May 2020 NAPB Board Meeting

Minutes

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

Excused: Alex Lipka,

*Approve minutes from Feb meeting* – Ksenija Gasic

* Donn Cummings provided edits. Minutes approved as submitted. Motion to approve D. Bubeck, T. Campbell second, all approved.

*Financials –* Don Jones

* Lynn sent the most current report. Investment is down 14%, compared to last year we have $20K more. Relatively healthy cash flow right now.

**Old business**

*2020 meeting – Peggy Ozias-Akins – discussion on meeting format, activities, registration fees –*

* *Survey responses have been shared. Many responses confirmed attendance in person, some not. Many also in favor of attending the virtual conference. Networking is the most important and it would have to be taken care of if the meeting is virtual.*
* *Dave B. - No face to face meeting, and then decide if the meeting will be virtual or do we try to postpone for 2021? What NAPB could do to make virtual meeting a good experience? If we have virtual meeting it could be a learning experience for the society.*
* *Todd C. – hesitant about virtual meeting. Predicted cost from local organizers suggest that NAPB would have to come up with $25K and if attendance is good it could be financially ok.*
* *Peggy O-A – Sponsorship has not yet been worked out and local organizers are gearing to engage more with sponsors.*
* *Dave B. – not sure if Corteva sponsorship will be affected, it is in the budget so it will probably be used for NAPB meeting regardless of the form of the meeting.*
* *Peggy O-A – not sure if Stephen B. would be willing to postpone for 2021. Lots of effort went into organization for this year already and he is planning on retiring next year (Todd C.). Stephen B. is the major force behind the organization.*
* *Todd C. – NIFA grant has been received and not sure if it can be extended to the next year.*
* *Don J. – if we chose virtual meeting, we would learn a lot. The $45K cost estimate from local organizers includes losing the money from penalties to the hotel, so the cost of the meeting would be about $20K which is affordable. Concern is that if the meeting is postponed Stephen B. might not be there to organize it next year. If the $25K from NIFA is not used could it be used for other costs?*
* *Peggy O-A – money is for student support and if there is no travel cost then potentially money could be used for cost associated with student activities. Also more students could be supported with registration’s coverage.*
* *Don J. – Registration cost question: If the meeting quality is comparable then registration should not be reduced significantly. Suggested 50% reduction of registration is reasonable and might bring more attendance.*
* *Dave B. – with 50% lower registration and no travel expenses more attendees would register. For graduate student sessions we would have to have professional members engaged. The attendance could be pretty good.*
* *Don J. – agrees with DB on registration and that we might have more attendees and people would be in and out depending on interest.*
* *Peggy O-A. – talks could be archived so if you paid the registration fee you could watch it later. At the moment the plan is for three-day meeting which could create zoom fatigue.*
* *Todd C. – what about tours? Doing them before meeting?*
* *Peggy O-A. – it is not clear how it would be done with private companies as for videotaping.*
* *Dave B. – there is a lot of no photo rules at the companies, it is a legal issue.*
* *Todd C. – what level of involvement is going to be needed on our end?*
* *Peggy O-A,- poster session might be harder to pull off with judging.*
* *Don J. – could we vote on the $ figure that Stephen proposed plus 10% increase? Peggy O-A. supports the proposition. If there is increase past 10 % EC will discuss again. All in favor of the proposition to approve the proposed budget with 10% increase.*
* ***Action item:*** *Peggy O-A to inform Stephen B. about the budget decision and check what is expected from EC.*
* *Dave B. – Would there be clear facilitator for Q & A sessions? Reach beyond the planning committee and see what is the realistic number of posters that could be judged and see how graduate student engagement could be enhanced.*
* *Don J. – is the expectation for judges to look only at the poster or have interaction with the students? Peggy O-A – both.*
* *Peggy O-A.- what about Borlaug scholars? Book “Wizard and the prophet” about Borlaug and person that had controversial views recommended for students to read and watch the documentary. Don J. - Committee is having the meeting tomorrow to decide how to do it if the meeting is virtual. There will be no travel expenses and will decide if the money could be spent on other activities.*
* *Dave B. - Freedom from famine documentary Norman Borlaug story in 2014*
* *Todd C. – how do we roll this out to the membership? Will it be through local organizers or NAPB?*
* *Peggy O-A. - Website needs to be updated, and then email from Jodi to go out to the membership.*
* *Dave B. – Meeting could be organized in more relaxed way with few warm up sessions to lighten the load.*

