October 2019 NAPB Board Meetin

Minutes

Attendees: Peggy Ozias-Akins, Alex Lipka (phone), Don Jones (phone), Dave Bubeck, Mikey Kantar (PBCC), Todd Campbell, Valerio Hoyos Villegas, Amanda Hulse-Kemp, Emily Ziemke, Jody Scheffler, Don Cummings, Zara York, Anna Reibson.

Excused: Ksenija Gasic,

*Approve minutes from Sep meeting* – Peggy Ozias-Akins

* No additions nor corrections to the minutes. Motion to accept the minutes by Todd C, Don J. second. Minutes approved unanimously.

*Financials* - Don Jones

* In the provided financial file assets were considerably higher in 2019 than 2018 because the expenses from annual meeting were not subtracted. After subtraction of the annual meeting expenses assets in 2019 are comparable to what we had in 2018. Nice success in collection of donations. Healthy balance going forward. DoIs there an option of investing some of the funds? Maybe ¼ of the funds could be invested but that has to be decided. The balance is changing from month to month.

***Standing Committee Reports***

*Membership* **-** Valerio Hoyos-Villegas **-** *recognize for sustained membership but documentation only goes back 5 years*

* One of the goals of the committee is to recognizing members for their service over the years. From the web site it looks like NAPB is going to reach 15 years of the activity next year so it would be good to recognize members that have been with NPAB for 10 or more years. The problem is that the membership documentation goes back only 5 years. Is there a way to reconstruct the attendance list?
* Peggy OA; NAPB has been established as an independent organization in 2012 and membership fee was implemented since 2014/2015 (Don C). That is why the records go back just 5-6 years. Prior to that it was only email list so it would be difficult to reconstruct the membership from the attendance list.
* Valerio HV; It all depends how we want to define when NAPB begun. Officially NAPB was established in 2012 but we have been meeting before.
* Don C: When we do recognition at 5 or 10 years, we can acknowledge that there are members with longer activity but without hard data it is hard to do so. This is a good idea for planning so in 10 years of official records we can implement it. The bigger issue is that we just lost 40 members from the highest membership number in July, and how we address that? The focus needs to eb on membership numbers.
* Valerio HV: Dip in membership is usually happening after the meeting. We need to increase notifications for membership renewal. We are sending out usual letter to remind members to renew. Brian Leckie will be sending it out soon. For the next membership committee meeting propose to arrange interviews with trade journals, online ag advocates and media outlets to increase presence of NAPB and membership.
* Zara Y: graduate student group is also thinking on helping with the membership increase from the student side.
* Don C: it has been a challenge to retain and increase membership numbers, suggesting that the letter that we send to the membership is not effective.
* Peggy OA will send letter personally to those that did not renew to try to increase renewals.
* Another goal is to sort out issue between database connection of NAPB and tri society which potentially can sort out email addresses and the membership drop after the meeting. More on this at the next EC meeting. Dave B and both Don C and Don J will be at the tri society meeting and will connect with the ACSESS group. Peggy OA suggested that this is one of the item on the agenda to discuss.
* Jodi S suggested to Valerio HV: Don C has sent an email reminder that membership fees are going up in January, so maybe include this information in the newsletter and suggest that this is the time to renew the membership under the present fee and also include this information in the letter. JS will send an email to VHV to make sure that the information is put in the newsletter.

