

September 15th 2020, 1.00pm EST
EC Meeting

Present: Dave Bubeck, Peggy Ozias-Akins, Ksenija Gasic, Don Jones, Benjamin Trampe.
Hannah Senior joined the call at 1.25pm

Minutes from July & August Meeting

Ksenija apologised for these not being ready to approve at this meeting

ACTION – Ksenija to circulate, EC to read and send approval via email after this meeting

Finances

Don reported that the financial information has not been received.

ACTION – Don to share financial update when information received.

2020 Annual Meeting Review

The post-attendance survey has been sent, but Dave will send one final reminder before reviewing the feedback.

The meeting is broadly considered to have gone very well and in particular being able to review the presentations for a year has been well received

The poster session – especially being able to review and judge ahead of time – went well and the method of judging should be maintained for future years.

The idea of a hybrid model - an in-person meeting with a video of the presentation available for additional viewing - is an idea for the future meetings. It might be beneficial to other members who could not attend the meeting

The option to pre-record key presentations but be present for Q&A went down well.

ACTION – Dave will join the 2021 Planning Committee periodically to facilitate communication and planning.

Annual Committee Reports

There was a discussion about who should have access to the Committee Annual Reports – which have been emailed to the EC - with themes including importance of access for reference / overview (EC), continuity of leadership (incoming committee chairs) and member transparency (all NAPB members). It was noted that some topics will need to be confidential to the EC, but broader availability of the annual reports should be considered.

ACTION – Benjamin will find out who has access to the leadership folder (EC only, or also Committee Chairs?). He will also communicate with ACCESS about leadership access and find

out whether there is currently a members-only place for reports to be made available to NAPB members

ACTION – Possibility of having NAPB-member-only or meeting-registrant-only access areas on the website are to be included into a discussion about revising/updating the website

Proposed New Committees

The idea of developing two new committees was discussed, a Diversity Committee and a Nomination & Board Development Committee. Diversity issues don't have a single obvious "home" among the existing committee structure leading to lack of continuity in annual NIFA application for funding. Some members felt that the route to appointment as a committee officer / EC officer is not as transparent as it could be.

Both these issues were acknowledged as important, although there was a recognition that as a relatively small volunteer-run organisation the number of committees could become unmanageable. Alternatives such as writing appointment procedures into the by laws or making consideration of diversity issues part of a recommended way of proceeding for all committees – for example - may achieve the same objectives.

ACTION - Dave will include the topic in the next EC meeting and prepare a straw model / outline idea for discussion

ACTION - Ksenija to consult Dorrie Main about how other committees think about these issues

Dates for Future Meetings

The locations are fixed for 2021 and 2022, & dates fixed firmly for 2021, perhaps only approximately for 2022. No location has been agreed for 2023 although South Carolina (Charleston) has been discussed.

The timing could be flexed to allow members who are always occupied with field work in August to attend, but various issues that could present complications were discussed:

- a) Annual leadership cycle starting /ending at different times
- b) Variable gap between meetings (not always 12 months)
- c) Opportunity for supplementary &/or virtual meetings to accomplish some goals

ACTION – EC to solicit input from other interested geographies before confirming 2023 location

ACTION – DAVE to bring this topic in its broadest context back for future discussion

Plant Breeding Reviews – ebook of Plant Breeders.

NAPB has been invited to collaborate to develop this e-book, which could create professional promotional content for NAPB / to promote plant breeding. The amount of resource, costs etc are unclear.

ACTION - Peggy to investigate further and report back to EC

NAPB promotional videos

The opportunity to create educational, informative and promotional video content - taking advantage of Kevin Falk's experience in editing and video production - may have multiple applications. These include:

- Creating a composite video about the 2020 Meeting (to recap and to promote the 2021 meeting)
- Create a short profile / biography of EC members
- Tell stories about Plant Breeding successes and the value of NAPB membership.

ACTION – Dave will work these ideas up further for future discussion

Meeting Schedule

3rd Tuesday of the month, 12.00 central time has been agreed for EC meetings and seems to suit everyone. These will alternate between EC only meetings (Sept, Nov, Jan, Mar, May, Jul) and all committee chairs + EC (Oct, Dec, Feb, Apr, Jun)

DECISION – All agree this schedule works well

ACTION – Dave will bring topics for 2020-21 discussion back to the EC for future discussion

Meeting closed at 13.05