The meeting was called to order by ACSESS Board Chair Sharon Clay.

**ACSESS board members present:**
Sharon Clay, Chair, ASA Past President
Jan Hopmans, Vice-Chair, SSSA President
Dave Mengel, Secretary-Treasurer, ASA President
David Baltensperger, CSSA President
Mark Brick, CSSA Past President
David Lindbo, SSSA Past President
Roch Gaussoin, CSSA President-Elect
Jeff Volenec, Past Chair, Ex-officio
Jean Steiner, President-Elect ASA
Chief Executive Officer Ex-officio Ellen Bergfeld

**Also participating:**
Michael Grusak, CSSA Incoming President-Elect
Harold van Es, SSSA Incoming President-Elect
Ian Popkewitz, IT/Operations Director
Susan Fisk, Public/Science Communications Director
Karl Anderson, Science Policy Director
Mark Mandelbaum, Publications/Meeting Director
Wes Meixelsperger, Chief Financial Officer
Sara Uttech, Senior Mgr–Governance & Membership

**Not able to attend:**
Carolyn Olson, President-Elect SSSA
Paul Fixen, ASA Incoming President-Elect

---

**ACSESS003 ACSESS Board of Directors**

1. **ACTION:** Moved by Mark Brick to approve the April 10, 2014 agenda. Seconded by Jean Steiner. Unanimous approval.

2. **ACTION:** Moved by Jean Steiner to approve the Dec. 20, 2013 ACSESS Board Conference Call Minutes. Seconded by David Lindbo. Unanimous approval.

3. **2014 ACSESS Board Meeting Dates:**
   - Aug. 4-5 in Madison, WI – held in conjunction with the Aug. 5-6 Budget & Finance Committee Meeting.
   - Nov. 1 or 2 in Long Beach, CA – also potential for a board volunteer activity, similar to the Food Bank in Tampa, to be announced.

---

**ACSESS201 ACSESS Operations and Policy Committee**

Ellen Bergfeld initiated a discussion about purchasing a 1,800-2,000 square foot office space in Washington DC for the Science Policy Office, where the Societies currently rent 1,200 square feet at $56,000 per year as a way to diversify our investment portfolio. Ellen Bergfeld, Karl Anderson, and Wes Meixelsperger met with a real estate agent to look at property. Karl Anderson reported that if we purchase a bigger space, we could rent out the space to like-minded organizations and have these synergies in one office. Wes Meixelsperger pointed out that if we purchase a larger building, we would become a landlord and depending on whom we rented to, we could be subject property taxes, so we need to be careful of our non-profit status. There was discussion on how to purchase it, if each Society would split it three ways, or if ASA would buy it outright and the other Societies rent it. The discussion was tabled until it can be presented at each of the Society’s Board meetings in May.

---

**ACSESS201.1 ACSESS Data Standards Task Force**

Jeff Volenec presented an overview of the current state of evidence-based agriculture standards (also known as Big Data) and the role of ACSESS. It was the consensus of the Board to appoint an ACSESS level Data Standards Task Force to determine this role. Sharon Clay named Jeff Volenec as chair of this task force and will also appoint these members: Sylvie Brouder, Jane Johnson, Scott Murrell, the ASA, CSSA, SSSA Editors in Chief serving as ex-officio members -- currently Warren Dick, Charles Brummer, and Andrew Sharpley, and Mark Mandelbaum as the ex-officio staff liaison. The task force is encouraged to seek other
individuals, potentially including a librarian, breeding/genetics person, climate/modeling/remote sensing person. The goal is to have an interim report in August that provides preliminary info, including the process being used, with a final report by year’s end.

**ACSESS211 - ACSESS - ACSESS Budget and Finance Committee**

CFO Wes Meixelsperger presented a review of the 2013 financials. ACSESS reported a year-end profit of $114,611, with the total amount in reserves at $925,000. Sharon Clay asked about the annual Society fees and suggested that we develop guidelines on what to do with the accumulating reserves as there was consensus that ACSESS should not generate big reserves. Ellen Bergfeld and Wes Meixelsperger will work with ACSESS Secretary-Treasurer Dave Mengel to develop a policy by the August board meeting to establish a cap (percentage or dollar amount) on the reserves and a plan for what happens when it is reached and what happens if we fall short of that amount.

Consensus to adjourn.