Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: October 17th 2011 – 4:15 pm to 5:15 pm.

Present: Asfaw Bekele (ExxonMobil/Imperial Oil), Eric Hunt (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), Dennis Timlin (USDA-ARS, Beltsville), Steven Evett (ARS Bushland, TX), Susan O’Shaughnessy (ARS Bushland, TX), Nithya Rajan (Texas A&M AgriLife Research), Sasendran Anapalli (USDA-ARS, Fort Collins), Brian Hornbuckle (Iowa State University – Agronomy), Kelly Morgan (University of Florida), Dan Upchurch (USDA-ARS, College Station, TX), Dave Fleisher (USDA-ARS, Beltsville, MD), Bruce Bugbee (Utah State University) and Cecil Dharmasri (Syngenta Crop Protection LLC, Greensboro, NC).

Martine van der Ploeg, Vice Leader (joined via Skype)

Next meeting: To Be Decided, a follow-up teleconference was proposed.

I. Introductions
Participants introduced themselves with a brief description of their affiliations and interests in the community.

II. Announcements
1. Reinvest ASA funds, (pre-proposals due March 01st and the proposals are due by April 10th each year). Each Community will receive a $750 allocation for use in 2012 or 2013 Annual Meeting programming.

2. Program Enhancement Funds (PEF) - The purpose of PEF is to fund events or activities that will improve the quality of the annual meeting experience for members. New PEF policy for 2012 meeting is $1000 for a section.

3. Key dates for 2012 annual meeting in Cincinnati, OH (October 21-24) were also announced.

III. Selection of Vice Leader for 2012
Steven Evett proposed Nithya Rajan as the Vice Leader for 2012, Bruce Bugbee seconded the nomination and all voted in favor and Dr. Nithya Rajan was selected unanimously as the Vice Leader for 2012 and the leader for 2013. Congratulations and Best Wishes to Nithya.

IV. Discussions
Interest and likely collaborations with other communities/sections, S- and C-divisions were discussed.
Stan Kosta (Aquatrols) proposed two events (by e-mail); Bouyoucos conference in May 2012 on constructed rootzones and “Roots to the Future” meeting, Dundee June 2012.
Group expressed interest in having a joint symposium on water relations and global climate change and collaboratively organizing a symposium with Global Climate Change Community. This could enable communities to spend the funds more effectively.

Group also expressed interest in working closely with C-2 members.

Steven Evett suggested that we should have a follow up teleconference to decide on the other activities of the community and decide on the symposium for next year.

**V. Community Leadership for 2012**

1. Martine van der Ploeg, current Vice Leader (2011) will become Leader for 2012.  
2. Nithya Rajan was elected as the Vice Leader for 2012 and Leader for 2013.

Thanks to all members for your interest in the soil-plant-water relations community and we look forward to your active participation in the community activities. If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact the community leadership.

Cecil Dharmasri  
Leader 2012, Soil-Plant-Water Relations community