

Minutes October 20, 2015 meeting

Attending: David Francis, Kate Evans, Donn Cummings, Candice Hirsch, Klaus Koehler, Don Blackburn, Rich Pratt, Sarah Potts, David Stelly, Aaron Lorenz

Regrets: Rita Mumm, Barry Tillman, Wayne Smith, Michael Gore, Leah Ruff, Jim McFerson

Approval of Minutes from Sept. 15, 2015 meeting (file distributed, approved, to be posted by Candice)

#### NAPB Agenda

- I. Insurance: approve payment (\$1,450). (PDF handouts)

Motion, second. Unanimous approval. Ask Lynne to pay invoice.

- II. Budget (David Francis for Don Jones) (Balance Sheet xls)

Budget numbers do not reflect meal payments. We are ahead of last year, but also have higher expenses to ACCESS.

- III. Annual Meeting (David Francis for Don Jones) and add-on meetings – Discussion (Schedule attached as PDF)

August 15-18 2016.

PBCC is working to get a time-block on Tuesday (Kate Evans).

Room for more poster sessions? Loren is in conversation with Don Jones.

Need for flexibility and adjustments?

DF needs to clarify who is on the meeting committee and encourage the current committee to include past organizers, PBCC, and future organizers in the process.

Status of meeting organizing document. Suggestion that this go to Candice.

- IV. Advocacy opportunities

- a. March Tri-Societies Congressional (legislative) Visits (approve payment for graduate student to accompany est. <\$2,000)

Rich Pratt has participated in these visits. His opinion is that this will be a valuable experience for a student, and provides a shared experience with the tri-societies.

Donn Cummings “How would the process go to identify the student”. “DF: Competitive nomination process vetted through the advocacy committee”. Donn “This is the type of thing that NAPB should be supporting on a routine basis”. Motion to fund travel opp. (Klaus), second Don Blackburn.

Unanimous vote.

- b. OSTP Event (Klaus)

Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> call with OSTP (Joe Handelsman, Elisabeth), American Soc. of Agronomy, ASTA, and others. There will be two events, Dec. 1 White House event (brain storming), Second event in January-February. The December event will be focused on Agriculture in general, organizing public-private

partnerships, an activity designed to enhance the visibility of agriculture in general. The notion of stem into STEAM with A = agriculture. Plant Breeding would be a small part of this meeting. What has been successful (past), and what would be new models?

Klaus: suggestion connect to ASTA (Andy L) and think about next steps.

David: focus on what has been successful in the past and what would be new models.

David reported on the SAES meeting; “ask Land-Grant Universities to be ready to respond with letters of support”

Kate Evans: OSTP survey about the Nations Capacity to Educate and Employ Plant Breeders (Jamie Sherman). Kate will forward the link. NAPB should be prepared to lead distribution and publicity of this if appropriate.

*The IDA Science and Technology Policy Institute (STPI), a Federally-funded R&D Center supporting the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), is currently conducting a study on behalf of OSTP on the United States’ capabilities in educating, employing, and filling the nation’s needs for plant breeders. It is crucial that we are able to collect accurate information from the colleges and universities that are training and employing plant breeders and we are asking you to assist us by participating in a survey.*

*As part of our study, we’re trying to understand the state of public sector plant breeding. We have identified Montana State University as an important contributor. Our survey, which includes a maximum of 21 questions, requests institutional information as well as judgement-based questions.*

*We recognize that some of the information for this survey may require data collection from your department. We request that you not give guesses as answers to questions but provide only verified data. Please feel free to revisit the survey as often as needed before October 31st. The survey will save your responses, and clicking on the link will return you to the survey at whatever state you last left it. The last question of the survey asks whether you are finished with your answers. Please do not indicate “yes” or hit “submit” until you are comfortable with the answers to your questions.*

The link to the survey is here: <http://s-adebb7-i.sgizmo.com/s3/i-100706467-1093058?sguid=100706467>

Responses to the survey will be reported in aggregate.

c. Other advocacy (who and how to pay)

- i. ASTA Visit (NE U.S. Vegetable – specific interest as “under represented”)

One option: Identify a logical person, agree to fund the trip. Jim McFerson would be a good person to consult. Place this item on the Advocacy committee’s agenda and wait for a response.

- ii. Unified Message Meeting (participate?, who?, pay?)

