November 2019 NAPB Board Meeting

Minutes

Attendees: Peggy Ozias-Akins, Ksenija Gasic, Dave Bubeck (phone), Todd Campbell (phone), Donn Cummings

Excused: Alex Lipka, Don Jones,

***Standing Items:***

*Approve minutes from Sep meeting* – Ksenija Gasic

* No additions nor corrections to the minutes. Due to the lack of quorum minutes will be sent via email for approval.

*Financials* - Don Jones - N/A.

***Old Business***

***Standing Committee Reports***

*2020 meeting – Peggy Ozias-Akins - diversity travel awards to remain separate from Borlaug Scholars; NIFA proposal LOI; planning committee to have first meeting concurrent with EC meeting*

* Peggy is a member of NAPB 2020 planning committee that has the first meeting today. George discussed the proposal for meeting organization with Ed Kaleikau regarding submitting proposal for 3 meetings at once. USDA meeting grants are capped at $50K which would reduce the amount for each meeting if we submit for 3 at once. The decision is to submit proposal for just 2 meetings Nebraska and Iowa. Diversity travel award to be included as part of this proposal. GSWG has created the Diversity Award lead. This year it is Jodi Callwood, supported in 2018 with a diversity travel award.
* Donn C. proposed using Golden Opportunity Scholars approach to create the database for Borlaug Scholars mentors. The note might be included regarding mentoring diversity student and set up the separate database for those mentors. Education committee can help identify material for mentors.
* Dr. Torbert Rocheford? will provide Orange Grits for whole meeting if we can work out agreement with the meeting facility.

*Connections with African breeding groups*– Peggy Ozias-Akins - representation at APBA inaugural meeting - trip report from Donn Cummings; goodwill message at https://africaplantbreeders.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/WACCI-APBA-Conference-2019-Programme-A4-28.pdf; poster for joint promotion; formalize relationship with MUA? (previously discussed with Eucarpia - see Mumm and Eucarpia docs)

* Peggy OA - Thanks Donn C. for excellent representation of NAPB.
* Donn C. - Great meeting, excellent organization. Outstanding momentum from the meeting, Rita and Allan have done outstanding jobs helping the APBA. Pdf of the poster presented at the APBA can be posted on the NAPB web. Where to promote joint membership? Price of NAPB membership is going up next year. APBA membership is $100, they also have associate members, emeriti etc. that we should discuss for NAPB.
* Peggy OA – Discuss memorandum of understanding with APBA. Rita tried to initiate it with Eucarpia. Wait till the APBA has all of their documents in order before we initiate.
* North Africa was not well represented in the APBA meeting. There is a lot of opportunity in Africa. South Africa PB Association meeting is separate, exists for 30 years, signs of uneasiness regarding the APBA taking over. That should change once the APBA meeting is organized by South Africa.

***ACSESS services*** *– Dave Bubeck - outcome of brief meeting at Tri-societies including discussion on management, membership tracking, website, booth options at respective meetings, meeting tax exempt status, and possible investment account*

* Meeting attended by Dave Bubeck, Alex Lipka, Donn Cummings and Don Jones; from ASA-CSSA-SSSA - Wes Meixelsperger, Luther Smith, Ian Popkewitz.
* Dave B. - 4,000 attendees at the meeting. Good energy in C1 and C7 symposia. Meeting went well. We need to continue strong connection between NAPB and Tri Society. Agenda topic were:

1. General summary of how management of NAPB has been going

2) Review of membership renewals – what were the specific issues? Number of reminders sent by e-mail (up to us), summary of names of previous members that did not renew - Ian will communicate the list of names for memberships that were not renewed and allow us to e-mail reminders directly. Will not make automated membership renewals possible as an option; this is not done for Tri-society memberships either.

Donn C – membership committee is working on this. We send first message to renew the membership and one reminder. Peggy OA sent third email as a reminder to those that still did not renew, similar to how Todd C. has handled it last year.

