

Soil and Critical Zone Technical Committee Bylaws

1. Name

The name of this AGU Technical Committee (TC) shall be the *Soil and Critical Zone* Technical Committee (SCZ TC).

2. Objectives

Established in 2011 by the AGU Hydrology and Biogeosciences sections, the SCZ TC promotes understanding of the Soil and the Critical Zone as the dynamic near-surface environment where water, air, rock, life, and human activity interact as a central biogeochemical–hydrological interface that regulates Earth’s habitability and sustains essential resources. Our mission is to integrate cross-disciplinary expertise, perspectives, and initiatives related to Soil and Critical Zone processes and their connections to natural and human systems, providing insight into global environmental challenges.

3. Membership, Election, and Removal of Officers and Members

- a) TC membership consists of a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 20 members.
- b) Membership terms are for 4 calendar years and may be extended if serving as Chair/Vice-chair. Further, a request for renewal can be submitted by any member.
- c) TC Membership is open to all AGU members, but one can only be a member of one Hydrology or Biogeosciences section TC. New members may be nominated by any current member or self-nominated.
- d) Officer nominations must be received (by contacting the current officers) at least 2 weeks before the TC meeting held during the AGU annual meeting.
- e) TC members will vote by simple majority to accept new members, renew memberships, and to elect new officers at the TC meeting held during the AGU Annual meeting. Additional votes may be conducted during the year if needed.
- f) Removal of TC members for non-performance requires a two-thirds affirmative vote of members present, after quorum is met.

4. Duties of Officers and Members

- a) The TC will have three officer positions: Vice-Chair Elect, Vice-Chair, and Chair. Each officer will serve a one-year term, progressing sequentially from Vice-Chair Elect to Vice-Chair to Chair.
- b) The Chair presides over meetings, oversees TC activities, and represents the committee to the AGU Hydrology and Biogeosciences Sections.
- c) The Vice-Chair assists the Chair and assumes their duties if the Chair is unavailable or vacates the position.
- d) The Vice-Chair Elect supports the Vice-Chair, prepares to assume the Vice-Chair role in the following year, and may lead specific initiatives as assigned by the Chair.
- e) The officers shall provide an annual summary of activities to the Sections’ leadership as requested.
- f) Members are expected to regularly attend meetings, respond to communications, and actively contribute to TC activities.
- g) All members, by accepting appointment to the TC, agree to comply with these bylaws.

5. Subcommittees

Subcommittees may be created, restructured, or dissolved by Chair and Vice-chair as needed to support TC activities. Examples include social media, soil mixer/pod reservations, AGU session, and award sub-committees.

6. Meeting Procedures

- a) The TC shall hold a full meeting on-site at the AGU annual meeting, with additional virtual meetings over the course of the year as needed. Meetings shall be open to all TC members. Agendas, written minutes, and/or other documentation shall be made available to all members of the current year.
- b) A quorum of TC committee meetings shall be 1/3 of members.

7. Bylaws Amendments

Any officer or member may propose an amendment to these bylaws. Proposals shall be considered at the next TC committee meeting and decided by majority vote after quorum is met. In case of conflict with the Statutes and Bylaws of the AGU Hydrology and Biogeosciences Sections, the Sections take precedence. Approved amendments shall be shared with the AGU Hydrology and Biogeosciences Section leadership for recordkeeping.

8. Ethics

All TC officers and members are expected to adhere to AGU's *Scientific Integrity and Professional Ethics Policy* and uphold the Union's ethical and professional standards in all committee activities. No officer or member of TC is permitted to vote on any matter relating to current or proposed business in which that individual has a conflict of interest, unless that conflict of interest has been disclosed and been considered to not be a problem by the TC committee. The money, resources, and authority of the TC shall not be used for the personal financial benefit of any officer or member.