



ISPA

*International Society
of Precision Agriculture*

**International Society of Precision Agriculture (ISPA) Board Meeting Minutes
July 23rd, 2014
Sacramento, CA**

Participants: Ken Sudduth, President; Nicolas Tremblay, President Elect; John Stafford, Past-President; Raj Khosla, Society historian (absent for a part of the meeting); Harold Reetz, Executive Director; Quentin Rund, PAQ Interactive. (Absent: Tyrell Fickenscher, treasurer, Viacheslav Adamchuk, new Secretary).

The meeting was called to order at 20:00 by K. Sudduth, president of the Board of Directors of ISPA.

Reviewing the conference – good and bad

- Facilities
 - Room capacities were just right. There were always a few seats available.
 - There was hardly any place to interact close to the hall. Tables could have been placed in the corridor with sit down places to network.
 - The quiet room (Sequoia) was not announced enough.
- Catering
 - The food was very good and much appreciated. It was served efficiently with no delay.
 - The hotel counts the number of servings. A higher proportion of attendees than usual made advantage of the food offered.
- Program and schedule
 - There was a schedule goof in R. Khosla's session which was corrected on the poster board but was still annoying. A sheet should be made available every day – "daily news" sheet.
 - There were several misspells in the program.
 - There were four missing papers in the UAV session. Some did not get visas (2 orals) while the full paper was still submitted. Most problems were known but were not adjusted in the official program.
 - There were ten posters no show in the first session and eleven in the second. This is almost half of the posters. All had their 2-pages summaries submitted. We could have managed with just one poster session. A fee for submission such as 25\$ should be considered for the next ICPA.
 - Chairpersons should exercise the respect of the schedule
- Audio-visual
 - The keynote speaker could not see the screen.
 - The Golden State room on the 15th floor was too long and the screen too small.

- Pointers were often not working and keypads would not react quickly enough for substitution. Battery power should be checked next time.
- Music
 - The musical entertainment on Tuesday was appreciated but it was a bit too long within an already long session. Thirty minutes would have been better than 50.
- Exhibitors
 - There were many participants visiting the exhibits. The exhibitors were generally satisfied.
- Financial outcome
 - The 12th ICPA should be close to break even but it is too early to tell. More people used the food than usual. Twelve tour participants will have to be refunded because one bus was returned. However, the printing of abstract books and proceedings were dropped.
 - With 2 years of membership, 24 k\$ are coming into the account. Therefore no need to raise the registration fee until it is found necessary.

Lessons to be learnt for the next conference

- A sheet should be made available every day – “daily news” sheet.
- Battery power should be checked on laser pointers.
- A fee for poster submission such as 25\$ should be considered.
- Instructions to chairman should go in the policies.
- Don't have a chairman giving also a presentation
- Build a 5 minutes period prior to the lectures for the chairman to make announcements
- Tables should be placed in the corridor with sit down places to network
- A quiet room should be managed and the participants should be well informed of its location.
- A mention in the program should be made asking people not to take pictures or PPTs off the computer for copyright reasons.
- Price for registration should be maintained low even if it has never changed since the beginning.
- Participant list should be sent to participants, including exhibitors
- Potential merging of next ICPA with InfoAg will be explored
 - There is however a need to preserve the identity of ICPA, based on ECPA experience. We should likely not go for a full overlap.
 - Steve Philips is supportive of the idea but may be too busy to discuss the idea at the next InfoAg.
 - A-Z would be the InfoAg part
 - A membership deal would have to be struck with InfoAg
- Montreal may be considered for a future conference.

ISPA conferences

- The next ECPA is in Israel (July 2015)

- The same arrangement for ISPA memberships as in Lleida should be organized. If ECPA participants choose to become a member ECPA pays ISPA 50\$
- Web presence could be with a separate tab on ISPA which links to the ECPA website system
- The next ACPA is in South China (November 2015)
 - We have to aim for a similar arrangement for ISPA memberships as with ECPA.
 - Should there be a web presence for the ACPA conference within ISPA?

ISPA image/visibility

- The Tri-societies and ASABE have distributed registration information about the conference
- Would there be a need to reach out to other groups not historically highly involved with us (such as livestock)? There is likely little impact of campaigning. The best is to have the word spread that the ISPA is dynamic and other groups will come.
- A female representative of a company from India was seeking interaction with us for the promotion of conferences on “Geospatial media” (more than agriculture) in Mexico, Indonesia, Portugal and elsewhere. Possibilities are to suggest speakers to them, install a booth to recruit members and have the booth under the responsibility of country representatives.

Format of conference proceedings

- They will be provided free to members and participants to ICPA
- Non-members would have to pay a fee (e.g. 30 \$) as an incentive to become a member
- Clear instructions will be sent out as how to reach the proceedings
- The author index will be clickable
- We have to put in place a permanent repository where the Proceedings will reside in perpetuity including the ones of the previous conferences.
- The copyright ownership is not clear when we submit an abstract. This needs to be clarified. Q. Rund would welcome some “wording” from other venues.

Society historian

- R. Khosla is involved in ICPA/ISPA since 2006 (taking over from D. Mulla). He wants to provide continuity, keep connectivity on Policies and track statistics by working on documents. He has a number of papers available from previous initiatives.

Policies

- An upgradeable document with policies is needed. Q. Rund will send what he has to the Board. N. Tremblay will add-up to it and it will then be circulated to the rest of the Board for inputs. Issues like what to do when there is a tie between two awardees and copyright ownership should be included.

Varia

- Divisions
 - Our Divisions need to be tied-up by targetting issues with a future. They could be focused on the production of systematic reviews and/or meta-analyses and contribute to the collection and organization of databases, for example. N. Tremblay will send information on the purposes and the means. The Divisions may also be involved in the agreement and diffusion of standards (for example “Yield map visualization standards”. The ICPA session on standards was packed. The example of AgGateway could be followed. Divisions may provide a platform for inputs by scientists, a connectivity point; a “Clearing house” type of function. Seed money may be used from ISPA together with sponsorships for making things happen.
- Country representative
 - Some cleaning has to be done. Mandates should be clearly attributed according to membership.
- Memberships
 - Emails for renewals don’t go out automatically yet. Should the membership be 2 years or 1 calendar year? Most societies on calendar year. A decision was made by the Board that, from now, the renewals would go by the anniversary of the first membership subscription. Lifetime members won’t have to renew. Corporate sponsorships will be accepted to the society but employees would have to pay memberships. Currently IPNI is labeled as “founding member”. A rate has to be set for student membership. ICPA was 250 for students with 1 year membership. Students have to be members to get an award. The Board made the decision that students would pay the regular fee for memberships. Member numbers are currently on the website.
- Our website is well protected and backed-up according to Q. Rund.

The board meeting was adjourned at 21:00.