



Manitoba Soil Science Society

362 Ellis Building, University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2
mbsoils.ca

Manitoba Soil Science Society Inc.
Business Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 23, 2025
Delta Hotel Winnipeg

In attendance:

Inoka Amarakoon, President
Henrique Carvalho, Vice President/President-Elect
Alexander Koiter, Past President
Megan Westphal, Treasurer
Lindsey Andronak, Secretary
Rebecca Agbabiaka, Student Representative

Members in attendance:

John Heard
Joanne Thiessen Martens
Michelle Erb
Xiaopeng Gao
Marla Riekman
Kody Oleson
M.D. Timmerman
Darshani Kumaragamage
Afua Mante
Annemieke Farenhorst
Hailong He
Curtis Cavers
Charitha Hansima
Anushika Rothnayake
Nipuni Lelwal Hewage
Mikhail Maslou
Ehsan Zarrinabadi
Zhale Shokouhi Dehkordi
Alexis Gloutney
Petra Loro
Manasah Mkhabela

1) Call to Order – Welcome and Introduction

Call to order at 5:36 pm by Inoka Amarakoon

2) Review Meeting Agenda



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- a) No additions

Motion to accept the agenda by Alex Koiter, seconded by Darshani Kumaragamage. **Carried.**

3) Review 2024 Business Meeting Minutes

- a) Add Afua Mante to attendance list.

Motion to accept the 2024 AGM minutes with above amendment by Michelle Erb. Seconded by Marla Riekman. **Carried.**

Old Business

4) President's Report

- a) 2024 AGM

- i) Held February 1 & 2 at the Holiday Inn Winnipeg South
- ii) Plenary session theme was Soil Science Education and Extension
 - (1) Panel discussion was well received
- iii) Approx 100 people attended (increase in attendance)
- iv) Also had a tour of the U of M Soil Science Dept and a Student Night

- b) 2024 Summer Tour

- i) Thursday, August 8, full day – Soils of Southeastern Manitoba
 - (1) SunGro peat harvesting
 - (2) farm around Whitemouth (Dark Grey Chernozem that was mapped as a Luvisol on reconnaissance map)
- ii) Approximately 43 attendees
- iii) Weather was a little rainy and cool, but still a good day

- c) 2025 Soil Fertility Refresher Course

- i) One 2 day session
 - (1) February 6 & 7 in Portage la Prairie
 - (2) Approximately 45 attendees

- ii) Thanks to Don, Marla and John

- d) 2025 Calendar

- i) Theme was Soils Sustain the Water Cycle designed by Henrique Carvalho
- ii) Printed 500 copies
- iii) Distributed at MAC, Ag Days, MB Ag Offices, BU, ACC, UM Soil Science Dept

- e) 2025 Sponsors

We ask for annual sponsorship of the society, which supports all the activities of MSSS. We would like to officially thank the 2025 sponsors:

- o Ah
 - Manitoba Agrologists
 - AgriEarth Consulting
 - Nutrien Ag Solutions
- o Bt
 - Assiniboine Community College
 - Tone Ag Consulting
- o Ck



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- Manitoba Pulse &Soybean Growers
- GoodLands Environmental
- Solum Valley Biosciences
- Manitoba Oat Growers Association
- Western Ag
- Agvise Laboratories
- Manitoba Canola Growers Association have decided not to continue with their sponsorship this year. They are looking for more active sponsorship opportunities. It is suggested that sponsorship packages are revisited – potentially having a stop on the summer tour could be included.

5. Treasurer's Report

- Account Summaries

2024 Summary of Account Activities				
TOTAL	Revenue	Expense	Net	
Chequing	\$ 59,654.02	\$ 54,445.12	\$ 5,208.90	
Savings	\$ 361.11	\$ -	\$ 361.11	
TOTAL	\$ 60,015.13	\$ 54,445.12	\$ 5,570.01	

Major source of income is the Soil Fertility Course.

		31-Dec-21	31-Dec-22	31-Dec-23	31-Dec-24
Cambrian Credit Union Accounts					
	Chequing	\$ 50,240.71	\$ 64,125.50	\$ 65,844.57	\$ 71,053.47
	Savings	\$ 12,001.46	\$ 12,171.00	\$ 12,540.16	\$ 12,901.27
	Share	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00
Cash		\$ 9.56	\$ 9.56	\$ 9.56	\$ 9.56
	TOTAL	\$ 62,256.73	\$ 76,311.06	\$ 78,399.29	\$ 83,969.30
	change	#REF!	\$ 14,054.33	\$ 2,088.23	\$ 5,570.01



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2024 Calendar Year Activities (Total Cash Flow in and outside fiscal year)			
	revenue	expense	net
Sponsorship	\$5,793.63		\$5,793.63
AGM	\$19,849.29	\$19,037.25	\$812.04
SFC	\$6,750.00	\$4,399.00	\$2,351.00
Summer Tour	\$3,695.00	\$3,558.49	\$136.51
Calendar		\$894.88	-\$894.88
Ornaments	\$15.00	\$250.00	\$235.00
			25 bought @ \$10 each.
2024 Fiscal Activity - Chequing Account			
	Revenue	Expense	
2023 AGM	\$5,550.00		
2023 ST	\$990.00		
2024 AGM	\$19,849.29	\$17,037.25	
2024 ST	\$3,695.00	\$3,558.49	
2024 Website		\$252.00	
2024 Banking		\$91.00	
2024 Corporation		\$40.00	
2024 Calendar		\$894.88	
2024 Sponsorship	\$2,200.00		
2024 SFC	\$3,750.00	\$4,399.00	
Ornaments	\$15.00	\$250.00	
2025 Sponsorship	\$3,604.73		
2025 AGM	\$20,000.00	\$27,922.50	
TOTAL	\$ 59,654.02	\$ 54,445.12	
net	\$ 5,208.90		

The \$20,000 revenue from the 2025 AGM is a loan from the other two host organisations.

