

## COSA Conference Call Minutes January 28, 2010

Members present on the conference call: Joseph Heckman (JH), Pat Carr and Mary Stromberger

### Agenda Items:

1. For those taking notes or who have received notes from the 2009 roundtable discussions, please forward the summaries to Stefan Seiter ([stefan.seiter@linnbenton.edu](mailto:stefan.seiter@linnbenton.edu))
2. JH submitted a proposal to ASA headquarters for the 2010 Roundtable program “Know your Farmer, Know your Food”, with invited speaker Dr. Kathleen Merrigan, USDA’s Deputy Secretary. The proposal was approved but with zero funding. So far, we have \$2000 committed to the 2010 roundtable from Western SARE (email from Phil Rasmussen sent 12/2/2009). JH will ask Organic Valley if they will donate food for the roundtable, like they did last year.
3. We need to consider alternate program ideas in case Dr. Merrigan is unavailable. Perhaps someone from California Department of Food and Agriculture (<http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/>) or CSA California (<https://csacalifornia.org/>)?
4. All COSA members are encouraged to join the new A-12 Organic Management Systems division. We must support that which we helped to create.
5. Pat Carr gave an update on symposia and sessions to be sponsored by A-12 at the 2010 meeting in Long Beach. Two symposia have been planned, with speakers already invited. One is on No-Till Organic Farming and the other is on Organic Grain Production. These symposia will include speakers from various regions of the US and Canada, with each speaker summarized the current state of research in these two areas.

In addition, Pat has planned for nine topical sessions for volunteered papers at the 2010 meeting. There will be two volunteer poster sessions, one on conservation tillage and the other on organic grain production, to complement the symposia. Topics for the remaining volunteer, oral sessions include insect and pathogen management, weed management, transitioning to certified organic agriculture, plant nutrient management, and vegetable and fruit production. The symposia and sessions will be formally announced in the March issue of CSA News Magazine.
6. Pat Carr will add COSA as a co-sponsor to the A-12 symposia. In addition, COSA will co-sponsor a symposium for A-8 called “Local/Regional Food Systems and Community Food Security: Making the Connection”. COSA will also co-sponsor a symposium with S205.1 (Council on History, Philosophy & Sociology of Soil Science) called “Perceptions of Soil in Media and the Arts: Integrating the Soil “Medium” into Current Cultural Media”. COSA’s role relates to: "The organic and sustainable communities have a long tradition of building organic matter rich living soils on gardens and farms and drawing public attention to soil health in connection to plants, animals, and man. A wide variety of media are being used within these communities to teach values about the soil resource and composting. Examples range from student organic gardens and farms at numerous schools and colleges nationwide and the high profile "Peoples Garden" at the USDA and "The White House Organic Garden" in Washington, DC".

7. There was some discussion on the need to identify new members of the COSA committee and get them involved. JH will send another email to the list serve to request info so that we can update the active member list. According to the ASA website (<https://www.agronomy.org/about-society/committees/ACS538/members/>), current members of the COSA committee are: Joseph Heckman (Chair), Charles Deichman, Robert Ehn, Ann-Marie Fortuna, Charles Francis, Clark Gantzer, Gordon Stearman, and Mary Stromberger.

7. JH has been officially re-appointed for second year as chair of COSA. His appointment will end December 31, 2010, after which a new chair will be elected.

8. Next COSA conference call will be February 19, 2010 at 11 am (EST).