January 2020 NAPB Board Meeting

Minutes

Attendees: Peggy Ozias-Akins, Ksenija Gasic, Don Jones, Dave Bubeck, Todd Campbell

Excused: Alex Lipka

*Approve minutes from Dec meeting* – Ksenija Gasic

* No new comments or edits. Motion to accept the minutes by Peggy Ozias - Akins second by Dave Bubeck.

*Financials* – Don Jones

* Everything has cleared form the meeting. Financials are in good standing roughly $30K in positive.

***Old business:***

*Congressional visit day – Peggy Ozias-Akins – Emily Zimieke led request - 11 applicants,*

* *Call out for Congressional participation was a bit late but by the deadline of January 6th we got a very good response (11 applicants) and 2 selected: Adrianne Brown (PhD, Tuskegee) and Aaron Anderson (MS, UC Davis). Excellent students that will join Tri-Society students for the visit early in March.*
* *Todd C.: Are any of the NAPB professional members joining? Emily will eb there and she will join. Dave B. might be there as well and find the time to participate.*

*2020 meeting – Peggy Ozias – Akins*

* *Nebraska NAPB meeting going strong as for planning. Committee meets January 22nd again. Website development is progressing, and speaker list is being populated. Organizational Committee is working with private companies to address their requests. Todd C. will registration still be through ACESS? Yes.*
* *Has Cornell been involved in these meeting? Occasionally. Speaker list not yet set, still deciding on the sessions and session chairs to deal with the speakers.*
* *PheedLoop software and event planning software that allows event planning, app development very flexible with online programming. Peggy is evaluating it to see the content and price and if this would be something NAPB would consider adopting in the long run.*

*Newsletter – Peggy Ozias – Akins - Zach Jones working on winter issue*

* *Did not have fall Newsletter due to Jodie’s personal issues. Zack is working on the content and will be released very soon as a winter issue.*

*ACSESS services – Peggy Ozias – Akins – Keep website with ACSESS? Design update by ACSESS or Weblinx? Domains are being renewed by Seth Murray who will remain as maintainer*

* *Discussion on the web services were so far all or nothing. That does not work well for us especially with request to adopt Drupal. Alternatively, Weblinx would be a way to contract to do the update. Meeting Website – ACSESS is doing nothing for it just providing link on NAPB web site. There is no real content. Guelph and GA meetings websites were developed by the organizational institutions. Alex might be able to answer this.*
* *Todd C. establish ad hoc committee with Alex and some computer savvy people to get the clarification regarding web services and get some research before we get in touch with ACSESS. Why can’t there be an intermediate solution? Alex has volunteer to be maintainer of the domain.*
* *Dave B. and Peggy OA can contact Ian and get their technical experts on call to see if these are only options. Sarah Potts offered to help but with the Drupal suggestion she does not have personal time to commit to learn it. Is it worth to have the conversation with Ian’s web technical staff? Dave B. could start conversation with Ian and discuss the design flexibility with Peggy and Alex as the ones that know most about the issue and are adding the content to the web page. Dave B. will set up several dates with Ian and arrange the meeting with Peggy and Alex and whomever Ian invited to the meeting. Ksenija G will join to ensure institutional memory of the website development. We are not sure is the Drupal required for membership database or for whole web site development. Dorrie Main might be a good addition to the discussion since she has experience in Drupal. Ksenija G. will contact her and include Peggy and Dave B in the conversation.*

*ASF Investment Fund – Peggy Ozias-Akins – whether and how much to invest?*

* *Discuss this as an option to secure the funding needed for staff hire to have a permanent person that works on general issues/support of the society. Don J. is in support of this idea. The problem is that our funds fluctuate and right now we are not making any money in terms of interest so this would be an option. Dave B. we need to discuss this in terms of cash flow needs of NAPB society. Don J. we could vote to invest the money, discuss the relatively conservative formula. Low interest funds, secure bonds etc. Need to establish the culture of how much risk are we willing to take 70-30% or 80-20% as Tri-Society? Do we want to align like the long-term societies such as Tri-Societies?*
* *Ernst & Young (EY) is financial advising firm that Tri-Societies is using.*
* *Todd C. need to get back to discussion regarding our operating expenses and get different scenarios for different funding years.*
* *Peggy OA do we want to prepare the annual operating expenses for last 10 years?*
* *If the bad year happens how much of funding, we would need to access and what is considered bad year?*
* *Dave B. Donn C. was thinking more in the low amounts as a start. Do not see a reason to contact EY unless we are investing at least $50-100K*
* *D Jones getting the money out is a question and maybe starting low to see how it works so we would not be penalized if we need to take the money out.*
* *Somewhere between $50-100K and would we benefit from low start and find out where the EY rates would be for different amounts.*
* *Peggy OA we should investigate these before we discuss it further. Dave B. Wes knows the answer to these questions and can get the answers back to us fairly quickly.*
* *Don J. will get in touch with Donn C. and he will investigate all the options with Wes in terms of fee structure and amount. Don J to update 2019 figures and share with EC.*
* *Dave B. there might be several other options that we could consider. an option to transfer the amount that is need.*

*ASTA organized symposium supported by NAPB/PBCC and UCDavis Seed Biotech Center - Peggy Ozias-Akins and Dave Bubeck - Advancements in Plant Breeding Symposium Series: The Discipline of Plant Breeding - program attached*

* *Scheduled for February 19th in Washington DC. Target audiences are regulatory agencies. Purpose of this symposium series is to focus on science of plant breeding. It will not focus on policy. Half day on 20th February would be focused on different audience, value chain with the subset of speakers.*
* *Dave B. Official sponsors are NAPB, PBCC and UC Davis. ASTA has a lot of incentives to help but does not want to be viewed as a sole interested party so it is not industry driven but has few industry representatives to be available for Q&A. Public driven initiative.*
* *Peggy OA requesting funds for travel to this event. Todd C. moved for approval Ksenija G. second. EC approved.*

**New Business**

*Alex' request for EC to step down as webmaster by Aug meeting*

* Alex has been in this position for 4 years. Don J. also suggested that he would be willing to step down from his position if there is and interest from anyone. Need to check the bylaws - EC appoints.
* Potential candidates for web master are Sarah P. and Virginia S. which would need to be confirmed with them. Both are good candidates.
* Dave B. cautions on the Corteva overrepresentation in EC – no concerns regarding that from present EC membership.

**Items from floor**

* NA

*Meeting concluded at 2:00pm EST*

*Minutes taken by Ksenija Gasic*