*Advocacy* – Emily Ziemke

* We are hoping to be more active this year and the first idea is to take a survey of the membership to see what area they want advocacy group to work on. The suggestions were solicited from the Mikey K (PBCC) and hoping to get the list of ideas from the executive committee (EC) and send it to the membership to comment and list the ideas for priority for advocating.
* Dave B: will provide the document from ASTA, with the key priorities when ASTA stormed the hill in 2019, as a starting point to modify for the ideas for NAPB to advocate for. EC can review the ASTA list and evaluate if all of those topics are important for NAPB. The document also has a list of ASTA priorities for the 2020.
* Don C: Is there anything in the strategic plan regarding advocacy?
* Emily Z: not really, just that NAPB should advocate but the topics are not listed. The committee was not comfortable with making the list but rather felt that the right way is to engage the EC and membership to make an impact on what should be advocating for.
* Peggy OA: if we are to conduct the survey by the end of October, we need to prepare the list soon and have response within next couple weeks. We should be able to have the document within a week?
* Dave B: We can do that via email. Emily Z: Any objections from the EC regarding the plan to solicit the list of activities and their prioritization and send a survey to the membership? No objections, EC thought that it was a great idea and new approach. Main question is what items will go in the survey. Send the ideas to Emily within next two weeks.
* Dave B: ASTA related question to the group regarding the biotechnology review and the challenge from the White House to update the writing on the biotechnology. How much our volunteer organization can do on the writing? USDA already did the writing and it went through some level of comments from constituents. EPA will do the same thing. We as NAPB should advocate for science-based regulations and the US needs to lead the world. It is a critical importance that Susan Main brought from the FDA. So. this is something from advocacy perspective that we need to figure our connections for advocacy in DC. This is the really key part of the advocacy.
* Emily Z: do you have the good list of the topics that are up for discussion? We might reach out to ASTA and AAAS.
* Mikey K: we see this as an objective of the PBCC as well and part of the renewal, and we are in the process of recruiting people to write on this topic.
* Jim McF: Received information that the NGRAC is going to have its membership filled up and start meeting again. One of the first item is the language in the Farm Bill that deals directly with the state of public cultivar development, current investments, research gaps across crops, commercialization of federally funded cultivars and training, as well as a section on what to do with the maintenance and preservation of NPGS. This is another area that provides recommendation to the Secretary where NAPB would be an ideal stakeholder to provide input.
* Peggy OA: EC will provide recommendations for the survey to send to membership regarding the priorities for advocating.

*Education* – Rob Duncan

* Committee met on October 3rd, discussed webinar series, planning on have 3 this fall and three in winter spring. First webinar on October 29th about AgriBase software. The intention is not to advertise the software but to provide insight into the statistics and on multiple platforms. Goal is more on data management and software analyses. Advertised on the web site, and via email and will be in the newsletter.
* Jodi S: We will definitely put the information in the newsletter but are there any other dates and speakers for other webinars that could be also put in this newsletter?
* Rob D: Yes, everything is almost set and once confirmed the information will be provided to be included in the newsletter. Next seminar is November 21st. Other items are regarding sharing and promotion SeedWorld items to put on web site and sharing. Rebranding plant breeding and genomics YouTube channel. Question for EC regarding promoting NAPB at the tri society.
* DC: ASF has a booth at the Tri Societies and NAPB has members on the board. Members are asked to help support the ASF booth. Last couple of years NAPB brochure was put on the AFS table. NAPB did not have its own booth at the Tris Society until last previously but last year we year. If we want to have our won both in the exhibit hall at the Tri Society, we need to check regarding the booth rental. New banner could be available for the next Tri Society meeting in San Antonio if we accept the current mockup. The problem is where do we put up the banner, we need to clear it up with ASF where we would display it. We had NAPB pamphlets at the Texas A&M booth and Corteva and Bayer have put out NAPB pamphlets around exhibit hall.
* Peggy OA: Do we know the fee for the booth?
* Don C: We have never pursued it, so we don’t know. We need to consider some logistical things if we are to have the booth, e.g. who will be at the booth. We need to immediately start working on it with the Tri Society if we decide to have the booth or have the banner displayed.
* ??: Funding advertising. What would be possibilities of funding twitter advertising? You set up the budget and the add will appear until the budget runs out.
* Todd C: if it is not cost prohibitive it would be worth to have the booth to help with visibility and communication between the two organizations. That would clear perception that NAPB is trying to achieve advertising at the expense of other organizations. Don C seconds Todd’s suggestion but is not sure if we can do it in the short time this year.
* Peggy OA: Who is willing to investigate? Jodi is trying to figure out the timing. Don C: At this time, we should be starting to work on this for the next year. Jodi S: we might be too late for this year but would eb willing to help with next year booth. Don C: Alternative is to approach the Tri Society and say that we realize it is too late for this year meeting, but could we have the pop-up banner displayed and we commit to have the booth next year. Maybe then they would allow us to have the pop-up banner this year. Jodi S: it’s worth to try. Don C: We need to find out who is in charge of the exhibit hall. Jodi S: Eric Welsh is listed on the web site as the contact person for exhibitors, $2,000 for a booth. It’s a pretty high fee and they might be willing to work with us for the price. Don C will address this at the meeting with Wes and Luther and address this as a multiyear booth rental. This is more about planning for 2020 since we are late for anything except the popup banner. Eric might be at the meeting at San Antonio so it would be a good time to discuss. Maybe explore the possibility to share the cost of booth rental with ASF? Very little since they are small to begin with. It might be perceived as competing with the Golden Opportunity Scholars which is ASF fundraising activities.
* Peggy OA: Please provide comments on the banner so we can have it ready.
* Rob D: Using the zoom account, how to centralize the payment for the zoom so it is not based on the reimbursement.
* Peggy OA: Since leadership is on rotating base it is hard to decide who would be responsible for zoom account rental and payment. EC will consider what is the best way forward. Zoom has been working well for monthly meetings and individual committee meetings as well as webinars.
* Rob D: education committee also discussed on the poster competition and promotion of the video contest.

