The meeting was called to order by President Mark Alley. Board participants were:

Marcus M. Alley, ASA President
Francis J. Pierce, ASA President-Elect
Steven E. Petrie, A-7 Board Rep.
Tom W. Bruulsema, ICCA Registrants Board Rep.
Warren A. Dick, ASA Editor-in-Chief, ex-officio
Ellen Bergfeld, Chief Executive Officer, ex-officio

Also present:
Jerry Hatfield
Newell Kitchen
Fran Katz, Chief Operations Officer and Director of Publications
Wes Meixelsperger, Chief Financial Officer
Karl Glasener, Director of Science Policy
Keith Schlesinger, Director of Meetings and Conventions
Luther Smith, Director of Certification Programs
Cathy Goudreau, Recorder

A003 Board of Directors
1. ACTION: It was moved by Tom Bruulsema to approve the December 3, 2008 ASA Board of Directors conference call minutes. Seconded by Scott Murrell. Carried unanimously.

2. Board members were requested to sign the Written Acceptance of Conflicts of Interest Policy and return a copy to Ellen Bergfeld via email, fax, or mail.

3. The Board will meet May 19-20 in Madison, WI with arrival the evening of May 18. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:00 AM on the 19th and end at noon on the 20th. Board members were requested to plan their travel accordingly.

4. The next Board conference call is scheduled for February 4, 2009 at 11:00 AM Central Standard Time.

A093 Certification Programs
1. Luther Smith reported that as of December 2008 there are 652 Certified Professional Agronomists (CPAg), which is slightly higher than 2007. 558 (86%) of the CPAg’s are also Certified Crop Advisers (CCA). There are 12,950 CCA’s compared to 13,051 in 2007. Exam numbers are up over the past two years and are an early indication of program growth. CPAg’s and CCA’s take the same exam. CPAg’s must have at least a B.S. degree in Agronomy while CCA’s need to complete a second exam. Both programs are 65% renewed for 2009 which is average compared to prior years. Through the end of November 2008 expenses are lower than expected and revenue is on target.
2. Luther Smith reported that details continue to be worked out with IRRI regarding implementation of an ICCA program in India. Although many details remain to be worked out, Mark Alley reported that plans to implement an ICCA program in Argentina are moving forward.

A211 Budget and Finance
1. Steve Petrie reported that as of the end of November 2008 the budget has a positive balance. Wes Meixelsperger anticipates a fairly large adjustment to the defined benefit retirement plan which will be reflected in December and have a material impact in reducing earnings for 2008. Final numbers for 2008, including the joint annual meeting, should be available in late January 2009.

2. Action was taken on the December 3, 2008 Board conference call to support a face-to-face meeting of the Professional Agronomy Task Force in Indianapolis in early 2009. Steve Petrie indicated that the 2009 budget should be adjusted, not increased, to reflect this meeting.

ACTION: It was moved by Steve Petrie to reduce various expense line items from the 2009 approved budget in governance by $15,000 to offset the additional costs related to the Professional Agronomy Task Force meeting. Seconded by Scott Murrell. Carried with one member abstaining.

A300 Publications
Fran Katz reported net income from publications, including journals and books, is more than budgeted for 2008. Headquarters will continue efforts to reduce costs for Crops and Soils and CSA News.

A400 Awards
The Society has been requested to nominate an individual for the World Food Prize. A primary function of the Special Awards Committee is to consider awards which are not sponsored by ASA but for which nominations may be submitted on behalf of the Society.

ACTION: It was moved by Tom Bruulsema to reactivate the A491.1 Special Awards Committee. Seconded by Scott Murrell.

Susan Chapman will work with Mark Alley to reactive the committee and refine the committee’s charge.

ACS536 Science Policy
1. The ASA and ICCA Executive Committees will travel to Washington, DC February 9-11 for Congressional visits in an effort to build support for opportunities for the certification program.

2. Based on feedback from the Board, Karl Glasener has updated the transition document for the new administration and anticipates forwarding the revised document to the Board for approval in the near future.

3. Mark Alley briefed the Board on proposed Society comments to the Legislative proposal on greenhouse gas emissions. The goal of the Society comments is to ensure that legislators know about the Society and the scientific expertise of its members, as well as qualifications of the CCA members to participate in programs. The Board requested additional time to review the document. Following the conference call, Mark forwarded the comments document to the Board, as well as a link to further information on the legislation, and requested each Board
member email their vote to approve or not approve the document. The SSSA Board of Directors will review the documents on their January 15 conference call. It is anticipated that a joint ASA-SSSA comments document will be forwarded to Representative Boucher’s Legislative staff.

A711 Program Planning
1. Fran Pierce provided an update on the 2009 annual meeting. Divisions will have their topical sessions identified in the near future. The lectureships are facing financial issues due to the national financial situation and the program planners are working on possible solutions.

2. Jerry Hatfield updated the Board on the August 23-27, 2009 Farming Systems Conference in Monterey, California. Expected attendance has been lowered from 280 people to 112 and a revised break-even budget has been prepared to reduce potential liability to the Society. Keith Schlesinger clarified that the revised budget does include 25 percent overhead on direct expenses but does not include a 25 percent mark-up.

3. Mark Powell, a member of the organizing committee for a greenhouse gas conference to be held in 2010, suggested there may be opportunities for a Society presence at the conference. Mark Alley requested Mark forward a document outlining potential opportunities for Society involvement.

A800 Scientific Affairs
The Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO) is interested in working with ASA, CSSA and SSSA to identify scientific experts to conduct non-biased replicated research to substantiate or reject the efficacy claims associated with plant food products. The AAPFCO membership has the responsibility for enforcing plant food regulations throughout the United States and Canada. One of the primary responsibilities in the administration of various fertilizer laws is label review and product efficacy claims on those labels. AAPFCO committees are routinely approached by manufacturers with new products that they are seeking to register for sale. ASA, CSSA and SSSA can assist with recruitment of researchers to the task of conducting the research needed to provide the data needed. It was clarified that ASA would serve as a facilitator but would not be endorsing a particular product.

ACTION: It was moved by Mark Powell that ASA support the Memorandum of Understanding for a cooperative relationship with the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials for a 3-year period. Seconded by Tom Bruulsema. Carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.