

# AAPSE BOD Minutes

7/30/18

11:00am-12:110 pm  
Eastern

Zoom/Teleconference

**Meeting called by:** Kerry Richards

**Type of meeting:** Board of Directors (BOD)

**Recorded by:** Betsy Buffington

**Attendees:** EC: Betsy Buffington, Kim Brown, Don Renchie, Kerry Richards  
Regional Reps: Faye Golden, Pat Hastings, Tana Haugen-Brown, Michael Wierda  
Other: Dan Wixted during agenda item 5.

## *Minutes*

**Agenda item:** 1. Treasurer's Report **Presenter:** Sonja Thomas

**Discussion:** No report.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Send financial snapshot of membership numbers and expenses, income, and balances of each account to Betsy Buffington.	Sonja Thomas	8/10/18

**Agenda item:** 2. San Antonio Meeting **Presenter:** Kerry Richards

- a. AAPSE BOD meeting details
- b. Regional input on topics to be discussed
- c. Booth display
- d. Agendas

### **Discussion:**

**2a.** Kim Brown moved to have refreshments at the Sunday afternoon BOD meeting in San Antonio. Seconded by Don Renchie. Motion passed.

**2b.** Discussed results of polls from Western and Southern regions. Will discuss more in person in San Antonio. Pat Hastings asked that retiring members note who their replacements will be, if any. Mike Wierda suggested asking the question in an AAPSE listserv poll. Kerry Richards suggested that regional reps poll their members and get the information back to Kerry. Pat Hastings requested permission to send the draft agenda to the regions when asking for additional topics. Request accepted (see agenda item 2d).

**2c.** Faye Golden suggested that AAPSE consider having a booth at the meeting because of the overlap with the APSCRO meeting to provide information about AAPSE and possibly get some new members. The fee is \$500 to display Monday, Tuesday, and a ½ day Wednesday. Tana Haugen-Brown asked if AAPSE had the budget to have a display. Kerry Richards replied that she didn't think we specifically budgeted for a display, but we have the funds available. Mike Wierda asked if the booth would need to have someone present the entire time. Kerry Richards stated that the displays will be an area that people can man the booth and still participate in the meeting. Faye Golden moved to reserve a booth at the San Antonio meeting for AAPSE and pay \$500 for it. Seconded by Mike Wierda. Motion passed.

**2d.** Tentative agendas for the AAPSE meetings (more items may be added):

### **August 19 AAPSE BOD Agenda – San Antonio**

1. Detailed Treasurer's report



Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Create interpretation/question and answer document clarifying when a conflict of interest occurs.		

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<b>Agenda item:</b>	4. Awards	<b>Presenter:</b> Kerry Richards
	a. Presidents Award	
	b. Retiring members	
	c. Awards committee update	

**Discussion:**

**4a.** Kerry Richards stated that she would like to start a tradition of presenting a Presidents award. She made the decisions this year, but asked how it should be handled in future years. Don Renchie suggested a policy going forward that the AAPSE president makes a recommendation, the BOD then discusses it, any concerns are vetted, and then a vote is taken. Don Renchie moved to accept the process as discussed. Seconded by Faye Golden. Motion passed. Tana Haugen-Brown moved to accept the President’s recommendations for Presidents Awards. Seconded by Don Renchie. Motion passed.

**4b.** Kerry Richards will continue to compile information about retiring members.

**4c.** The Awards committee has contacted award winners. Kerry Richards also contacted the award winners and the person who nominated them. Andrew Thostenson is ordering the awards, plaques, and certificates. Press releases and award letters will be written by Kerry Richards.

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<b>Agenda item:</b>	5. Strengthening Transparency in Regulator Science Issue	<b>Presenter:</b> Kim Brown
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**Discussion:** Dan Wixted, co-chair of the Issues and Evaluations committee on science-based decision making, joined the meeting for this discussion.

- Results from survey: The Issue and Evaluations Committee on Science-Based Decision Making has sent out two surveys to the AAPSE membership asking if AAPSE should submit comments on the EPA’s proposal “Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science.” Both surveys had similar results. For the second survey, we included a brief summary of proposed comments outlining the Committee’s objections to the proposal, and we asked participants to identify the group they represent. Results from the second survey included responses from 54 members; of those, 50 voted that AAPSE should comment and 1 voted to not comment. Respondents to that survey identified their representation as follows: 63% PSEP, 20% Regulatory, 9% Industry & 7% Other.
- Based on the survey results, the Committee determined the membership is asking the Association to move forward on commenting on this topic. We are asking the Board to make a formal decision on whether the committee should proceed. This will be a very short turnaround if the Board agrees for the committee to move forward since the comment deadline is August 16<sup>th</sup>. If the Board approves moving forward, the Committee plans to provide a draft letter to the full Board by August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Be aware that the Committee will need the Board’s feedback no later than August 8<sup>th</sup> to allow time for the Committee to address or incorporate any edits and have a final draft of the planned comment for Board’s approval by August 13<sup>th</sup>. This will allow AAPSE to submit the final comment by the August 16<sup>th</sup> deadline. Again, we note all of this is contingent upon Board approval for the Committee to move forward on developing the comment.