*Communications* - Jodi Scheffler

* Several items have already been mentioned for newsletter, membership and webinars. Need to get the list of the students that were the winners of the poster contests and awards to include int the newsletter. In the upcoming one just the list with the names and in the following one to provide longer articles about individual winners. Could not find the information on the web site. Also, if anyone took pictures of the winners to provide them to Jodi. Rob D. has all this info and pictures and will provide it to Jodi. Could not find information on the website, it shows information from Guelph meeting. Job postings on NAPB website. Most of the time job postings are link is there anyway to add the box where you can insert the link.
* Peggy OA: we are discussing migrating NAPB website and removing it from ACESS control. Sarah Potts oversees this, and it might happen this year.
* If anyone has something that they want to have in the newsletter send email to Jodi.

**Other committees/groups**

*Commercial* – Anna Reibson

* First meeting on October 1st, discussed few things among 6 people so far on the committee. Considering members from ASTA on the committee. Reviewed the antitrust statement from ASTA to see if it is appropriate for the NAPB, which will be up for voting later. New officers were sworn in. Goals and deliverables for the committee for upcoming year. How to increase the visibility of private program within the NAPB, internships, see potential overlaps with other committees. The goals of the committee will be shared at the next meeting so Peggy can present them to ASTA.

*PBCC* – Mikey Kantar

* Annual report is finished and submitted. We are working on the renewal and deciding on the goals of the next 5 years. PBCC provided input to Emily for advocacy ideas. PBCC could help with providing publications on the topic worth advocating for. Idea for an objective is Developing plant breeding traveling courses. Happy to share the PBCC ideas for objectives for next 5 year project with the NAPB.
* Peggy OA: it would be good if NAPB can see the goals and objectives and have an opportunity to provide an input to the PBCC. That would also help the advocacy committe. Mikey K. will share the draft with the EC after the meeting.

*Graduate Student Working Group* – Zara York

* Elected new officers for secretary and diversity award coordinator and planning committee liaisons for the next year NAPB conference. IN the middle of survey done by the graduate students about the NPAB conference and professional development program that was done and also setting the goals for the coming year. The committee is interested in updating the website. If it is going to be re-designed the committee has ideas and is willing to help.
* Peggy OA: Sarah Potts is the best contact for this if and when the decision is made to re-design the website.
* Trying to improve the membership involvement from the graduate students that are in the committee and wider NAPB members. Proposing to have 3 minute thesis competition throughout the year that could potentially help with retaining students members. Committee is wondering if it would be possible to get small amount of funding for prize for winners.
* Peggy OA: What is the thinking on the prize level? What would be an incentive?
* Zara Y: Video competition would be an incentive. Committee did not yet discuss the amounts. Peggy OA suggested that committee discusses the prizes and amounts needed and prepare the proposal to the EC for discussion. The example of the budget could be $500, $300 and $100 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. The committee is in the process of preparing the proposal.

