Here it is June, halfway through my year as president, and it seems like it just started. Because of the nice weather, my thoughts have turned back to water (see my February article\(^1\)). This time, I’ll tell you about the first time my husband Dave and I rafted the Snake River through Hell’s Canyon.

We had three or four rafts in our party, and even though we were rookies, we were smart enough to scout the rapids. Scouting means you stop above the rapids, climb on the shore close enough to get a good view of where you should go, get back in the raft, and forget the game plan. As we were scouting Wild Sheep Rapids (a class V rapids), I asked Dave if he thought we should tie some safety straps to the oars. (I had at least read a book on whitewater rafting and learned that this was the thing to do.) “What?” he asked. “We won’t have any problem.”

Well, we hit the chute perfectly, but the first wave caught us just off center, so we went over and “lost” everything that was not tied down (including the oars—not a good thing). So I grabbed the oars as they were floating by, stuck them under my armpits, and got caught in an eddy (you try swimming with 16-ft oars under your arms). Eddies are really neat—they circle around and around so that you keep getting closer and further from the shore, around and around, until your friends come by and pick you up.

ASA has been on kind of a wild ride too when you stop to think about it. Some of the changes in the last few years include:

- Moving the headquarters staff into a new building
- Renovating the new building to add more office space to accommodate growth in publication, education, and other support areas

And now it’s time for ASA to initiate a new three- to five-year strategic plan. What’s next on the horizon? Because we’ve made so many changes, do we sit in the eddy and circle around one more time and wait to see how things work out with these new initiatives? Do we drop some old things and start a new direction (or directions) of growth a few years ago? (or directions) of growth a few years ago? (or directions) of growth a few years ago?)

- Restructuring associations to communities
- Better representing the many facets of the agronomic sciences
- Allowing grassroots planning of Annual Meeting sessions and other activities
- Moving from print journals to all electronic
- Getting rid of page charges for most of the journals for the first seven pages of content
- Conceiving and starting the Digital Library
- Starting Reinvest ASA
- Developing webinars
- Forming the Alliance of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Science Societies (ACSSS) board to provide management and administrative support to ASA, CSSA, and SSSA

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