June 2020 NAPB + Board Meeting

Minutes

Attendees: Peggy Ozias-Akins, Ksenija Gasic, Dave Bubeck, Jody Scheffler, Klaus Koehler, Rob Duncan, Chandler Levinson, Hector Santiago, Valerio Hoyos-Villegas, Amanda Hulse-Kemp, Donn Cummings, Todd Campbell

Excused: Alex Lipka, Don Jones,

*Approve minutes from Jan meeting* – Ksenija Gasic

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

*Financials –* Peggy Ozias-Akins

* Healthy balance even though there is not much income this year. Reason is that much of our income is tied to annual meeting.

***Standing Committee reports***

* *Peggy Ozias-Akins* - Business meeting at the annual conference is scheduled on Thursday afternoon. Because of the virtual meeting it has been extended. Committee leadership changes and report are due at the annual meeting. Peggy will be sending an email with reminder.

*Membership –Valerio H-V*

* Membership committee report distributed. Membership numbers have grown. The goal was to increase membership by 25%, we are on track of reaching that goal of 500 members. Right now, total number is 472 most of it is professionals, student members are not growing. Ask ASCESS to separate new members, from those that are returning etc. We are doing quite well on renewal but that is not going to help growth. Number of people that are not members but have demonstrated interest, listserve, are declining. Looking for stories to advertise the value of NAPB membership. Advertisements are very effective.
* Peggy Ozias-Akins – some of the membership number changes are tied to annual meeting and reduced registration for annual meeting for members.
* Klaus Koehler – goal is to increase the membership of private companies.
* Dave Bubeck – with a little bit of private sector effort we should be able to push the membership number over 500.
* Sending an internal email to people within private companies to join the NAPB listserve will make sure they get the advertisements and might help with membership increase.
* Amanda Hulse-Kemp – are there separate email lists? Peggy O-A– there are recruitment email list and membership list.
* Peggy will follow up with Ian to see what the recruitment email list is.
* Donn Cummings – recruitment list is legacy list and could be used for some prospective activities within membership committee. Don’t see a big value as many emails are outdated.

*Advocacy* –Bill Tracy – USDA gene editing regulations

* Bill Tracy is the advocacy committee chair as Emily is on maternity leave.
* Peggy Ozias-Akins, Allen Van Deynze, Mikey Kantar and Bill Tracy had a phone call last week about the Part 340 (SECURE) – gene editing regulations. Consensus is that NAPB should take position on it and advise the document writer of the Part 340, it is complex and confusing. Advocacy committee met with Rob Duncan and Mikey Kantar. Next meeting is tomorrow. At the annual meeting advocacy committee will meet again and discuss result of the webinar and other sources received reg the topic. It would not be classic webinar, there will be 3-4 experts and the time for viewers to interact will be set so the opinions could be collected.
* Peggy Ozias-Akins – the idea is to gather the comments and opinions before submitting comments to Part 340 writing group?
* Bill Tracy – yes
* Jim McFerson – Genetic resources council has been very active recently. It meets monthly and one of the topics they are discussing is the farm bill for improvement of maintenance of collections. It would be good to connect with the advocacy committee. It also aligns well with the priorities that were set via survey.

*Education* – Rob Duncan

* Last meeting minutes distributed
* Hosted webinar on May 12th e.g. UPOV, well attended over 70 attendees. Most of the committee activities are centered around the annual meeting mainly selection of the student speakers and post doc speaker, discussing the format, timeline etc. The abstract deadline is July 8th, so committee will meet on July 9th. Not sure how many posters will be submitted given the virtual meeting and how the 100 posters (approximate number of posters submitted to annual conference) would be handled. The idea is to have separate rooms with definitive number of posters in the room where judges, presenters and audience will be present, and presenters would have 2-5 minutes to present. Poster deadline will be one week in advance of the meeting so the judges can preview the posters and score the rubric prior to live session.
* Dave Bubeck - Have the judges been recruited? Are we going to use zoom break out rooms, or where the poster will be displayed?
* Rob D. - Judge recruitment is not completed yet, question with registration about willingness to serve as a judge will serve to get the initial list. But more will need to be done to have enough judges.
* Format will be zoom but will be handled by a private company. So it might be different zoom meetings for each poster group and breakout rooms within each zoom meeting for one on one between judges and presenters. There will be moderator of the room for 10-15 posters.
* Ksenija Gasic – maybe pre-set time for presenters and judges to be in the same meeting room to help with organization?
* Rob Duncan - Another option is prerecorded poster presentations. The only downside is the Q&A session.
* Valerio Hoyos-Villegas – what platform are we considering using? If you are using “slack” you can have number of channels, one channel for each poster or break it up per groups of posters, and people can choose to go into the room and it would be similar to the live presentations and meeting in person.
* Peggy Ozias-Akins - Organizers are open for suggestions. Most of us are familiar with zoom.
* Chandler Levinson – What are the online resources for the website for posters if they are prerecording?
* Peggy Ozias-Akins – it is available through the company that will be helping with the meeting. So only registered people will have access to the pre-recorded posters, and it would be available for certain time.
* Chandler Levinson – does not recommend prerecorded. Rob D. agrees, as the interaction will be lost in the prerecorded version.
* PeggyO-A. – we will continue to discuss this in the future with the organizing committee
* Rob D. – welcome all ideas on how to organize the poster session

*Awards – Jim McFerson – report distributed, deadline June 19*

* Typically seeing no submissions before the deadline. Good news we have many good submissions from last time. No submissions for early career award. Full committee 9 members. 4 members are rolling of this year so new members need to be recruited. How will organizers handle announcement of the awardees?
* Peggy O-A. – Right now on Thursday morning is presentation of 2019 awardees and afterwards is announcement of 2020 recipients. Thanks to Jodi for sending reminder.
* Rob D. – What are criteria for early career award? Jim McF. – 10 years since PhD.

