March 2020 NAPB Board Meeting

Minutes

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

Excused: Alex Lipka,

*Approve minutes from Feb meeting* – Ksenija Gasic

* Peggy O-A provided edits. Minutes approved with the changes. Motion to approve D. Jones, T. Campbell second, all approved.

*Financials –* Don Jones

* Investment fund. EC approved for $50K to be conservatively invested with $10K per month. $10K is in the market and it is down 10%. Do we want to loop other $40K in next 4 weeks or wait? Market is down because of the COVID-19 but the expectation is that it will go up once situation is stable. Every 4 weeks $10K are invested. The first $10K was invested on March 1st. Motion to move the $20K right now and then another %20K in 4 weeks – D. Jones. After checking with Wes if this is doable D. Jones will send the email to EC for vote.
* NAPB is in good financial shape. Anticipation is that COVID-19 will affect incoming support to be less than at the last NAPB meeting. We have sufficient funds now to organize the meeting in August even with minimal support.

**Old business**

*2020 meeting – S. Baenziger –*

* *website is open and running. Would be better if the website was up a month ago. Tours are set including an optional tour. Please provide the comments for the website. Next goal is to start the fund raising. Different tours and they will be capped. Good diversity for people to choose.*
* *Workshop propositions and formal policy for scheduling the workshops. When to organize the workshop to avoid conflict with other activities on the agenda? If it is on Friday it will extend the meeting. Hotel rates are until Thursday evening. Question is if we want to have the workshops?*
* *D. Bubeck - Ok with the extended meeting into Friday for workshop. If we can work out the logistic of the workshop and it does not disrupt the main meeting agenda.*
* *T. Campbell – it’s probably better not to put it before the meeting because it conflicts with soft skills workshop. Anyone who signs up for it will realize that it will be intense. Ok with the workshop to be at the end of the conference. Burden is on the local host to accommodate it.*
* *SB – we will advertise NAPB meeting as stated Sat – Thu, then advertise the workshop after the NAPB on UNL campus so the post NAPB workshop is not part of the NAPB. Might have a minor fee associated with it. Add the workshop as value added. Could be open to members and others for a small fee or not.*
* *Rex Bernardo suggested that there should be a policy for workshop organizations at the NAPB meeting.*
* *SB - we could suggest that NAPB is willing to have the workshops at the end of the meeting. NAPB would have a say in it but not be part of the NAPB meeting. So, we can solicit the proposals and*
* *Peggy OA – DO we want to have the policy on workshop organizations or leaving it to the local organizers?*
* *D. Bubeck – we should have the policy and make it really simple. ASTA example – if it is not part of the regular program, it is not on agenda, it is separately scheduled meeting. We could do the same, acknowledge that the meeting is going on but if there is a local interest to organize workshop after the NAPB meeting we are not opposed to it.*
* *Peggy OA – So suggestion is that organization of additional workshops etc. would be at the local organizers to decide as long as the additional activities do not conflict with the main NAPB meeting.*
* *D. Jones – similar situation was in Raleigh – ASTA has permanent staff NAPB does not. Would there be need for separate meals etc. so it does not conflict with the NAPB meeting. EC needs to approve this ahead of time, and if so then those activities should be part of the meeting.*
* *Peggy OA – local organizing committee would be responsible for the details.*
* *SB – ASTA does not control anything outside of their own meeting. How do they control who gets the information about the other meetings?*
* *D. Bubeck - The invite list is assembled by the organizers of the other meetings/workshop/activity.*
* *SB – if it is held on the day that is not part of the NAPB there will not be meals associated with the activities except the optional tour.*
* *D. Jones – the idea of in person workshops especially the good ones as this one is really good since the audience is right and it is better than the distance attendance. But that should be on the local organizing committee*
* *Peggy OA – local organizer can sponsor the workshop and send the information to the NAPB*
* *SB – it should not be a part of the NAPB registration not on the meeting website. Just provide the link or direction to additional information about the opportunity.*
* ***Action item*** *- Peggy OA – will draft the policy. S. Baenziger will share it with workshop organizer.*
* *D. Jones – what is the end date to decide if the meeting will be organized or not? Will hotel be willing to provide shorter time for decisions?*
* *S. Baenziger – in the contract with the hotel there is a drop date by which certain fees have to be paid. At 90 days before the meeting 50% occupancy in hotel should be satisfied.*
* *D. Bubeck – these are unprecedented situations so assumption is that there will be leniency. If we do have to cancel would we be able to reschedule for the next year? That might give more leverage to local organizers to re-negotiate the contract.*
* *S. Baenziger – will investigate the options.*
* *D. Jones – is there an option to re-schedule at a later date in 2020?*
* *SB – problem might be with speakers and students if the meeting is when classes are already on.*

*Congressional visit day – Peggy Ozias-Akins*

* *Reports have been shared. It was successful. Reports will be included in the Newsletter.*

*Membership – Peggy Ozias-Akins – Twitter campaign completed*

* *in January we were at the 432 members higher than previous month and other January figures. Details will be shared in the next meeting with the committee reports. Not sure what is the reason underlying increased membership.*

*Borlaug scholar* – Don Jones

* Application deadline was March 17th it was extended to March 30. Applications are down comparing to last year. It was advertised at several meetings. There was information that students think it is very competitive and they are not applying because they think they have no chance of getting it.
* Peggy OA - link is on the meeting website which might bring more applicants

GSWG - 3MT competition – Peggy Ozias-Akins

* 3 judges. 12 competitors, 3 awards (1st, 2nd and 3rd) plus people’s choice award.
* Coordination of the scheduling the webinars using zoom account. Secretary would be a manager of the google doc. Peggy and Ksenija to discuss this with Rob Duncan to have the calendar scheduling link to avoid conflict and too close scheduling of webinars.

ACSESS services – Peggy Ozias-Akins

* We have not followed up with ACSESS on the website. We need to start recruiting new web editor. Sarah Potts has concerns about taking this duty because of the Drupal.
* Issue is Drupal for web site development. Our understanding is that Drupal was required to update website and make changes and Sarah Potts does not know the Drupal and that is why she is not ready to accept the position.
* K. Gasic – discussed with Dorrie Main at WSU option of helping NAPB with using Drupal for web site development. She was receptive, asked for more information,
* Peggy OA - Discussion with Ian needs to happen first so we have better idea what is actually linked to the database so we are not interrupting.
* Peggy OA – not sure what is it that Alex does and what is that is taken care of by ACSESS.

*ASTA organized symposium supported by NAPB/PBCC and UCDavis Seed Biotech Center* - Peggy Ozias-Akins/Dave Bubeck

* Very successful meeting. The presentations are posted on the NAPB website. Dave B. has written the summary that will be also posted at the NAPB website and included in the Newsletter. The write up will be posted with links to the presentations.
* Peggy OA - did great job leading the meeting and presenting.
* D. Bubeck will present the write-up and link to presentation at the Seed Science Foundation website as well.

Minutes taken by Ksenija Gasic.

Meeting adjourned 2:09pm CST/3:09 EST.