

Crop Science Society of SA AGM



Meeting held at Richardson Theatre Roseworthy, University of Adelaide

Date July 24th 2024

Meeting opened: 7:30pm.

Attendance: Craig Davis (acting Chair), Michael Nash, James Chard, Jordan Bruce, Anthony Pfitzner, Rob Wheeler, Jamie Wilson (acting Secretary/Minute taker), Chris Butler, Duncan Crawford; Online – Karl Groecke, Dan Petersen, Peter Smith, iPhone User

Apologies: Jade Schmitt (President), Stefan Schmitt (Secretary), Mark Hill, Ben Fleet, Peter Groecke, David Keetch (Vice President), Simon Michelmore (Guest speaker)

Minutes of previous AGM

Moved: J Wilson Seconded: C Butler Accepted

Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Nil

Presidents Report

Current President Jade Schmitt on maternity leave – in lieu of presidents report – Discussion generated by Craig Davis as acting Chair

Membership is currently 119 financial members and 11 life members. Membership has been declining over recent years. Crop Science has tried to re-invigorate itself through a number of activities including hosting a Crop Walk and BBQ at Roseworthy Campus for students, along with advertising in the Adelaide University Student Compendium, which will also be included in a copy produced specifically for high school students. There have also over been regional meetings organised by Crop Science in conjunction with farming systems groups and local ag bureau's over the last 4-5 years, this has been strongly supported locally but with minimal Crop Science membership attendance. Crop Science has also been promoted with the Ag Institute to engage a wider membership. Many other organisations have the same issue of declining membership and reducing involvement by members at events/activities. A recent example of this has been that SANTFA had a special meeting to discuss the future of the organisation due to declining membership and attendance at the SANFTA Conference. SANTFA has now been absolved and the residual funds have been donated to SAGIT for a project relevant to SANTFA principles.

This declining attendance and membership of organisations is due likely in part to growers high reliance on agronomist/consultants along with an increased extension activities from GRDC and farming systems groups. It was raised by a recent student that the Crop Science Society has a stigma attached to it as a bunch of old men sitting around, and whilst the annual student BBQ (timed with the crop walk in September/October) created good student involvement they didn't continue with membership or attend the crop walk post the BBQ.

Membership has declined steadily and the introduction of Zoom was seen as a good option with the Zoom attendance is usually around 8-9. But, in fact Zoom appears to have contributed to the decline in physical attendance.

Rob Wheeler also raised that for members not attending meetings the newsletter is of critical importance. He pointed out that recently the newsletter has not been produced as consistently and doesn't have the depth of content that it used to. It was discussed that it is very hard to get articles for the newsletter from 3rd parties or guest speakers.

Due to other commitments there has been a lot of committee members wanting to step down from the committee, and therefore not want to take on executive roles at the AGM tonight. Discussion revolved around declining attendance and future of the Crop Science Society. It was discussed that an option is for CSSSA to hold a Special General Meeting to discuss the future of the organisation. It was discussed that if the CSSSA membership votes to dissolve then there will be residual funds. It was raised and suggested that these funds could go to an organisation such as SAGIT, Yitpi Foundation, Weed Management Society and members should be open to other suggestions that would be relevant to the principles of CSSSA.

Moved: (Acting Chair) C Davis Seconded: J Chard Accepted

Secretaries Report

Stefan Schmitt – Secretary absent – No report presented

Correspondence

No Correspondence presented

Treasurers Report

Presented by Craig Davis – Treasurer

The CSSSA is financial with a cash position of \$90,630.10.

For 2023/2024 CSSSA had a net profit of \$1477.69.

For 23/24 there were 119 financial members, 10 life members and 11 honorary members.

The Books were checked by Melissa Davis, with the report of confirmation tabled.

Chris Butler Moved that he would investigate external Book Checker to remove any perceived conflict of interest from Craig Davis for the 2024/2025 Book Checking.

Moved Michael Nash Seconded A Pfitzner Accepted

Membership Cost

C Davis moved that membership goes to \$0 for 12 months to encourage greater membership, was not passed.

Membership costs were moved to remain at \$50.00 inc GST

Moved P Smith. Seconded C Butler Accepted

CSSSA Life memberships

Chris Butler moved that Craig Davis be accepted as a Life Member to the Crop Science Society SA (inc)

Moved C Butler seconded D Crawford Accepted

Other Business

Editor of newsletter – can someone be nominated that can chase and compile newsletter articles, to add more value to the newsletter.

Positions for 2024/2025

Chris Butler moved that the AGM be suspended and a Special General Meeting be called to discuss the future of the CSSSA. As a result of this the current committee retains all positions until the Special General Meeting. Communications to go out to the membership to call for Special General Meeting to discuss the future of CSSSA and to determine the future of the organization. This communication to include calls for nominations for the executive and general committee that will have vacancies. Special General Meeting requires 30 days notification to the membership., leaving the present Committee and Executive in place until a Special General meeting can be held. 2nd Rob Wheeler. Accepted.

The following Roles remain as per the 2023/34 AGM

- President: Jade Schmitt
- Vice President: David Keetch
- Secretary: Stefan Schmitt
- Treasurer: Craig Davis
- Public Officer: Peter Smith

- Committee Members
 - Jamie Wilson, Neil Wittwer, James Chard, Anthony Pfitzner, Michael Nash, Dan Peterson.

Meeting Closed 9.07pm

Next Meeting: August 28th