In attendance: Peggy, Don Jones, Donn Cummings, Wayne Smith, Alex Lipka, Jim McPherson, Virginia Sykes, Dan Packer, Evan Craine, Chris Smallwood

Minutes from the April Meeting were approved.

NAPB/2019 NAPB meeting: we have 91 people registered. Peggy is planning to send a reminder to Virginia about the meeting. In addition to the Borlaug award. There is NIFA diversity award, and there are 19 applications for this diversity award; and this award will be given to seven of these people. There is also a workshop led by Emilio and Klaus, and this is in the works. As part of an agreement with SeedWorld, there will be promotion for the meeting from July 1 until mid August.

It was asked if the committee chairs can produce an annual report before the meeting.

There was a discussion about the workshop, whether or not it was geared towards undergraduates or graduate students. Peggy is going to follow up with Emilio on this.

The Tipton tour will occur after the meeting; there are around 20 people who have registered from this.

We have about $70,000 in total from sponsors. The majority of our typical sponsors are contributing.

Evan asked if the NIFA diversity awardees could be forwarded to his committee so that mentors could be identified.

Financial Report:

Compared to 2018, are have an additional $18,000 as of the end of April. The total amount of money we have is about $158,000. However it is tricky to compare finances from one year to another. Take-home message: we are in better shape in 2019 than in 2018.

Membership:

Jennifer Yates submitted a report from the membership committee. The numbers are down a bit, but not by much. There may be a bump in the summer because of getting a break on the registration rate. Suggestion: in the month of July, email certain people who registered as non-members, and suggest that they become members. Membership fee has changed to $95

Advocacy:

No report

Education:

The webinar series has been good, but attendance is lower than last year. The early career group has hosted three. Dr. Hulse-Kemp’s seminar had about 40 attendants. Dr. Lipka will talk tomorrow, and there are about 81 registrants; Chris will be happy if there are between 40 and 50 attendees. There might be another webinar in June, but nobody has committed yet.

There is also an initiative to interview people at the NAPB meeting. The specific people to be interviewed include Borlaug scholars, early career award winners, other winners, to show the enthusiasm of NAPB.

The mission statement is being revisited.

They are in a holding pattern for registration; there is a need for students to sign up to meet with speakers.

Communications:  
Also working on some advertising material; the aim is to have this material done on July 1.

The Communications committee has also thought of conducting interviews at the NAPB meeting, and this would be presented in the October newsletter.

It was requested that announcements be posted as pdfs. This is ok, as long as the links in the pdfs are preserved.

Change the spotlights in the newsletters to a nomination.

Awards:

We have a deadline of June 15 for the three awards. There are several packages that are being submitted. Packets from private sector folks are encouraged.

Graduate student working group

A substantial amount of focus is being directed towards the diversity enhancement mentors. Previous feedback: facilitate more interaction between mentor/mentees.

There was feedback from the surveys. Chris Smallwood and Evan both have access to them if anybody is interested in viewing these.

Early career working group:

Three webinars for the month of April were delivered. Zoom worked very well. We have recordings of these three webinars in mp4 format, which can be uploaded. Chris can upload these to YouTube. The presenters will be contacted for permission to upload these to YouTube.

At the next committee meeting, there is going to be a discussion on possibly having an early career get-together before the meeting.

Strategic Planning:

Working on a report. An executive summary is going to be sent to the EC towards the end of this week.

Borlaug Scholarship:

Working on identifying mentors. We had a lot of highly qualified applicants (for the Borlaug scholarship), 71 in total. It was really difficult to choose the awardees. Now efforts are being made to get the word out on who the awardees are.

We can put their profiles on the NAPB website. There is a suggestion to put the Borlaug scholars information on the website.

We need a push on fundraising, as we are bringing in 12 people into the NAPB meeting this year.