

## NAPB General Business Meeting and Associated Committee Meetings

1:30-3:00 CDT, Thursday, August 20, 2020

1:30-1:40 Welcome and Agenda Review – Peggy and Dave

Peggy Ozias-Akins – President of the NAPB opened the meeting and summarized the previous year including the annual conference success and introduced the Executive committee members (Todd Campbell – past President; Dave Bubeck – Vice President; Ksenija Gasic – secretary; Don Jones – treasurer; Alex Lipka – web editor). EC was fully supportive of virtual format for the annual conference this year recognizing that the great momentum that our young association has would be disrupted if we opted to postpone the conference for 2021.

She emphasized importance of membership participation that makes the organization vibrant and successful and suggested one of the ways for members to become more active is to participate in the standing committees and in particular to join one of the breakout sessions.

She complimented organization committee (Stephen Baenziger, Kaitlyn Smejdir, Amy Kuntz), and s OpenWater's technical staff for excellent organization and execution of the virtual conference in such short notice. Suggestion is that some aspects of the virtual conference might be included in the future annual conferences that would be in person. She was pleased to report that 323 members registered for the meeting and >40% of those were students. Collective impression was that the virtual meeting exceeded expectations and summarized advantages, such as remote participation and presentation from various parts of the globe (New Zealand), participation/networking with the students from African Association of Plant Breeders, and ability to revisit lectures and talks after the conference has ended as we have access to the whole conference for a year. She also acknowledged the disadvantages mainly in lack of personal interactions.

Leadership of NAPB is changing and Peggy Ozias-Akins will be passing the gavel to Dave Bubeck as new President of the NAPB. In addition to elected EC members two of the positions tartare e EC are not elected but appointments made by the EC, treasurer, and web editor. Alex Lipka has been web editor for 4 years and feels that it is time to pass the position to somebody else. His opinion is that this position has benefited his academic career and now it could do the same for a new person. Alex Lipka was no table to join the EC meeting. We thank him for his excellent service and encourage other members to send him a thank you note. Peggy introduced and welcomed new web editor Benjamin Trampe, an inbred corn breeder at AgReliant Genetics.

Virtual gavel passing....

1:40-1:55 NAPB 2020-21 – Dave Bubeck

- Thanked Peggy for all her tireless work and leadership not only in the last year but also previous years on EC and as the last year annual meeting organizer. Presented the rest of the agenda. Introduced the nomination for new secretary Hanna Senior and explained the process of electing the new secretary in the virtual meeting setting. Hanna was elected unanimously and welcomed as an incoming NAPB secretary. Will develop and distribute the survey about the annual meeting
- For the future meetings implement the parts of the virtual meeting especially availability of the posters and talks post conference. That would allow more people to attend and fit conference in their busy schedules with some type of hybrid approach.

- P. Stephen Baenziger - One thing that I really liked about the virtual meeting was our short videos as a replacement for the meeting tours. I wonder they might have some value in the communications area. All of them should have captions to be disability compliant and generally were fairly short.

Summary of the Strategic Planning from Todd Campbell –

- Last year we rolled out new strategic plan lead by Wayne Smith. Part of our plan moving forward is to annual review it and track the progress. EC decided that the Past President at the time should lead that effort. Todd is the current past President and will lead this effort. He will compile the reports from the standing committees and together with the ad hoc committee for strategic plan review will prepare report and share it with the EC.
- Dave Bubeck – Thanked Todd for his leadership and initiative and hope that his engagement with some of the standing committees continue. Thanked EC for highest work ethics, it is clearly working board. NAPB is the volunteer organization, young organization still adjusting. He declared the virtual meeting a success and thanked the organizing committee and Kaitlyn and Stephen for their leadership and many others that participated to make this meeting successful. We learned a lot of things with virtual meeting organization that we can carry forward. Vision and goals for NAPB in 2021: we've been on great track for attracting the membership and we should continue this trends. We all know colleagues that are either pant breeders or associated with plant breeding and are not NAPB members so he encourages the membership to be strong advocates for becoming the member, have ready NAPB short speech of the value of membership to attract more members. Today our membership is about 40% students which is a great thing as student are challenging us and keep us moving forward. All graduate students are encouraged to keep being active members in the society after they graduate and in their early career give back to NAPB through advocating for society. Think about the stories that we can use to describe the value of the NAPB membership especially private public partnership which is an important opportunity for the society as we work together. Members are encouraged to join one of the committees which are working committees and become involved. Challenge to all members to advocate for plant breeding and increase the funding for agriculture as NIFA budget of \$1.7 billion is negligent compared to NIH budget of \$32 billion when you consider that there is nothing more important than food that keeps our human population alive and healthy. We are all advocates to really bolster Food and Agriculture in the future of US so that is a challenge for the society. Mark Sorells presented plans for next year annual meeting in Cornell and all members are encouraged to already start planning attendance to the meeting which promises to be excellent.

