ASPB Board of Trustees Meeting Summary - June 24, 2026, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. EDT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND STAFF:
BoT Members: Sreekala Chellamma, Treasurer and Chair, Board of Trustees; Chris McEntee, Member, Board of Trustees; Glenda Gillaspy, Member, Board of Trustees; Erich Grotewold, Member, Board of Trustees
Staff: Clara Woodall, ASPB CFO; Crispin Taylor, ASPB CEO; Sylvia Lee, ASPBs Executive and Governance Affairs Administrator; Ashok Dang, VP BD
Invited: Hong Ma, Past President; Kent Chapman, President; Tessa Burch-Smith, President-elect
Absent: Z. Jeffrey Chen, Member, Board of Trustees, Hong Ma, Past President; Kent Chapman, President; Tessa Burch-Smith, President-elect

The Board of Trustees (BoT) met virtually, approved the agenda with a correction to the date and time of an upcoming joint meeting, and reviewed the status of outstanding minutes from prior meetings. Several sets of minutes were circulated for review, and members agreed to vote on them by early July.

Finance. Staff presented updated financial results for 2025, which ended with positive net income. The Board discussed how board-authorized investment drawdowns are reflected in the financial statements, and staff clarified the accounting treatment. Staff also outlined the three annual audits (the financial audit, the retirement plan audit, and the tax filing review), which are underway or beginning. Audit results are expected to be presented at the September joint budget meeting.

Compensation. Staff reported on a market review of salaries against similar nonprofit organizations, building on a benchmarking effort begun in 2022. Compensation is largely aligned with market, and the one remaining adjustment will be proposed in the 2027 budget.

Property. The agreement with the prospective buyer has expired, so the sale process will restart, likely through a real estate broker. The Board noted there is no short-term need for the proceeds. It discussed factoring brokerage and maintenance costs into pricing, comparing a sale against the investment income the proceeds could generate, and planning how the proceeds should be used.

Publishing. A publishing consultant has been selected to guide the journals RFP process, and a contract is being finalized. The business development team is also exploring an additional journal and possible book publishing. These ideas will involve the Publications Committee and the Board of Directors.

Business Development. Progress on the revenue diversification plan included:

- Growth in membership of about 15% from the membership refresh campaign.
- New conference sponsorships and the start of digital advertising.
- A soft launch of the organizational membership program, with early participants and a prospect database.

Trustees encouraged careful evaluation and definition of new offerings before launch to protect the society's reputation. A grant application for AI-related training in plant science was not funded, but there was interest in pursuing an educational program, including ethical guidelines for AI in plant biology. A trustee also offered to facilitate introductions to a potential publishing partner.

Organizational Assessment. The consultant-led organizational review launched in June. Board members and staff will be invited to give input, and an organization-wide survey has already drawn hundreds of responses. Preliminary information will be shared at the Plant Biology 2026 meeting, where the consultant will also meet with members one-on-one.

Plant Biology 2026 Meetings. The Board reviewed its proposed schedule of in-person and joint meetings in Ottawa in July and will follow up on attendance for one joint meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:21 pm ET.