EPA’s proposal “Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science” (enter EPA–HQ–OA–2018–0259 at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)) would allow EPA, when considering a new regulation, to ignore a peer-reviewed scientific study if its underlying data could not be made publicly available in a manner sufficient to allow others to understand, assess, and replicate the findings.

AAPSE's Science-Based Decision Making Committee is proposing to submit comments to EPA that address the following:

- 1) For studies concerning environmental risks to human health (such as the recent paper from the Ag Health Study that showed no association between glyphosate use and any cancer), it is often impossible to make the underlying data publicly available because doing so would compromise confidential information such as individual identities and/or health information.
- 2) The references EPA cites in support of its proposal actually endorse and provide the means for sharing, publishing, and using data and findings from studies in which some data cannot be made publicly available (e.g., personal health data, trade secrets). Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects and HIPAA regulations together provide strong protections for human research subjects and personal medical information. Because of this, US scientific journals have established guidelines for publishing data with privacy restrictions. The EPA's "transparency" proposal will result in rejection of data acceptable to respected scientific journals, and will limit the data that EPA uses to make sound decisions. The EPA's mission, to protect human health and the environment, will be compromised.
- 3) Scientific studies conducted before the internet age are unlikely to meet the proposal's standards. Known health risks associated with substances such as mercury, lead, and smog would be ignored until new studies reaffirmed those risks; such studies would likely be unethical, as they would require exposing people to known hazards.
- 4) It is virtually impossible to replicate long-term epidemiological studies as well as studies conducted in response to natural or man-made catastrophes.
- 5) Scientific consensus and subsequent regulatory action are based on assessing accumulated evidence rather than relying on any one study; therefore, ignoring any peer-reviewed findings is detrimental to the regulatory process.
- 6) The proposal would diminish the effectiveness of pesticide safety educators, who often assuage public fears by pointing out that pesticide use and regulation are based on the best available science.

For these reasons, the Committee is recommending that AAPSE request that EPA rescind its proposal.

Pat Hastings moved that the AAPSE BOD request the Issues and Evaluations Committee on Science-Based Decision Making prepare comments reflecting its objections to EPA's proposal "Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science and that such comments be submitted to EPA upon approval by the BOD. Seconded by Faye Golden. Motion passed.

<b>Action items</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
✓ Committee provides draft letter to full BOD.	Science based committee	8/3/18
✓ Provide feedback to draft comment letter.	AAPSE BOD	8/8/18
✓ Committee addresses or incorporates any edits and has final draft of planned comment for BOD approval.	Science based committee	8/13/18
✓ AAPSE submits final comment.	Science based committee	8/16/18

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**Agenda item:**      **6. Membership**      **Presenter:** Kerry Richards

- a.** Regional input on student membership, transferring membership, and membership payment through conference registration
- b.** Awarding AAPSE Life members

**Discussion:**

**6a.** Kerry Richards stated that these issues will be brought forward to the BOD meeting in San Antonio prior to the general membership meeting on Tuesday.

**6b.** Kerry Richards stated that the AAPSE By-laws, Section 2. Life Members, states: The Board shall have authority to bestow life membership upon any individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the work of the Association. Mike Wierda suggested that the regional reps can let the BOD know who is retiring, then we can discuss possible candidates during the August 19 BOD meeting.

<b>Action items</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
✓ Add life members discussion to August 19 BOD meeting agenda.	Kerry Richards	8/10/18
✓ Bring list of members who are retiring from your region to August 19 BOD meeting.	AAPSE BOD	8/19/18

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Motion by Kim Pope Brown to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Don Renchie. Motion passed.

**Next BOD meeting: August 19, 2018, 3:00pm-6:00pm CST, San Antonio. Refreshments will be provided.**

Future Meeting Dates:

- August 21 - 4:00-5:30pm (General Membership San Antonio)
- September 24
- October 29
- November 26
- December 17 (Due to holiday break)