly negative since the numbers are a bit low. We have 399 total registrations projected (408 now). Many registrations come late, however. We are following the line from the previous ICPA pretty close. Exhibits are lower this time [20 booths (planned for 33; 40 booths in the previous ICPA). A problem is the proximity of the InfoAg conference. We are missing Geonics for example.] InfoAg comes now every year. Crop Life wanted to start anew but finally stuck with InfoAg.
- The sponsorships income compares favorably to previous conferences (to our projections).
- About 20 k\$ comes from memberships.

Board nominations

- We need to do elections earlier next time.

Accountability, insurance, auditing

- Tax structure
 - The ISPA is registered in Illinois. For the past 3-4 years, H. Reetz has been filing to IRS and the reports were normally accepted except for this past year when it was rejected. It appears that ISPA has never been approved for a 501C3 Non-profit organization status. We did not know we had to do it.
 - For that matter, there is a 30 page application we have to go through. This needs 4 years of financial records, documentation, purposes of the Society. It should not be difficult. T. Fickenscher has 2 years of financial records and Quentin Rund should have a part to play as well. For some years, ISPA had no income whatsoever.
 - H. Reetz agrees to proceed with the request with no compensation, since an Executive secretary should be doing that. He will do it and will invoice to T. Fickenscher for any expenses incurred. Others may need to provide the necessary papers.
- Auditing
 - Gary Black is still open to do the auditing but the 501c3 application has to be done before he can do the complete audit for ISPA
- Liability insurance
 - T. Fickenscher is bonded for 15,000 \$. If a higher check is issued, the ISPA is not bound. The level is a standard policy for the bank (about 15% of what is in the account).

- According to Q. Rund, PAQ Interactive pays everything from the conference and issues a check to ISPA for what is left. Aside, PAQ issues a comprehensive report of what is done for ISPA.
- Professional liability for the Board
 - Board decision: Request from T. Fickenscher to look for an umbrella policy including the Board and determine how much would that cost.

Financial report

- T. Fickenscher presents his financial report to the Board.
- R. Khosla makes a motion that 50 K\$ go in a certificate of deposit. Motion carried.
- IPNI will not back up anymore. It never had to in the past. We have always been in black since the formation of ISPA. This is a good argument to Paul Fixen to still support ISPA and get 10% of the conference revenue to them (Net revenue from ICPA alone).
- ISPA funding buffer may be helpful in supporting a contract with a hotel.

The board meeting was adjourned at 23:00.