3) Considerations for improvements to the web site support - Agreement that a web site upgrade would be timely; Willing to work with us on web site developer, but to be compatible with what we have already started, web publisher must know DRUPAL; We can check with ‘Weblinx’, a provider they use. They will be happy to leverage the connections with ‘Weblinx’.

Peggy OA – this is the discussion that Sarah P. and Alex L. need to have.

Donn C – Alex was in the meeting.

Dave B. - ACSESS realized that they cannot support us and we can hire a third party to work with on the web site development. We just need to be careful who we choose, someone that has the continuity and durability and is willing to work in the frame that we already have, i.e. if we don’t want to start from scratch the third party has to know Drupal. Alex is going to follow up with Sarah.

4) Financial support - Discussion about financial accounting and the annual meetings – difficulty for Wes to know what are the fully loaded expense details versus revenue with our University based annual meetings. It will be difficult to do audit without knowing the details. It is totally up to us how we do it. Will it go to Wes?

Peggy OA – For UGA meeting it goes to Lyn and then to Wes. Deborah Franco (UGA) has spreadsheet of itemized expenses that will be sent to Lynn. We rely a lot on University system right now. It is difficult to transfer this to ACSESS since there are a lot of purchases that are done through University.

Regular yearly charges reviewed by Wes:

* Meeting portal website housing - $1800 per yearly meeting
* Main Membership website housing - $1200 per year
* Contract service fees - $6000 per year
* Membership contract service fees - $26/ member billed in January based on prior year membership count – from every membership fee ACSESS takes $26 for their services.
* List services - $90 per hour billed quarterly.

Peggy OA - This has not been transparent before. Under leadership page documents for ACSESS on NAPB web page there is nothing itemized like this. What does the meeting portal website housing refer to? The meeting website was handled via UGA for last meeting and there was just the link to ACSESS for membership. What are contract service fees vs. list services?

Donn C - Don J. has seen these itemized costs from ACSESS. This is the clearest list seen so far.

Todd C. – Wayne S. handed me the paperwork and similar charges have been laid out for ACSESS charges. Will check what documents Wayne provided to see if there is the similar document.

Dave B. – we did not ask question regarding the detailed yearly charges. Action item we should ask Don J. to see if he can explain. Todd C. to find previous documentation.

* Donn C. - discussed with Wes Meixelsperger and Don Jones an investment account agreement with Morgan Stanley that would guide investing some longer term funds into our investment account. We actually have such an account now with a zero balance. We will bring a specific proposal back to the board to move funds from our general (checking acct) into our investment account to be managed by Morgan Stanley as our fiduciary working on NAPB’s behalf to grow our investments. Wes is now editing the draft agreement, sent previously, to make it shorter and similar to the societies and ASF agreements. Don and I will review it from our NAPB perspective. We will put forth a specific proposal. This should be something the EC can approve by email and we can execute in a timely manner following this EC meeting. This is an early step toward our grand goal to support an employee in our 5yr strategic plan. It is part of the ongoing conversations that we had in Pine Mountain and San Antonio. I can entertain questions on this topic, but I see this as a logical next step in managing NAPB’s finances for the future of the organization. This topic falls under the financial report.
* Dave B. – we don’t have a lot to start with because that money will disappear from our cash flow for 10 years or so. This needs to be discussed at the EC not with wider committee.
* Peggy OA - 12:30 EST Thursday CSSP webinar about investments. Peggy will share the information, it is free to attend, membership perk.
* Donn C., Dave B. and Wes will start looking into this.

***Membership Committee requests*** *– Peggy Ozias-Akins - conduct Twitter ad campaign - $700/wk; Kevin Folta contacted about podcast – showed interest but requested defined topic beyond just NAPB promotion*

* Peggy OA – recollects vote to allow the standing committees to request up to $3000? Todd C. does not remember but will check.
* $700/week seems too expensive need more information to discuss it. We can continue via email.

