September NAPB EC Phone Meeting

Attending:
David Francis
Kate Evans
Jim Mcpherson
Donn Cummings
Leah Ruff
Candice Hirsch
Arron Lorenz
Rita Mumm
Klaus Koehler
Loren Trimble

Approval of agenda
Approval of minutes from August Telecom (yes, posted)

Regrets: Don Jones, Todd Campbell

Review Action Items from last meeting (not accomplished due to time constraint

ACTION: Kate and Araby to work on selection of pictures for the NAPB web site.

DONE

ACTION: Don J. to set up a meeting of EC, Conf. Planning committee, and Bill Tracy and Eric

ACTION: Identify Secretary for Advocacy Committee. Send suggestions to Jim McPherson with cc to D. Francis

ACTION: Kate and Jim will send Smith the list of recipients

ACTION, Smith will do the letter on NAPB letterhead with right signatures and either email attachment or snail mail.

ACTION: Press release for awards. Candice will pull Bios from meeting program and post to Awards section of website with other press releases.
ACTION: Video Competition. Education committee will report specifics. Candice will add to website. Todd will add announcement to newsletter. Need to move on getting the video competition out.

GENERALLY ACCOMPLISHED

ACTION: Awards committee members. Suggestions to Rita with a cc to David Francis.

ACTION: Add “Press release” on NAPBs endorsement of ASTA’s "Promoting Innovation in Seed and Crop Plant Development" statement. Post statement as a PDF press release on Advocacy page on website.

Minutes 9.15.15

1) Treasurer’s report (Don Jones)

Via email: Balance healthy; running ahead of last year; but expect higher expenses with web site

2) Annual meeting Committee Update (Don Jones)

Via email: Planning committee: on track with hotel contacts, etc.

3) PBCC Update (Kate Evans)

Kate Evans gave a brief report in process to have the first PBCC meeting, hopefully in October.

DF: minutes from breakout sessions at annual meeting?

KE: some partial reports but no complete minutes submitted to date.

Written report from Thomas Lubberstedt: Apologies for joining late (you were already at topic 6 of the agenda). Not sure, if someone from PBCC was there to report (topic 3). From my view, nothing much to report for PBCC (except a summary of minutes from the PBCC subgroup meetings in Washington/NAPB conference, that Mike Gore has assembled and sent for revision to PBCC committee members). Mike is organizing a PBCC conference call beginning of October to plan out the upcoming PBCC activities for the next months. There should be more to report at the next NAPB meeting.

Thomas

4) OSTP Event (Klaus)
    a. Update from industry
    b. SAES Directors meeting “Ask”

Lot of discussion on this issue; confusion on what NAPB should/could do and how we can accomplishment.

NAPB should be in a position to provide information through ppt slides that present our mission and activities; Klaus will continue to work with Andy LaVigne with ASTA on their position and needs.

DF: suggested that we review the opportunities with OSTP press days, especially private companies. If OSTP decides not to go forward with a Plant Breeding event then we could send letters supporting PB for them to put in press releases.

Discussion pursued about who to contact and how to make a concerted effort without a specific path forward. Loren Trimble with Monsanto was asked to check with his company about submitting some PB'ing info

Some confusion about whether this OSTP is an "agricultural" event or a "PB'g" specific effort. Examples from Ann Marie suggested that it would be a press package that included a letter of commitment. NAPB needs to be prepared. David F. noted that it does not have to be something "new and exciting" but tried and true items such as PB as a part of health/nutrition, world health, feed the future, etc.

Not a lot of direction but we need to have statement from companies and LGU on commitment to PB research and education. Anyone with such statement should send to David Francis ASAP since he has been invited to address the national AES Directors meeting in October.

> Examples include: Internship programs, fellowship programs, seminars supported at LGU,

Jim McPherson: the links sent out dealt with big, massive meetings and not statements (etc.) for December 2015 which seems to be different than this OSTP effort? David F. – we can't break into such large events but we might could, through ASTA, e.g., we could provide some info on PB and its importance to hopefully be a part of the discussion.

Continued discussion on time line (Dec. 2015); PBCC can't do this because of mission.

