NAPB monthly meeting 12.15.15

I. Attending
Klaus Koehler
David Francis
Loren Trimble
Rich Pratt
Donn Cummings
Candice Hirsch

II. Minutes approved

III. No amendments to agenda

IV. Budget update: Don Jones-not available; sent update on 2016 meeting schedule with IP workshop; suggestions should be send to Don Jones.

V. Web site Loren Trimble sent email suggesting that we put definition(s) of plant breeding on the web site.

Motion to upload the three simple definitions of PB after checking with the authors for permission. Concern expressed that definitions using "art" may suggest that we use less than scientific protocol. Considerable discussion ensured and concluded to post the definitions from Bernardo, Sleper and Poehlman, and Fehr. The following definitions forwarded to Candice Hirsch for posting.

> "Plant Breeding is the genetic improvement of plants for human benefit." Breeding for Quantitative Traits in Plants. Bernardo. 2nd Edition. 1st Paragraph of chapter 1
>
> "Plant Breeding is the art and science of changing the traits of plants in order to produce desired characteristics." Breeding Field Crops. 1995. Sleper and Poehlman. Page 3
>
> "Plant Breeding is the art and science of the genetic improvement of plants." Principles of Cultivar Development: Theory and technique. 1987. Fehr. Page 1"

Education committee will consider the following paragraph developed by David Francis and modify for future posting on the web site.

> "The development of new plant varieties is a science driven creative process that goes by various names including plant breeding, crop improvement, and seed improvement. Plant breeding involves the creation of multi-generation populations on which human selection is practiced to create plants with new combinations of specific traits. The selection process is driven by biological assessment in relevant target environments and knowledge of genes and genomes. Progress is assessed based on gain under selection, which in turn is a function of genetic variation and selection intensity. Genetic diversity is therefore the foundation of plant breeding."

Donn Cummings, Membership Committee, volunteered to assist the Education Committee; the Advocacy Committee will be included in the review.

Motion passed.

Vb. Plant Breeder Profile: Candice and David F. suggested that the Graduate Student Committee could provide Candice with a number of individual breeder profiles.

VI. Communications Commmitteee

Todd needs newsletter items.

Newsletter so far this year has been going only to the paid membership so only to ~100 rather than ~1000 on the participation lists.

Francis: how to we use these lists? Proposes that the committee chairs have access to these lists.

Cummings: move to one list; suggested that by the 2016 we should have only one list; and have an unscribe option

Lorenz: currently have the members list and a recruiting list and (Cummings) they shouldn't be the same list.

Lorenz: will check with Ian P. and determine if the larger (recruiting list) has been edited for those on the membership list .

Discussion: do chairs need to have approval from EC?

Motion, seconded, approved: Then protocol will be established where committees send email s to President, Vice President, and Web Editor to review and approve for committee chair to forward to Ian P. for distribution.

VII. Advocacy Report: Richard Pratt (See Appendix for b, c, and d)

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

   NAPB approved previously supporting a graduate student to attend.
   Should this be a U.S. citizen? Yes
   Will work with Graduate Student Committee to set/distribute advertisement.
   Advocacy Committee will make the selection.

b. ASTA Breeding technology workshop (Klaus, report attached)
c. OSTP Event (Klaus/David)
d. Unified Message Meeting (Pratt)
e. DivSeek Jan 8, San Diego (Agenda attached)

DivSeek—Diversity Seek: will be at San Diego PAG: David Francis may attend.

Francis: This organization needs plant breeding input. DivSeek published a letter in nature (Susan Mccouch) advocating sequencing but without any translational input. NAPB or PBCC needs to advocate with this group for developing genomic populations and not just sequencing everything in gene banks.

VIII. PBCC Update (Kate Evans)

IX. Graduate Student Working Group Update (Ruff)

Could not hear

X. Education Committee Update
Lorin Trimble: will meet on Thursday; working on webinar series—working with David F.—video completion closes today; 5 or fewer videos submitted.

XI. Membership Committee Update
Aaron Lorenz: committee met with Ian P. at ASA and visited about posting job descriptions; recruitment campaign letter is ready to distribute and will be moving forward after Christmas; Graduate student ==NAPB has presence on some social media sites but not on Twitter. Question is how to manage/monitor. NAPB needs to look at policy but use of social media will await a staff member to really take advantage of social media.

Membership count: 134

XII. Other business?

Storm the Hill discussion. Claus will attend; CSSA/NAPB grad student will attend.

Appendix

Report on ASTA Working group on New Breeding Technologies visit to Government bodies, Washington DC November 16 and 17, 2015
Purpose of the initiative is:
· to increase understanding of novel breeding techniques (NBT) in government bodies.
· to limit the probability for regulation for breeding if products are equivalent plant products that are generated through breeding .

Representatives at the meeting in the ASTA working group were from Monsanto, Syngenta, Bayer, Dupont, BASF, Vilmorin-Clause, and Rijk Zwaan (two vegetable seed companies) and NAPB.
1. Meeting with OSTP, Office of Science Technology Policy at the White House, November 16

The meeting started with a longer discussion around what is meant with NBT's. Initially the discussion centers on use of NBT's to develop transgenic traits. Finally we clarify that we are talking specifically

about the use of NBT to develop products that could be also derived by conventional breeding. Example: Targeted introgression of a resistance gene from wild tomato into commercial germplasm on 2 years vs. 6-7 years without linkage drag. This creates a better understanding with OSTP. OSTP talks about risk assessment and that risk of technology need to be considered in any government decision. Also view from OSTP that there is no overarching regulatory policy on the government but that each agency, EPA, FDA, USDA develops its own regulatory framework for its own area of jurisdiction.

2. Meeting with USDA, November 17

USDA talks about its new draft of its regulatory framework. Goal is to move quickly and have a final draft by Q3 2016. USDA expressed open ears to limited regulation in NBT's based on products that could be derived through conventional plant breeding, mutation etc. Discussion centered on the potential risk that all plant breeding might be regulated at some point, especially if definitions are not clear from the beginning. Cost of regulation prohibits use of NBT's in the future if they are regulated. There is also a need to use NBT's in public institutions for non-row crops and non-seed propagated species (i.e. trees). Also consider the mandate of public institutions to educate and their need to practice cutting edge technology. USDA expressed interest post-meeting to get NAPB input on these questions.

3. Meeting on the hill with senator aides from IN, IA, MO, November 17.

Visited with senate aides for ½ hour in each office. In general good understanding and ability to explain in a small group setting (only three reps from ASTA group present at each Senate office). Depending on political background of senator more discussion around public opinions (or less) and discussion new labeling law. Aides are receptive to the arguments as indicated above. MO senator talks about a negative 'Monsanto effect' in this discussion. Meeting outcomes were less clear at the Senate meetings.

4. Follow-up for NABP

The question to our group is at what level will NAPB support ASTA effort on NBT's? How can we engage the key universities or PBCC to support? What are the key issues that need to be addressed to enable above support?
Klaus Koehler