

2019/2020 NAPB Advocacy Committee Annual Report.

Submitted 1 August 2020

Emily Ziemke, chair; Bill Tracy, vice-chair, (interim chair May-August); Katie Rainey, secretary.

Congressional Visit Day: The committee reviewed a record number of applicants for the Congressional Visit Day program. It was a strong pool this year with many early grad students. We hope some will apply again next year. NAPB could send two students. Aaron Anderson and Adrienne Brown were our top two recommendations.

NAPB Advocacy Committee Opinion Survey:

In January/February 2020 the advocacy committee initiated a survey of the NAPB membership to determine the importance of various topics. Amanda Hulse-Kemp graciously put our survey into Qualtrics and communications chair Jodi Scheffer sent out announcement and links and reminded members to respond. There were 88 respondents.

The three biggest priorities are:

- a. Advocate for funding of public sector breeding, including for specialty crops that don't have a commodity group or large private sector presence.
- b. Advocate for funding of pre-breeding and germplasm characterization
- c. Advocate for funding for applied plant breeding (in the vein of the AFRI advanced TY RFP), with a target of hybrid/inbred/variety releases.

Please see attached the survey report.

Emily shared these with the students prior to CVD. We hope it was useful to them in their conversations with lawmakers and their staff.

Workshop on USDA regulations of gene edited crops specifically 'Part-340'

In late May, Peggy Ozias-Akins contacted the advocacy committee to determine if we could attend a meeting organized by Allen Van Deynze (UC-Davis). Allen's communication (May 28, 2020) follows.

"There is an opportunity to comment on biotech regulations which will formulate whether we will be able to use Gene editing. ASTA has been spending a lot of time on this, but an NAPB public scientist response will have a lot of wait. Would you (and Advocacy com, etc) be able to have a call on this Friday at 1p PT? Current regs are focusing on current few crops and GM traits already known which if course are all of the private big crops. I think we have too much to lose by being silent. David (and I some) have been very active on this and can help summarize the rule. I can set the call if this works best,
Allen"

A zoom meeting was organized for 8 June and was attended by Peggy, Allen, Bill, Dave Bubeck (Corteva), and Mikey Kantar (U Hawai'i) Chair of the PBCC.

The result of the zoom meeting was that the advocacy committee with the education committee, communications committee and PBCC would organize a webinar/workshop to inform the community of part-340 and to gather the community thoughts on this issue. The advocacy committee with help from PBCC chair would then prepare a white paper for discussion at the annual meeting. Rob Duncan (Manitoba) education chair, worked with Bill and Mikey to put the webinar together, and we appreciate the efforts of Jodi in publicizing the workshop. Our speakers were Dr. Jennifer Kuzma (NCSU), Dr. Dave Bubeck (Corteva), and Dr. Heidi Kaeppler UW-Madison. Over 156 people preregistered and nearly 100 attended. The presentations were excellent and we had a good question and answer period. The information will be used to prepare a brief white paper for discussion at the advocacy committee meeting at the annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted (30 July 2020).

William F. Tracy
wftracy@wisc.edu