

Minutes from the NAPB Board meeting 6-17 2015

Present: Barry Tillman; Candy Hirsch; David Francis ; Jim McPerson ; Klaus Koehler; Shelby Ellison, Donn Cummings; Pat Byrne; Leah Ruff; Bill Tracy; Don Blackburn; Guest: Anne Marie Thro

Agenda

Barry Tillman, chairing
Klaus Koehler, minutes

Approval of agenda, Bill Tracy moved Pat Byrnes second
Approval of minutes from May Bill Tracy moved Pat Byrnes second

Amendment of minutes.

PBCC review is not yet finished. To be corrected in the minutes

1. Barry Tillman (Treasurers Report)
Good financial situation. Current are assets at \$118,000.
2. Membership Committee (Don Jones)
 - a. Barry Lawrence (BASF) will join membership committee as secretary and then move up to vice chair.
3. USDA update Ann Marie Thro
There is renewed interest in plant breeding. Current administration will be done soon.
What can NAPB do to support the interest.

Ann Marie mentioned active interest in plant breeding in USDA at this time. It's an important time to ask, what can NAPB do that would be constructive to support this interest? and to sustain it into the next administration? She mentioned some ideas; not meant to be exhaustive.

a)

Should NAPB consider, in its long-term planning, supporting a Fellows program for a plant breeder to work in USDA for a year? There is much scope for a Fellow to help maintain momentum for discussions around plant breeding at the Federal level, and for plant breeders to gain experience in Washington. Ann Marie brought forward this suggestion, and will follow up on cost.

b)

Barry asked about the possibility of USDA-NIFA hosting a scientist on sabbatical or on an "IPA" (Intergovernmental Personnel Agreement; can include a state university employee) in plant breeding. Ann Marie explained that NIFA's share of relocation costs (charged to limited agency travel budget) are the main current obstacle. NAPB officers asked if an association could support relocation costs. Ann Marie found out that Yes, this can be done. NIFA is developing guidelines for appropriate procedures and arrangements. For now, start by visiting directly with the relevant NIFA units. Also through AAAS, societies may fund Congressional Fellows, who work with Congress. E.g., the Agron-Crop-Soil Societies support a Congressional Fellow, and Executive Branch Fellows, who work with agencies.

c)

Ann Marie mentioned the new Foundation for Food and Agriculture (FFAR).

FFAR will “leverage public and private resources to increase the scientific and technological research, innovation, and partnerships” ;
 “a non-profit corporation seeking and accepting private donations in order to fund research activities that focus on problems of national and international significance. Congress also provided \$200 million for the foundation which must be matched by non-federal funds as the Foundation identifies and approves projects.”

The first FFAR Director will be Dr. Sally Rockey, an entomologist by training, former Director of the USDA NRI grants program, most recently working at NIH.

This might be an opportune (formative) time to interact with FFAR . Ann Marie does not know if/what are the mechanisms for interaction, but will check.

FFAR announcement

at: <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=2014/07/0156.xml>

d)

AFRI, the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative , is USDA’s “flagship” grants program.

Some ways plant breeders (any sector, public, private, NGO...) can participate in AFRI, to help strengthen both the AFRI program itself and its outcomes, and, knowledge among plant breeders about effective interaction with AFRI and other NIFA-managed grants programs :

i) As experts in their fields, NAPB members can volunteer to serve on AFRI review panels . If interested, contact the NIFA National Program Leader who directs the AFRI section of interest .

ii) During the open period of AFRI Requests for Applications (RFAs), comments are invited. Send to the email address indicated in the RFA (usually toward the front). NIFA considers comments and replies.

iii) Submit proposals. Panel discussions of proposals (these discussions are confidential) are thoughtful and educational for all involved, and can help make a difference . If unsure about whether a project is relevant for an AFRI program, contact the NPL, who can help assess whether a project is within the scope of a given program.

AFRI website: (<http://nifa.usda.gov/program/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative>); start there and search around...].

4. Annual Meeting Update (Jim McFerson,)

Registration (as of 15 June)

	Meeting	Pre-conference tour
Professional	89	37
Student	<u>80</u>	<u>49</u>
Total	169	86

Revenues (as of 15 June)

Registration	\$54k
Sponsorship pledges	\$42k
AFRI	<u>\$33k</u>
Total	\$129

Projected costs

\$107k

Other: There are question how students will be reimbursed. These will be handled later. Add a meeting on the state reps (PBCC) to the agenda. Possibly the evening of the banquet.

5. Secretary election update (Barry Tillman)
 - a. Two candidates - Bill Tracey and Wayne Smith
 - b. NAPB Board Voted to allow election online this year.
 - i. Barry will send out an "Election Buddy" poll to all members in the NAPB Database.
 - ii. Beforehand, Greg will send out a note to the membership with the candidate's bio-sketch and details about the election. This will cost NAPB about \$150.
 - c. Will propose that NAPB membership approve the following change in the by-laws during the Annual Meeting:

Current:

Section 3. Election and Term of Office. The principal officers of the corporation shall be determined annually at the annual meeting of the members of the corporation. Until the first annual meeting, however, the principal officers shall be determined by the board of directors elected by the incorporator.

Proposed:

Section 3. Election and Term of Office. The principal officers of the corporation shall be determined annually either at the annual meeting of the members of the corporation or by electronic ballot prior to the annual meeting. Until the first annual meeting, however, the principal officers shall be determined by the board of directors elected by the incorporator.

6. PBCC Update- (Pat Byrne)

Looking for candidates as secretary. Ideal candidate would be a public breeder at a land grant institute. Please email Pat with ideas of nominees.
7. Advocacy Committee Update (Bill Tracy)
 - a. Ideas on emerging genomic technologies

ASTA is working on a position and will talk about it in the meeting. Crop Science Society has written a paper on this. We could connect to this, no need to reinvent the wheel.

Barry: We have not ventured too far into this subject. We should develop an opinion what we might want to do as an organization.

Bill: There are some people opposed to mutation breeding, Gene editing would be very accurate mutagenesis. We should look at it this way.

Barry: Develop a position paper on gene editing methods. Donn: We should focus on the end product, not how we get to it.

Supporting communication could also be provided by PBCC.

Barry: A white paper could still be in order to have a NAPB comment on new plant breeding tools such as gene editing. Bill supports this approach,

Don B. Next week ASTA will be meeting in Washington and will be performing "storm the hill" to create awareness.

Bill: Have a draft from the advocacy committee for the July meeting on new methods in plant breeding. We do not want a lot of regulation.
8. Education Committee update (Shelby Ellison)
 - a. Posters submitted, judging

- b. Had monthly meeting earlier this week to prepare the presenters bio and picture to send to Kate. Also have nominations for new Chair, vice- chair and secretary. How many poster abstracts: 65. Five were received late but will not be considered in the competition. 36 entries in the oral competition. This is a record of poster submissions.
- 9. Graduate Student working group update (Leaf Ruff)

Graduate students are recruiting judges and student judges. Trying to get an app for the meeting. May not be ready for this year but possibly next year. Ride-share document to coordinate for the meeting. It is available on the website.

Six applications available for scholarship funds. Check out the website for scholarship applications. They are due next week.
- 10. Communications Committee (Greg Berger)
- 11. Website (Candy Hirsch)

We have emails for different news updates. Future NAPB meetings (tentative locations) could be listed on the website. Barry will send the list to Candy.