

BYLAWS OF THE WISCONSIN SECTION  
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERS

Adopted May 27, 1963. Amended January 25, 1967; March 28, 1968; May 11, 1971; October 16, 1975, January 16, 1992, January 20, 1999, October 4, 2012, May 3, 2019

ASABE Bylaws, Article R11, Rule 9 - Each section may adopt its own bylaws for the conduct of affairs, provided such bylaws are in harmony with the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules of the Society, and approved by the Membership Council, and provided also every publication of such bylaws be prefaced with a copy of this rule.

Sec. 1 **Name** The name of this section is Wisconsin Section of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers.

Sec. 2 **Territory** The territory of the Section shall comprise the State of Wisconsin and the northern tier of counties in the State of Illinois with the exception of Lake County.

Sec. 3 **Objects**

(a) The objects of the Section shall be in harmony with those set forth in Article C2, Section 1, of the Constitution of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers.

(b) The objects of the Section are to promote the science and art of engineering in agricultural, food, and biological systems; to encourage original research; to foster education; to advance the standards of engineering; to increase and extend the association of agricultural, food, and biological engineers among themselves and with allied scientists and technologists; to encourage the professional improvement of its members, and severally and in cooperation with other groups to broaden the usefulness of agricultural, food, and biological engineering.

(c) The section is not organized for pecuniary profit and none of its net earnings shall be distributed to or ensure to the benefit of any private shareholders or individual.

(d) Notwithstanding anything herein contained, the Section shall not engage in any activity which is not educational, scientific or charitable within the meaning of Section 501(c) (3) of 1954 United States Internal Revenue Code, as amended. No substantial part of the activities of the Section shall be carrying on propaganda or other-wise attempting to influence legislation, and the Section shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statement) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Sec. 4 **Government** The Section shall be governed by these bylaws, together with Article B11 of the Bylaws and Article R11 of The Rules of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers. Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the Section in all cases to which they are applicable and not in conflict with these bylaws.

Sec. 5 **Membership** Membership in the Section shall include only members of the ASABE in good standing and of any grade residing in the territory of the Section. Such members may become members of the Section without the payment of an admission fee.

Sec. 6 **Dues** There shall be no mandatory annual Section dues. An optional "Wisconsin Section Dues" of \$10 per year will appear on the annual ASABE Membership Invoice. These optional Section Dues will be directed by ASABE Headquarters to the Section on an annual basis and will be used to support the objectives of the Section as outlined in Sec. 3. Special assessments for specific purposes may be

levied by the Executive Committee on the membership of the Section. Such assessments shall not total more than \$5.00 per year per member.

Sec. 7 **Officers**

(a) The officers of the Section shall consist of the Chair; the Vice-Chair - Program; the Vice Chair - Awards; the Vice-Chair - Career Development; the Vice-Chair - Membership; the Vice-Chair - Public Relations; the Secretary-Treasurer; and the Webmaster. The Vice-Chair - Program is also Chair-Elect of the Section.

(b) All officers shall serve for a term of one year, beginning June 1 and continuing through May 31.

(c) Elections to fill the following positions shall be held by email or letter ballot prior to April 1 each year: Vice-Chair - Program, Vice Chair - Awards, Vice-Chair - Membership, Vice-Chair - Public Relations; Secretary-Treasurer, Webmaster, Nominating Committee (2 positions), and Career Development Committee (1 position). Election to a position shall be by a simple majority of the votes cast. The member elected to the Career Development Committee is elected for a three year term and serves as Vice-Chair - Career Development during the final year of the three year term.

(d) If the office of Chair is vacated prior to the end of the term, the Chair-Elect shall assume the responsibility of the Chair for the remainder of the term. He shall then continue as Chair for the following year. If any other office is vacated, the Executive Committee shall fill the vacancy by appointment.

Sec. 8 **Meetings**

(a) Meetings of the Section shall be held at times and places designated by the Executive Committee, but shall not conflict with meetings of the Society, the Region or sections within the Region. At least one meeting to be known as the annual meeting shall be held each year.

(b) A quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting shall consist of twenty members of the Section.

Sec. 9 **Committees**

(a) The **Executive Committee** of the Section shall consist of the Chair, all Vice-Chairs, the Secretary-Treasurer, and the immediate Past Chair. The President, the Executive Vice President, and the Regional Director of ASABE shall be members ex officio of the Executive Committee. This committee shall manage the affairs of the Section which include the designation of time and place of meetings, arrangement of programs, and appointment of special committees for various Section activities. The Chair of the Section shall report on the activities of the committee at the Section meetings.

(b) A **Program Committee** shall be appointed by the Chair. The Chair-Elect shall be the Chair of this committee.

(c) The **Career Development Committee** shall consist of the three members previously elected to the committee. The elected member serving the final year of their three year term shall chair the committee and serve as Vice-Chair - Career Development. The Section Chair may appoint other members to the committee.

(d) A **Membership Development Committee** shall be appointed by the Chair. The Chair of this committee shall be the Vice-Chair - Membership.

(e) The **Awards Committee** shall consist of the Vice-Chair of awards and the members of the Career Development Committee with the option to include the three most recent recipients of the Wisconsin Section Agricultural Engineering Career Achievement Award who are residing in the territory as specified in Section 2 of these bylaws if they are available in the award review period as determined by

the Vice-Chair of awards. All student awardees will receive a monetary award. The amount of the award is to be determined by the Treasurer and approved by a majority vote of the officers.

(f) The **Nominating Committee** shall consist of the immediate Past Chair of the Section plus two members elected annually by the Section. The Past Chair shall serve as Chair of the committee. This committee shall nominate one or more candidates for the elective offices of the Section and for the succeeding Nominating Committee. Section members may submit their nominations directly to this committee. This committee shall also be responsible for conducting the annual election.

(g) An **Auditing Committee**, consisting of two Section members who are not on the Executive Committee shall be appointed by the Chair to audit the Treasurer's books at or near the expiration of his term of office. The committee shall submit a report to the Executive Committee.

(h) A **Public Relations Committee**, consisting of the Vice-Chair Public Relations, the Webmaster, and others as determined by the Executive Committee. This committee shall process and release news for the benefit of the Section as well as maintain this information on the Section website.

Sec. 10 **Amendments** Proposed amendments to these bylaws that have previously been approved by a majority vote of the Executive Committee of the Section shall be submitted by email or letter ballot to the members of the Section. The adoption of such amendments shall require vote in their favor of two-thirds of the votes cast. The results of each ballot on a proposed amendment shall be announced by the Chair at the next meeting of the Section and shall become effective when announced.

Sec. 11 **Dissolution** Upon any dissolution of the Section, its assets shall be distributed to the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers, provided the same is then organized and operated for scientific and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended; if said American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers is not then so organized or operated, then its assets shall be distributed to an organization or organizations, operated and organized for similar educational, scientific or charitable purposes.