1:55 – 2:30 - Committee Breakout Sessions –individual committee sessions handled via separate zoom calls. Committees are charged with:

- reviewing key 2019-20 accomplishments
- communicating current leadership to attendees and elect 2020-21 secretary
- present top 3-5 committee ideas for 2020-21 to the general meeting

## Committee Updates

- Advocacy Committee - met at the meeting
  - Bill Tracy – chair; Katie Rainey chair-elect; Emily Ziemke – past chair; need to elect secretary
  - Annual report was distributed by Peggy to the whole membership. Highlights:
  - Congressional visits day - strong pool of applicants with many early grad students. Attendance of two was supported, Aaron Anderson and Adrienne Brown.
  - Committee administered survey to gauge opinion of the members on what topics to prioritize. 88 respondents to the survey highlighted three top priorities:
    - Advocate for funding of public sector breeding, including for specialty crops that don't have a commodity group or large private sector presence.
    - Advocate for funding of pre-breeding and germplasm characterization
    - Advocate for funding for applied plant breeding (in the vein of the AFRI advanced TY RFP), with a target of hybrid/inbred/variety releases.
- Organized webinar on gene editing topic, special thanks to Mikey Kantar and Rob Duncan for webinar organization. Jennifer Kuzma and Dave Bubeck were speakers. There is a clear need for the NAPB to continue discussion on this issue. Dave Baltensperger suggested that it is important for advocacy committee to work with membership to develop impact stories and provide to different committees to share them with the legislation. Allen Van Deynze suggested organizing workshops or educational events for legislative aids and other people involved in regulation.
- Membership Committee – met at the meeting
  - Current structure of the committee Valerio Hoyos-Villegas – chair; David Chang - vice chair; Brian Lemke – secretary; this will be changing to Valerio being past chair; Davis chair and Brian vice chair and Amritpal Singh new secretary.
  - Goals were to increase the membership by 20% which was not achieved - reasons were provided in the detailed report but one primary reason identified is that we are not targeting new audiences. Need to do a better job and target new demographics to increase our membership. Second reason is that our capacity to collect data on our membership was not good that has been improved (as one of the accomplished goals) now we know a lot better who are new members and can use it in the future to attract more members.
  - Incorporating auto renew option is a goal that was not accomplished but we are working with ACSESS on it.
  - Marketing was very successful. Tweeter campaign resulted about 80-member increase over the span of the campaign. Something we should continue doing.
  - Set the ground for recognizing long term membership.
- Communications Committee – Jodie Scheffler provided update as the committee did not meet during the meeting but rather joined other committees to get better idea what should be communicated. Will have the meeting within next two weeks to plan on what to do in the

upcoming year and to elect the secretary. Zack Jones from Corteva is upcoming Chair, Alison Thompson from USDA is upcoming vice-chair. Good participating of members (12 on the committee) few students and postdocs that are more familiar with the social media outlets that helped the committee and hope to have more students involved in the future. Future goals are to promote the value of the organization to non-breeders; advocate values of plant breeding and help other committees to promote the values of NAPB membership and plant breeding in general to become the go to organization for information on plant breeding importance. Reports will be posted online.

- Education Committee – met at virtual meeting
  - Neha Kothari – incoming chair
  - Rob Duncan current chair. Committee does two major things - webinars on the topics that could either benefit the community or educate the community on plant breeding. Committee concentrated on doing how to webinars on different software and collaborated with student WG on webinar topics and presentations.
  - The most important thing that the committee does is the graduate student poster competition. Very pleased with the quantity and quality of the posters. Different dynamic with the virtual conference that enriched the experience and provided opportunity for so many students to participate. Amanda lead an electronic submission of judges grading which was successful and will be improved and implemented in the future. We developed less biased system for grading students and will improve it and use it. New officers are Amanda Hulse-Kamp incoming vice-chair and Kevin Falk incoming secretary. Very good team from technology standpoint. Plan is to develop workshop that would cater to graduate student and early career. Topics like genomic selection and using software R, python...Might plan splitting into workshops and webinars.
  - Ksenija Gasic suggested to have posters earlier uploaded and provided earlier access to judges to improve the judging. Ann Marie Thro – Agree with Ksenija's comment about submitting, posters earlier , maybe 'last minutes' as a separate category? One does not want to close them out, yet judging a large number in a short time frame could have drawbacks as well. Virtual meeting provided benefit of being able to revisit the posters to improve the judging.
- Early Career Working Group – Amanda Hulse-Kamp
  - WG had a good year, posted 3 webinars throughout the year continuing the series from last year using format of interviewing early career scientist at different locations and with different industries (startup people). Continued hosting coffee hours and used it also for business meetings. Securing extra speaking spot this year for EC.
  - Next year goals are to continue and improve on the previous year activities. Current year leadership is Amanda -chair; Nilesh Dighe as co-chair and Dan Packer as secretary. The new leadership will be replaced completely with Debora Menicos, Vice-Chair: Sarah Turner-Hissong, Secretary: Chandler Levinson
- Graduate Student Working Group
  - Current officers include: Chandler Levinson (providing report) from University of Georgia serving as Chair, Zara York from Washington State University serving as the Vice Chair,