Path forward: David will be speaking on the future of plant breeding, the NAPB strategic plan, and "ask" them to come together with a letter for the OSTP. Get them to realize that plant breeding is perceived positively at the National level. ASK: Put into writing their commitments to plant breeding in the next year. Coaching: What would help get meaningful letters in a timely manner. Provide an example letter template. Ask a director {Dr. Slack?} to write a letter and create a one upmanship…

EC should provide DF with points of what is happening at our LGU about what we're doing in PB. So send DF suggestions for his discussion.

Klaus suggested another attempt to talk to Andy Levigne at ASTA?
Discussion about what is needed? Slides for a presentation or letters of commitment?

What is the public and private sector doing individually and together to enhance plant breeding research and education?

5) USDA National Genetic Research Advisory Committee. Jane Dever has agreed to serve as representative/liaison for NAPB (Follow up with Ann Marie Thro and Bernice Slutsky)

Rita Mumm noted that this position in NGRAC is that she would/should report pertinent issues back to NAPB leadership. While there is a confidential component to the NGRAC meetings, once issues are settled the membership is free to discuss. Especially positions on NGRAC that are settled and can/should be conveyed to NAPB membership or EC.

USDA asked for a NAPB liaison on NGRAC.

Steven smith (pioneer) is also on this committee and expects to serve another 3 year term.

6) Education Committee update (Loren Trimble)

Committee met in August and September; finalized the video competition; competition starts today; judging criteria have been established and the protocols for judging will be settled soon.

Launch of video competition. It's on the web (see link under hot topics on the web site). https://www.plantbreeding.org/files/napb/2015-video-competition.pdf

Wayne suggested that we ask communications to send an e-mail specific to the competition. Agreed.

7) Graduate Student working group update (Leaf Ruff)

Emailed photos to EC; flicker account; freedom to operate; students working to provide liaisons for all committees; working on feedback on student activities.

As part of my report for the meeting today, I'm providing you a link to the photos the grad students have collected from the NAPB meetings. You are all welcome to use and share these photos.

https://www.flickr.com/photos/134583202@N08

If you want to add any photos to the collection please email gswg.napb@gmail.com or contact the Graduate Student Working Group (GSWG) social media coordinator, Mohan Niroula mniroula@ucdavis.edu.

8) Advocacy Committee Update (Jim McFerson)
   a. Still need a secretary
   b. Post endorsement press release

Working with Richard Pratt to identify a new secretary and graduate student.

ASTA statement release was discussed with slight change—EC agreed. Statement will be posted on web site.

> The National Association of Plant Breeders (NAPB) endorsed the American Seed Trade Association's (ASTA) statement "Promoting Innovation in Seed and Crop Plant Development" [http://www.amseed.org/issues/biotech/key-issues/]. NAPB endorsed the statement, specifically highlighting the need for uniform, science-based standards for regulating new technology in order to maintain genetic improvement of food, feed, fiber, shelter, and greenspace while protecting the environment and insuring food security. Such technologies should be size neutral and available to public breeders and other public scientists. NAPB felt that principles articulated in ASTA's statement should be extended to vegetatively propagated crops.

Will get posted on the website. Follow up with ASTA.

Another "heads up" from Ann Marie about the (FFAR) foundation. This would be a logical opportunity for urging the inclusion of plant breeding? Advocacy committee will draft a statement. They can then move forward with this as a committee, or seek EC approval.

The new (2014) USDA committee Foundation for Food and Ag Research (FFAR) – identified 7 areas of ag research and PB fits in all 7; FFAR has a new chair.

FFAR may be an opportunity for NAPB to be proactive.

May be more tangible than the OSTP opportunity. This organization, USDA FFAR, would allow NAPB advocacy to impact national policy.

9) Membership Committee update (Aaron Lorenz)

First full committee scheduled for late September; recognized need to increase grad student membership and a change in annual meeting charge for nonmembers (maybe 100 more); possibility of creating a crop liaison for membership committee to serve as a point of contact for smaller groups. Discussion ensued on how the committee could/should structure these liaison, i.e., how small of a commodity would they use; existing commodity groups so that the liaison would fit.

Discussion grew into larger group liaison such as EUCARPA

Concern expressed that we converted only about 10% of our membership to dues paying members. Should we have a "membership drive."

10) Communications Committee (Todd Campbell)

No report: Todd asked EC for newsletter approval but DF will confirm with Todd that he doesn't need EC approval to send out the newsletter. He (Todd) has such authority and expectation.

11) Others business
    a. Do we need a nominations committee?

We need to advertise the NCCPB Graduate Student Awards; Check the NCCPB web site.