

Maize Genetics Cooperation, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2021 via Zoom, 8:30 am Central Time

BOD Members Present: Ruth Wagner, David Braun, Ed Buckler, Dave Jackson, Sherry Flint-Garcia (secretary), Candy Hirsch, Natalia de Leon, James Schnable, Marilyn Warburton

Motions/votes in turquois.

1. Discussion of MGC Membership
 - Summary of previous discussion regarding ACSESS and the membership process, dues, and meeting registration
 - Summary of January 4 meeting of BOD members with ACSESS
 - Alternative full service membership system options were discussed.
 - Suggestion was made that we create a “Membership Committee” – to interact with the community, evolve the membership protocols, etc. Discussion ensued.
 - A motion was passed that the current membership is extended to March 31 as a one-time solution to finalize membership situation and allow for upcoming elections.
 - Still need to figure out the process longer term.
 - Only real options are 1) hire a full service company to oversee membership, 2) try to do in-house for cheaper, but we all have limited time/expertise.
 - Need to be aware that USDA approvals and limitations of MaizeGDB staff may be different to support the maize community at large versus MGC members.
 - Perhaps the membership committee needs a “permanent” position to head this committee and provide some institutional memory – to serve as a point person. This position could be ex officio.
- Ultimate decision from this meeting:** We are collecting dues this year at the approved rate, but is subject to change in the future. The membership committee chair will pick up the responsibility of working with the community and organizing changes.
- A motion was passed to make the Membership Term April 1 to March 31 for subsequent years.
2. Request for nominations to BOD, MGMSC, CODIE, etc. needs to go out very soon
 - A motion was passed to add a Membership Committee Chair to the call for BOD nominations, and this position is ex-officio.
 3. A suggestion was made (on behalf of members of the community) to create a formal way to grieve the recent losses in the community: Don Auger and Nick Lauter.

Meeting adjourned at 10 am.