Unified Message Meeting. The December 9 meeting is one of a series of efforts led by the Charles Valentine Riley Memorial Foundation (RMF) aimed at pursuing a unifying message to elevate food, agricultural and natural resources research as a national priority. The person you select to represent your society will engage in a facilitated conversation on the critical need for a unifying message, share the perspective and priorities of your society and contribute ideas and insights to moving forward toward a common goal. The attachment to this email has more background and details, including a list

of all societies invited. **Again, the scientific societies need to be a key partner in this discussion and defining the way forward.** RSVP by November 2.

Noted that ASTA meetings are right in the middle of this “unified theme” meeting.

Nominate: Possibilities include: Bill Tracey; Rich Pratt; Barry Tillman. Richard was the only one on the call, and agreed if we cannot find someone closer. His dual role with NAPB and Tri-Societies makes this a good idea. Approve travel expenses (motion to approve Travel and Hotel expenses made by Klaus, Seconded by Candice, unanimous). DF will forward information and RSVP.

V. Requests for postings to website and newsletter (Candice)

We receive frequent requests for job postings. History of the discussion was that we would not do this due to lack of personnel. Should this be revisited? ACCESS portal? Free or pay to post?

Pass issue to Membership Committee for recommendation (rationale is that this falls under member services). Aaron and Candice will discuss and report back.

For now, the best option is to post to the Facebook page.

VI. PBCC Update (Kate Evans)

1. Update on “[Unlocking Plant Genetic Diversity for Food and Nutritional Security](#)” Symposium at the AAAS 2015 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

PB reported confirmation of 3 speakers: Chiedozie Egese, National Root Crops Research Institute, Nigeria (Bringing Cassava Breeding into the 21st Century); Paula Bramel, The Crop Trust, Bonn (Crop Diversity: Why it Matters); Walter Trevisan, Retired private sector maize breeder (Increasing Genetic Diversity in Public- and Private-Sector Maize Breeding World-Wide) for the morning session on Saturday Feb 13<sup>th</sup>. As soon as the final program is released, PB will develop a PBCC paragraph for the PBCC and NAPB websites with a link to the AAAS, and send to Todd Campbell for the next newsletter.

**Action:** PB to communicate program information when finalized.

2. *PBCC has been granted liaison status on the National Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee.* Pat Byrne will represent at the 2016 meeting in Fort Collins.

3. Meeting of the [National Genetic Resources Advisory Council](#) PBCC is trying to determine the best way to provide comment – possible route includes finding out how the questions are released in advance to enable written response, and open question time as it’s a public meeting.

4. *How best to update and expand the state representative list, Appendix E? How to increase engagement and participation in the renewal?*

The PBCC project renewal provides a useful opportunity to re-energize the state representatives by targeting active replacements to repopulate the Appendix E list and suggest reps join the working groups. [http://www.nimss.org/lgu\\_v2/homepages/outlineAppE.cfm?trackID=17576](http://www.nimss.org/lgu_v2/homepages/outlineAppE.cfm?trackID=17576). Please send any suggestions to Pat Byrne.

5. *Relative roles of the NAPB and PBCC* aiming to discuss at the next PBCC meeting.

DF comment: NAPB leadership is satisfied that we have separated activities and that the issue of overlap was very well addressed during the annual meeting. We are grateful for the work that PBCC subcommittees are taking on (germplasm, treaties, etc...), and will be happy to advocate for PBCC positions once the sub-committee work is done.

## **VII. Committee Reports**

**Graduate Student Working Group:** GSWG has no report this month (Leah Ruff)

**Education Committee:** Chair - Sarah Potts for Loren Trimble

Professional development workshop opportunity (Table for discussion with planning committee)  
Education Committee report

Video competition has two videos submitted. Closing date is around Thanksgiving.  
Committee will be meeting on Thursday to discuss.  
Webinar series planning is moving forward, there is a need to consider financing.

**Communications Committee:** Chair - Todd Campbell (Table)

**Advocacy Committee:** Chair – Rich Pratt for Jim McFerson

Old business (Secretary – TBD )  
Approval of a budget for Tri-Societies Congressional (legislative) Visits (see above)  
See discussion above.

**Membership Committee:** Chair - Aaron Lorenz

As of today we have 122 members. Ten since September 28 with no effort.  
Will start recruitment efforts.

We need 350 members to break even. So that is a ball-park target.  
Membership is heavy on Univ. and USDA, light on Industry.

Talked about EUCARPIA model. The idea to develop a liaison list to target crops/organizations.