February 2020 NAPB Board Meeting

Minutes

Attendees: Peggy Ozias-Akins, Ksenija Gasic, Don Jones, Dave Bubeck, Alex Lipka, Mikey Kantar (PBCC), Jody Scheffler, Klaus Koehler, Dan Packer, Rob Duncan, Chandler Levinson, Stephen Baenziger

Excused: Donn Cummings, Todd Campbell, Valerio Hoyos Vllegas, Emily Ziemke,

*Approve minutes from Jan meeting* – Ksenija Gasic

* Peggy O-A provided edits. Minutes approved with the changes. Motion to accept the minutes by Dave Bubeck, second by Peggy O-A.

*Financials –* Peggy Ozias-Akins

* Investment fund. EC approved for $50K to be conservatively invested with $10K per month. Paperwork is submitted. Objective is to start earning funds to be able to hire a permanent person to help with management of society.

***Standing Committee reports***

*Membership – Peggy O-A for Valerio H-V*

* Membership stats have been distributed. Making progress on increasing the membership. Alex L. - donations from people that might not want to become members but want to donate are enabled - .Peggy will followed up with Valerio regarding the donations to NAPB. It is not just to Borlaug but to NAPB as a whole. For Borlaug scholar donations there is a specific site to donate.

*Advocacy* – Peggy O-A

* Selected two students (Adrianne Brown—Tuskegee University and Aaron Anderson—UC Davis) to attend congressional visit day; advocacy survey open until Feb 28: <https://ncsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e9fxKLGa9CeVrk9>
* Jodi will send email regarding the survey on the topic for advocacy engagement
* Chandler Levinson tried to speak but had communication issue. Will communicate via email

*Education* – Rob Duncan

* Committee meeting minutes distributed. Email regarding webinars are distributed, one came out today. Working with Annual Meeting planning committee on arranging posters and judging.

*Communication* – Jodi Scheffler

* Newsletter has been distributed. Next newsletter is planned for first week of April. Send articles that you want published. An email soliciting the ideas will go out soon. Student perspectives on congressional visit will be published. Maybe write an article of the congressional visit perspectives form the students.
* Peggy O-A – Having a graduate student spotlight in the newsletter is a great idea. However, Early career working group does not have forum within the annual meeting to be highlighted within society so maybe early career spotlight in the newsletter should be included as well. Jodi will present the idea to the committee.
* D. Bubeck – Requesting the placeholder in the newsletter for article on the NAPB/PBCC sponsored meeting in Washington DC. David volunteered to write the article about the meeting. Meeting is happening this week. M. Kantar will help with the write up as he will be taking notes during the meeting as well.
* Peggy O-A – great idea as membership is not aware of this meeting in D.C.
* Jodi will send reminder about this article.

*Commercial plant breeding group* – Klaus Koehler/Anna Reibson

* Good interaction with the organizing committee in Nebraska to add items on the agenda within technology session about international regulatory landscape on genome editing. Some of the companies wanted to have lightning introduction and it was accommodated within the meeting agenda. Proposal for grad students still under development, need to address discrepancies between the private companies for longer internship opportunities. Increased membership; contacted 5 companies, and 3 responded positively on joining the committee. Still need to get final confirmation from companies (Driscoll is one of the companies). KK will write the report and send it to EC. Still waiting on the final confirmation for one of the company.
* Peggy – Communicating with John about round table discussion and how to get the word out and register the companies. The list will be assembled based on the registration sometime in July to let people know what is happening in the round table.
* Klaus K. – the committee can help with that; already have made the list of the companies to approach.

*Borlaug scholar* – Don J. for Donn Cummings

* Goal is to add 2 students this year. Application is still open. Website is more informative and application link is more obvious. There is also a link for mentors. Working on the fundraising letters. Expect to have a lot of applications for the Borlaug scholarship (last year >70)

*PBCC* – M. Kantar.

* Working on the renewal. Provided the link to the document to extended membership and looking for comments and edits to the renewal projects. Working on getting recognition for plant breeding and preparation of the award submission package.

*Graduate Student Working Group* – Chandler Levinson (due to communication issues Peggy

* Peggy O-A – WG has been very active this month. Trying to improve the visibility on the website. Sending ideas to Alex who is working with them to select what goes on the website. Sponsoring a 3 min thesis competition.
* Jodi S. – The email about the competitions and call for judges went out. Already have 6 judges, students are already signing up and some of them joining NAPB to be able to d the 3min thesis. Updating institutional contact list to be able to send updates. Feb 28th is the deadline to apply for 3 min thesis competition.
* Chandler L. – competition is on March 6th. Professional development webinar series; already had one, was well received and are organizing another one.

*Early Career Working Group* – Amanda Hulse-Kemp/Dan Packer

* Dan P. - Report is submitted. Coffee hour organized regarding bringing diversity to your breeding program. thinking about the venue for early career people to share their work. Is there a possibility to include it at the annual meetings?
* Peggy – It was brought up earlier but at this time not sure if it could be accommodated at this year annual meeting because the plans are well advanced. Will make sure that it is included in next annual meetings.
* Dan P. – How can we measure activity of the postdocs in the society and how many of them are actually attending the meeting?
* Peggy – will have to check with ACSESS to see if we can get that information. It might be possible to differentiate with the meeting registration.
* Dan P - It might be useful information to figure out how to better serve the membership.
* **Action item –** set up within registration for annual meeting to ask few demographics question that would collect the data.
* Peggy O-A - Something similar was done last year with meeting registration.