*ACSESS services – Dave Bubeck and Peggy Ozias-Akins*

* *Summary of introduction to new CEO Nick Goeser; possible liaison positions on Tri-societies committees (Wayne Smith).*
* *Good meeting. CEO has diverse background. Introduction of Peggy and Dave and overview of the NAPB and connection between NAPB and ACSESS and how to proceed in the future. CEO did not know much about the background. Dave communicated the relationship with ACSESS, about membership. Communicated that NAPB is totally volunteer organization and that we rely on ACSESS. CEO seemed open to work with us and continue support. Liaison position with Tri-Societies, position email was sent and we should take the advantage of the possibilities there. We need to engage with them about our plans for the NAPB annual meeting. The same day they sent some information about virtual meeting organization.*

*Policy matters - Digital sequence information on genetic resources – Ksenija Gasic*

* *Unfortunately missed the meeting. Will try to find if there are recordings. Peggy O-A. - Public comment period is open until June 30 and advocacy committee might be brought on this. Leadership is changing for this committee. This is a huge issue and depending on how it goes it could impact all of us.*
* *Dave B. – there are multiple paths on how we can get our views across. AgInnovation session is open for comments until end of the august; ASTA will respond, Corteva as well. Will share presentation about Agriculture productivity; plan for 40 % increase in ag productivity with the 30% decrease in environmental footprint. Four topic areas; genomic, digital solution, whole farm production system etc.*
* *Ksenija G. to keep NAPB informed in case there is any action items that NAPB EC needs to be aware of.*

*Policy matters - National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research https://www.ncfar.org/* – Peggy O-A

* Invitation form Andy Levine to join as sponsor. Min sponsorships from national organizations is $1,000. Has this invitation been extended before?
* Todd C. – does not recall but NAPB has been participating in some of the seminars and the minimal sponsorship is affordable and for good cause. Todd C. motion to support this effort with the $1K contribution Dave B. seconds. EC unanimously voted in favor of the motion.

Policy matters - vacancies on the; National Genetic Resources Advisory Council – Peggy Ozias-Akins

* Three or four vacancies **Action Item:** Ksenija will send more information on the seats.
* Dave B. – it is important to participate and have NAPB representation on this council.

**New Business**

CSSP spring meeting - Ksenija Gasic

* Ksenija shared summary of the meeting and positive experience of engaging with leaders from other societies. The main topic in discussion groups was covid-19 and how to move to virtual environments. Some good suggestions were shared. Sachs group presented workshop on how to do strategic planning. Another one will be on May 21. Few of NAPB EC members should attend to engage in the exercise that is specific to NAPB.

Logo modification – Peggy O-A.

* Graduate student WG asked if they could modify the logo to use their group name? Looks good and EC approved the modification.

New leadership – Peggy Ozias-Akins

* Need to think about looking for nominations for secretary position. Last year the nominations were only from the EC. Nominees that agreed to run for secretary were asked to provide the short bio and vision. There were more nominees and they could be contacted again even those that declined last year. Hanna would be a good nominee, brings a lot of unique qualities by not being a breeder. Sarah Potts would be a great for leadership position. Might need to wait for a few years till Dave B. is off the EC.
* Dave B. – Would be also nice to have some vegetable representation in the EC. Todd C. – Jennifer Yates from Bayer is global breeding lead for wheat.
* Peggy O-A. – will send an email out in a week or so for nominations.
* Web editor, Alex is stepping down. Sarah Potts is a potential web editor and Virginia Sikes. Check with Alex again to see where we are with the web site and how much effort is needed. **Action item:** Ksenija to talk with Dorrie about redesigning the NAPB web site in Drupal.

Minutes taken by Ksenija Gasic.

Meeting adjourned 2:20pm CST/3:20 EST.