*Communication* – Jodi Scheffler

* Report has been distributed.
* Getting ready to put together July newsletter. Traditionally have lot of information about the 2019 winners that will be highlighted in the meeting. Who is the best person to provide that information? Stephen B. Other people to provide information for newsletter if they have something they want to share, contact Jodi S. Getting message out through social media is working really well especially to reach the younger members. Problem with listserve is if the email address has changed and is not updated. Working on putting more things on Facebook and Twitter.
* Anything else that the communication committee needs to work on? From other committees.

*Commercial plant breeding group* – Klaus Koehler - Report has been distributed.

* New secretary that accepted nomination Rick Harrison from Driscoll. The webinar (UPOV) was an initiative of the commercial plant breeding group. Still working on collaboration on ASTA. Working on science projects. Working with Ellen Zimmerman to leverage communication channels that exist in NAPB and ASTA. Discussion has to continue around the mentorship program where we could collaborate with them. Membership initiative is another thing that the committee will work on.
* Dave B. – on the collaboration activity with ASTA it would be good for NAPB to get official agreement with ASTA and both organizations can advertise it to show that organizations are collaborating and working together on common issues. To make it more formal. Had to leave to join ASTA meeting.
* Donn Cummings – SEEPA? is collaborating with ASTA.

*Borlaug scholar* – Don Jones/Donn Cummings

* Reports distributed. Don J. had personal events that prevented him to participate today and will reduce his participation. Committee selected 2 undergraduates and 16 graduate, both pools were light this year. Excellent nomination and quality of nominees. With the Covid-19 and virtual meeting we could offer more scholarship to provide registration this year. 18 mentors were identified and assigned for all of the students. July 31 2-4pm is the first session to kick off the mentoring connections before the meeting. Hope to host virtual conferences throughout the year. In process to get pictures and profiles and the deadline (June 20) for students is approaching so it can be put on the web and prepare news release. Thinking about getting 1min video from each student. Fundraising is challenge in the Covid environment. Annual meeting plans, we assume we will be part with the award sessions and not sure where we could put funding for the program within virtual meeting.
* Peggy – suggested to contact Stephen B. to see where this could be incorporated in the annual meeting

*PBCC* –Mikey Kantar.

* Had to step out but provided updated in the chat: PBCC is working with the advocacy and education committee on the webinar, we are running the PBCC meeting the week before the NAPB meeting to avoid zoom fatigue, the exact day is still open as we are waiting for the results of a survey of the PBCC members, we are looking forward to the webinar.

*Graduate Student Working Group* – Chandler Levinson

* Reports provided and distributed. Request for separate YouTube Channel. Idea to have informal meeting for awards. Peggy O-A. – contact Stephen B., look at the program and have your preference reg scheduling
* Graduate student event given that meeting is online, trivia meeting. Is that ok? Yes. Talk to Stephen as well.
* You tube channel just for graduate students, plan to have more webinars is that ok?
* Peggy O-A. – not sure how it is managed. Rob? There are few people that have access to it.
* Is it possible to have several channels under the same channel?
* Peggy O-A. - Kevin might have a better concept what is possible. Maybe contact him to see what he would suggest.
* Rob D. – good idea, reach out to him to see if there is subchannel possibility.
* Suggested to raise the funds $1 per student for activities – idea brought up within the committee.
* Peggy – What is the purpose of those funds?
* Valerio – this brings up the topic from before that we do not have a way to accept donations. Can we set up a donate button on the website? Chandler are you thinking about something like crowd funding?
* Chandler L. – it is not that well thought up yet.
* Don C. - What do you want to fund?
* Chandler - Something like students attending African PBA and pay for registration.
* Donn. C. – great idea but there is a little to no time to do anything about it. It might be done via regular funding by setting up separate funds for these activities. It would be money out of general funds and notifying people that there will be option to donate. Mechanism is there to do it via general fund working with ASCESS.
* Jodi – Do you have connection to start working on it?
* Donn C. – Yes, Allen Van Deynze and Rita Mumm would be the best.
* Attempt to include more students. Jodi will send Chandler and email to talk about it after the meeting.
* Peggy - there is no problem with this idea. It is a great opportunity to connect with the African PBA especially as the meeting is virtual.

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

* Report distributed. More international people joining webinars, e.g. Canada, Brazil and Pakistan. Trying to host the coffee hour but there was an internet issue with the host so the meeting never happened. Potential solution to have a backup host.
* You can have password protect it and allow joining before host.
* Default parameters are changed sometimes and that could create the problem.

**Old business**

*2020 meeting* –Hector Santiago

* Did not join.

**New Business**

*Intersociety Task Force for Ag Innovation – Peggy Ozias-Akins*

* Open for comments until August 30th. Tri-Societies put together task force to put together comments and provide. Peggy is involved in the task force and will provide the direct input.

*Possible new standing committee – Peggy Ozias-Akins – Diversity committee*

* Part of the NIFA proposal award funds for the meeting were for student travel and with meeting being virtual the funds could be used differently. Do we want the set of criteria to set up within the NAPB to guide the process of submission NIFA meeting grant? Also do we want to do only NIFA funding or explore other options for funding? George Graef is very enthusiastic about this and might be the person to lead this activity.
* Donn C. – excellent idea and timely. Problem might be if we don’t have legal group to support us on diversity issue. This should be discussed further.

Minutes taken by Ksenija Gasic.

Meeting adjourned 2:27pm CST/3:27 EST.