*Early Career Working Group* - Amanda Hulse-Kemp

* Waiting on all the other meeting to set recurring meeting. The committees first meeting will be next month. Nothing new to update since conference.

*Borlaug Scholars* - Donn Cummings - attending APBA; recently discussed how to connect diversity travel awardee and Borlaug Scholar program

* Don C will be attending APBA, leaving on Sunday. What assets NAPB has for releasing the news releases to a larger audience outside our newsletter mailing list. Do we need to develop a process/list of people to send the news releases from NAPB. Banner is developed and feedback solicited. Discussion between diversity and Borlaug Scholars Group on what direction we should take. Challenges with the diversity group and mentoring. Maybe consider involving the PBCC in developing the plan for the diversity scholars, and maybe Early Career WG to help with providing mentors. Meeting grant needs to be developed and these are some of the things that need to be included. Jodi Callwood is new diversity award coordinator and she will be in touch with PBCC and Early Career WG. She is still a graduate student. Graduate student WG and the Early Career WG were working together on this.

**Old Business**

*ACSESS services - Peggy Ozias-Akins and Dave Bubeck-Dave/Donn will discuss with ACSESS at Tri-Soc meeting in Nov - propose to move website; also discuss investment account and process to acquire tax exemption status for annual meeting*

* Peggy OA: propose to move the website to new provider and discuss with ACESS and Tri Society. The cost f $600 so it would be similar. Other things as linking registration etc. needs to be discussed with ACESS and Tri Society. Dave B. is still waiting to hear from Luther and Wes. It will be just Don C, Don J and Dave B available to meet with the Luther and Wes. Wayne Smith would be a good addition to the team. He has been active in those circles. As the lead on the strategic planning committee if he is available, he should be encouraged to participate. It would be good to develop the agenda for the meeting and run it by the EC.

*Action item from Sept - who will take on annual review of strategic plan? - Peggy Ozias-Akins - Past-president or secretary were suggested*

* Pros and cons for both past president and secretary to be in charge of annual review of the Strategic Plan. Past president has past knowledge with three year of experience being on the EC and for secretary it might be a good way to be engaged in the future forward as they are moving through the leadership track. It can be argued either way. Vote can be done via email but a bit more discussion is needed. Don C made a suggestion that each committee have their new secretary be involved in the website to learn about the website content and updates, and that the secretary of the NPAB coordinate this group. Not sure how that would coincide with the Strategic plan annual review if the vote is for secretary to be in charge. Those a two fairly major tasks. Strategic plan annual review would be a good task for past president. Dave B as last year secretary commented that it would be better task for past president since from his experience as a secretary, he has not been that much engaged in the NAPB activities. It might be too much for a secretary. Peggy supported Dave’s comments from her personal experience as well. Secretary might not be able to contribute as much. Peggy will send it to the EC for a vote.

**New Business**

*Anti-trust document for Commercial Committee - Klaus Koehler and Dave Bubeck*

* EC to review the anti-trust document developed by Commercial committee based on the ASTA document. To determine if it is acceptable as official NAPB document. Dave B. considered language on the anti-trust as very private industry leaning and suggest that public perspective is needed to confirm that the document reflects NAPB and is a best fit. Suggestion is made that EC revisits the document and makes sure that the language reflects both private and public perspective. Not aware if Tri-Society have document like this?
* EC will review via email and determine if the re-wording by the Commercial committee is needed.

**Items from floor**

* Jodi S: quick thing to confirm. Who is the good contact for the achievement awards and for the diversity students? For achievement awards Jim McF. Virginia has all the information regarding student winners and awrdees.
* Peggy OA will share the dropbox folder with the information needed.

*Meeting concluded at 2:15pm EST*

*Minutes taken by Ksenija Gasic from recording*