Megan presented summary values from 2024 and thanked the financial review committee for their work. As MSSS is likely to have revenues exceeding \$50,000 due to the conference, Megan has registered for a GST number. Opened floor for comments. There were no questions about the report.

- Financial Review Committee Report

Megan Westphal reviewed the decision of the MSSS Financial Review Committee, comprised of Xiaopeng Gao, Marla Riekman and Michelle Erb. The review committee reviewed the financial records



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for 2024 and they found the financial report to be an accurate statement of the financial transactions for the MSSS for 2024. The following statement was read by Michelle:



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26 February 2025

Manitoba Soil Science Society
c/o Megan Westphal, Treasurer

Re: Manitoba Soil Science Society (MSSS) 2024 Financial Statement Review

MSSS members,

We have reconciled the 2024 Financial Report to the 2025 annual meeting with the account statements provided by Cambrian Credit Union for the chequing and savings accounts. The financial statement accurately reflects the cumulative annual account balances. These balances were reconciled with total expenses and income for the activities listed in the report. The financial report, therefore, is an accurate reflection of income and expenses for MSSS for 2024.

Yours truly

MSSS Financial Reviewers

Xiaopeng Gao 
Digitally signed by
Xiaopeng Gao
Date: 2025.02.26
09:53:00 -06'00'

Xiaopeng Gao 
Digitally signed by
Michelle Erb
Date: 2025.02.26
09:55:26 -06'00'

Michelle Erb 
Digitally signed by
Marla Riekman
Date: 2025.02.26
10:07:15 -06'00'

Marla Riekman

- Review and Approve Financial Statements



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Afua Mante moved that the financial statements of the Corporation for the fiscal period ending December 31, 2024 are hereby approved and adopted. Seconded by John Heard. **Carried.**

New Business

6. Election of Directors

Two positions are vacant for 2025: President-Elect and Secretary.

a) Secretary

Marla Riekman nominated Michelle Erb for Secretary. Michelle accepted the nomination.

No further nominations were received.

Michelle Erb acclaimed as Secretary.

Afua Mante moved that the individual listed below be elected as director for a term to expire at the conclusion of the annual meeting of member held in the calendar year shown opposite their name:

Name	Position	Calendar Year
Michelle Erb	Secretary	2028

Seconded by Lindsey Andronak. **Carried.**

Lindsey Andronak has finished her six year team and was recognized for her work with the society.

b) President-Elect

John Heard nominated Marla Riekman for President-Elect. Marla accepted the nomination.

No further nominations were received.

Marla Riekman acclaimed as President.

Darshani Kumaragamage moved that the individual listed below be elected as director for a term to expire at the conclusion of the annual meeting of member held in the calendar year shown opposite their name:

Name	Position	Calendar Year
Marla Riekman	President-Elect	2026

Seconded by Manasah Mkhabela. **Carried.**

Alex Koiter has finished his three year team and was recognized for his work with the society.

8. Appointment of Financial Review Committee

Marla Riekman moved that the following volunteers: Alex Koiter, Joanne Thiessen Martens, Lindsey Andronak; be appointed as a Committee of Members to review the financial statements of the Corporation prepared by the Board of Directors for presentation to the Members at the annual meeting held in 2026 and to report their comments on such financial statements to such annual meeting.

Seconded by Afua Mante. **Carried.**



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9. Approval of Actions of Directors

Michelle Erb moved that all acts, contracts, by-laws, proceedings, appointments, elections and payments enacted, made, done and taken by the directors and officers of the Corporation since the date of the last annual meeting of Members (as the same are set out or referred to in the minutes of the meetings of the directors of the Corporation or the resolutions of the directors of the Corporation or in the financial statements submitted to this meeting) be and the same are hereby approved, sanctioned and confirmed.

Seconded by Xiaopeng Gao. **Carried.**

10. 2025 Summer Tour

- Part of Soils for our Future Conference
- MSSS sponsored the Student Soil Judging Contest
- Will resume regular summer tour in 2026

11. 2026 Business Meeting

- February 5 & 6 at Holiday Inn Pembina South

13. Other Business

- It was suggested that Directors receive an honorarium at the end of their term
- Student Travel Award
 - Alex Koiter has volunteered to head a committee
 - Looking for additional volunteers, will send out an email
 - Use the revenue from the Soil Fertility course
 - Maybe \$500 or less for out of Winnipeg students to attend MSSS

14. Motion to Adjourn

Afua Mante moved to adjourn at 6:10 pm. Seconded by Michelle Erb. **Carried.**