and Brittney Brewer-Jones from Montana State University serving as the Secretary. New leadership Chair: Zara York; Vice Chair: Brittney Brewer-Jones; secretary position will be recruited.

- Last year transitioned to adding value, implemented thesis competition resulting in people becoming members just to enter the thesis competition. People who joined to do the competition became diversity awardees.
- Webinar series that will be continues up to 60 participants.
- Graduate student highlights as well as messages such as job opportunities.
- Commercial Plant Breeding Committee – met at the meeting
  - J.D. Rossow new chair provided report. This committee was instated last year so reporting on the one year of the activity. Klaus Koehler from Corteva was the first chair and Richard Ellsworth Harrison from Driscolls is becoming the vice -chair.
  - Developed NAPB antitrust document that was approved by the EC. Expanded the committee by almost 2x adding more companies, identified three areas to work on: interaction and presence of the companies during annual meetings, sponsoring the gene editing session at this meeting and organized UPOV webinar on intellectual property protection of seed products.
  - Developed a concept for a company sponsored internship program for NAPB graduate student members. Worked on improvement of the relationship between ASTA and NAPB, and attracting more companies as members.
  - Goals for this year 4 areas to work on: improving the membership, identified specific topics to put in front of the NPAB, monitor the specific spacing and ability to provide feedback on the topics that we do on daily basis. Create the forum on effects of Covid-19 and share it with he NAPB. Develop white paper on the forum discussion What is the future of plant breeding look like?
- Borlaug Scholars – Donn Cummings – no separate committee meeting. Excellent participation, need more support, great years.
- Awards committee – Jim McFerson – advocating for new members, ensure diversity in the committee, specifically need private sector, female persuasion, and specialty crops. Competition is great excellent candidates. Compliment sot the committee n doing an excellent job.
- Dave Bubeck – nomination format is very good and encourages members to nominate the colleagues.

2:55-3: 00 – Closing Remarks and Adjourn – Bubeck

- Thank you all for the work and suppor to the organization. Excellent wotrk on all committees throuout the year and at the meeitng. CHallnge to all of us is to leverage the Covid to improve the organization. Amazed how smoothly everything went tahnks to everyones involvement and effort.

Meeitng adjourned 4:05pm EDT

Minutes taken by Ksenja Gasic

Attendees (63):

Allen Van Deynze	Kaitlyn Smedjir	Vasillia Fasoula
Amanda Hulse-Kamp	Kate Evans	Virginia Sykes
Amrtipal Singh	Kendal Ramkey	William Tracy
Anne Stapleton	Kevin Falk	Zachary Jones
Ann-Marie Thro	Khushi Goda	Zara York
Aristide Carlos Houdegbe	Klaus Koehler	
Benjamin Thomas Trampe	Ksenija Gasic	
Brian Leckie	Lance MErick	
Brittney Jones	Leynar Leyton Naranjo	
Chandler Levinson	Liana Nice	
David Baltensperger	Marc Zienkiewicz	
David Bubeck	Mark Sorrells	
David Francis	Marymar Butruille	
David Neuman	Neha Kothari	
Debora Menicos	Paul Zankowski	
Don Jones	Peggy Ozias-Aking	
Donn Cummings	Rex Bernardo	
Emily Zemke	Richard	
Erika Sanchez	Richard Ellsworth Harrison	
George Graef	Robert Wayne Duncan	
Hannah Senior	Robin Groose	
Istvan Rajcan	RohayuMa'arup	
J.D. Rossouw	Sarah Potts	
Jack McCarty	Sean Finnie	
James McFerson	Shyam Tallury	
James Parks	Siobhan Moore	
Jodi Scheffler	Stephen Baenziger	
Joel Hemingway	Todd Campbell	
John Grill	Valerio Hoyos-Villegas	