***Advocacy Committee action item*** *– Peggy Ozias-Akins - survey almost complete - needs quick review when received by EC*

* Emily summarized survey and would like comments if any from the EC before she sends it to the membership to prioritize. Need EC input on #5.

1. Advocate for funding of public sector breeding, including for specialty crops that don’t have a commodity group or large private sector presence
2. Advocate for funding for applied plant breeding (in the vein of the AFRI advanced YT RFP) not just for pre-breeding and germplasm characterization.
3. Advocate for AFRI grants that are renewable (in the vein of OREI grants)
4. Advocate that federal plant breeding grants require a significant portion of any royalties be returned to the breeding program.
5. Advocate for clarity on rules to access CRISPR technology OR Advocate that USDA formally adopts a policy not to regulate plants that could otherwise have been developed through traditional breeding techniques as long as they are not plant pests or developed using plant pests

* Dave B – there is a lot of work going on the genome editing topic with various groups. NAPB does not need to start new we can join ongoing activities from groups like ASTA
* Todd C – we need to make sure it is worded closely to what ASTA has and is already advocating on.
* Dave B. - Reword it to advocate that regulatory agencies in the US formally adopt the policy. Be more generic to say genome editing rather than CRISPR. Will provide the comments to Peggy to consolidate and send it to Emily. Peggy will send this item again requesting response from EC, compile the responses and send them to Emily.

***Dec ASTA and CSSP meetings; booth at ASHS?*** *– Peggy Ozias-Akins - Banner to use at ASTA; Dave to attend CSSP and ASTA; Peggy and Donn also to attend ASTA; CSSP membership renewal Dec 31*

* Dave B. - will suggests where Peggy can spend some useful time.
* ASHS meeting for early registration – do we want to have a presence again? There was no response from ASHS when we started. The early registration just passed, need to check if we can get under early registration for a booth.
* Todd C. – we are early enough to try to make the connection to the elected person not to the professional person in front of the ASHS
* Is there a possibility on the reciprocal booth for ASHS at NAPB meeting?
* Was that discussed with Tri-Society? Peggy and Ksenija will work on it.

***Commercial committee anti-trust document*** *– Dave Bubeck - discuss/approve Dave's edits*

* EC never responded nor voted on the document that Dave provided. Dave B was trying to make the ASTA document to be little more generic to be more inclusive with public and private entities.
* Is there a value of a lawyer looking into the document? Dave B – the document could be reviewed by the company attorneys to save the money to see what they say.
* Donn C. – it should be discussed with someone that is knowledgeable about legal documents
* Peggy OA – send it back to commercial committees and ask for them to share it with commercial attorneys and few University legal representation.
* Action item - pitch it back to committee and have some legal guidance before EC votes on it.

**New Business**

*ASTA organized symposium supported by NAPB/PBCC and UCDavis Seed Biotech Center – Peggy Ozias-Akins - Advancements in Plant Breeding Symposium Series: The Science of Plant Breeding*

* Plan is to organize it in Washington DC around third week of February ½ day with up to 4 speakers per session. The first one is in collaboration with FDA and focused on science not regulatory issues. Allan VD was initially in communication regarding this.
* Dave B. – NCSU hosted 2 EPA policy makers that will likely be policy writers on the genome editing. There is a leaning to be able to do it from public vs private sector.
* Wanted to make sure that EC is aware of this and on board. Unanimously agreed.

*International Year of Plant Health - U.S. Congressional Reception Sponsorship Options – Todd Campbell - Todd, Ksenija, Don, Alex voiced support - Peggy could not find additional information since link (www.plant-health.org) is not for an active website*

* Todd. C - More than sponsoring, request for congressional briefing. Will provide more information for EC to discuss.

*Meeting concluded at 2:25pm EST*

*Minutes taken by Ksenija Gasic*