**Old business**

*2020 meeting* - Stephen Baenziger - update on planning

* Stephen B. – Meeting planning is progressing well. Peggy has access to the NAPB meeting box folder. Website is almost done. Major thing is registration, still working on the tours. Website for meeting http://NAPB2020.unl.edu to look at the website. Please check if there is anything that is missing.
* Peggy O-A. – would it be possible to accommodate ECWG request to differentiate postdoc/students/professional etc.
* Stephen B. – don’t see why not, just need not make sure that registration is not slowed down. Tours and soft skill workshop are still in the works and as soon as that is organized registration will be open. There is still time to add the extra question with the registration. Embassy Suites Lincoln Nebraska: breakfast included with hotel, curtesy van from Lincoln airport. Nearby airport Omaha and transport by bus or train. The venue is in the downtown, not far from the university and entertainment.
* Stephen B. - provided the overview of the agenda: **Sunday** 16th,soft skill meeting (morning and afternoon), PBCC meeting in the afternoon (room for 40 people), opening reception at the hotel atrium, during opening remarks 1 min intro from the industry with the idea that attendees will have an option to speak with company representatives during the meetings. **Monday** – first session on innovation in education in breeding, speakers are lined up.Second session gene editing opportunities within currentregulatory landscapes (see Klaus K. remarks above). Lunch in hotel atrium. Afternoon tours ending up at local vineyard for dinner. **Tuesday -** General session on horticulture tree and turf breeding – 2 speakers lined up already; Education committee wanted to have poster session before Wed to have time for judging so Poster sessions will be before lunch and in the afternoon; lunch on your own, session on breeding for quality traits, with excellent grad student speaker and 2 other speakers; second poster session. Dinner on your own. Tuesday evening is open for ECWG to maybe do something. **Wednesday** – session on big data phenotyping and genomic selection, at least 2 grad student talks; next session Plant root and leaf microbiomes, three speakers already lined up and hoping to add graduate student talk; after lunch NIFA talk by Scott Angle, then talk on abiotic stresses and fourth graduate student talk. Usually 4 slots for invited graduate students talks. Education committee can decide if they want to share one of the grad student talk slots with the ECWG. Last session, historical perspective session, Wayne Hanna; one of the best historians of corn breeding Corn breeding history on the road of teosinte and genomic selection. Evening at the Lincoln’s train station social hour banquets. **Thursdays** tours – afternoon at the phenotyping center, hope to go to Corteva and BASF. High lysine popcorn available to share with attendees. For the tour’s buses meet participants at the hotel. Corteva is about 40 miles away. On the way back visit to BASF and in the afternoon to the phenotyping center. Some other options for tours around the Lincoln to experience the prairie.
* Don J. - are you giving up popped popcorn or the kernels? Popped popcorn most likely.
* Klaus - soft skill workshop what are the needs on the website?
* Stephen B. – look at the website and see if it has what you want to communicate.
* Peggy – make clear application process.
* Thanks to Jodi for getting Borlaug scholarship word out. Provide feedback regarding the website.
* Peggy O-A. – there is no need to wait for registration to become available to open the website. It might be good to open the website so people can get familiar with what’s planned and put the meeting on their calendar.
* **Action item** – EC to provide the input on the website so it can be open live as soon as possible.
* Stephen B. – Another question is whether a workshop led by Jianming Yu on software to analyze phenotypic plasticity and GxE should be offered in conjunction with the meeting. It could be a half or whole day and offered as a tour option on Thursday or on Friday. Please respond with any concerns or suggestions by Friday. Hector is working on polishing the tours so very soon we will have an idea if this is possible.
* Peggy O-A. - Agenda and the format of the workshop might help the decision
* Don J – when will the tours be finalized?
* Stephen B – Hopefully this week. The hold up is that some of the places for tours can accept restricted number of people.
* Don J. – if registration will be available with a week then we can wait with making the site live if it will take longer then website should be open.

*Other society meetings* - Peggy Ozias-Akins/Dave Bubeck

* ASTA in Chicago in December, and Monterrey in February. Good visibility at ASTA. Don had a nice placement for the table and Borlaug scholar students showed at the table that Don manned. Don presented NAPB in 5 min.
* ASHS meeting in Orlando week before the NAPB meeting. Will someone else be able to go to man the exhibitor booth? Ksenija G. will be there but has other obligations as this is her major society meeting so is not able to spend much time at the exhibitor booth. Being week prior to the NAPB meeting makes it difficult for people to attend both.
* This week - ASTA organized symposium supported by NAPB/PBCC and UC Davis Seed Biotech Center in Washington DC. Advancements in Plant Breeding Symposium Series: The Discipline of Plant Breeding, 19-20 Feb; 49 attendees; USDA-ARS, USDA-APHIS, USDA-FAS, FDA, USTR, BRS-APHIS, DOS, EPA. Dave will also be attending as representative of seed science foundation, with Peggy and M. Kantar. ASTA has a nice connection with the staffers in the DC. Well attendance is expected. Summary of this meeting will be reported in April newsletter.

Minutes taken by Ksenija Gasic.

Meeting adjourned 2:05pm CST/3:05 EST.