

# Maize Genetics Cooperation, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting Minutes September 16, 2021 via Zoom, 12:30 pm Central Time

BOD Members Present: Candy Hirsch, David Braun, Ed Buckler, Lisa Harper, Jay Hollick, Thelma Madzima, James Schnable, Ruth Wagner (acting secretary)

BOD Members Absent: Sherry Flint-Garcia

Other committee chairs present: Erin Sparks, Matthew Hufford, John Fowler, Wojtek Pawlowski, Rueben Rellen-Alvarez, Paula McSteen

## Motions in blue

### Open Session with the community

- No attendees

### CODIE Update

- RCN “Building Better Together” Thurs & Fri Jan 20-21 from 12-4pm ET
  - RCN Facilitator contract went through. Thelma & John will meet with her next week to define next steps for the workshop
- NSF-funded Roots & Shoots Project had its first meeting

### MEMBERSHIP Update

- Committee decided to go with Squarespace & Memberspace, which was also recently adopted by NAPPN. Support & maintenance will be done through MaizeGDB and contracted work (with a fixed hourly rate)
- Expect to test mid October and launch by end of October

### ANC Update

- Paula gave an overview of committee members rotating off and onto the ANC
- BoD was supportive of Paula’s thorough approach to increase and maintain diversity

### MGMSC Update

#### 2022

- Swapcard reimbursed MGC \$9K due to performance issues at start of the 2021 MGM. Conference Direct facilitated the process & MGMSC was happy with the outcome.
- 2024 meeting contract was re-negotiated for the benefit of the MGC. Conference Direct negotiated a lower slippage rate and will protect the community financially if there is lower attendance.
- The team is exploring ways to re-allocate RCN funding that has not been used in previous years (due to no student travel to the meeting), and has been working with NSF and Shawn Kaepler.
- Community will be polled to know what the attendance might look like for 2022 meeting.

- 2022 Meeting COVID Requirements
  - MGMSC asked the BoD to discuss & vote on a series of issues related to COVID protocols:
    1. Vaccination (as defined/approved by the WHO) is required to attend in person.
      - There was a motion to vote that vaccination is required, and a second motion to support the first.
      - Unanimous vote in favor of vaccination requirement.
    2. Proof of vaccination: Official certification or attestation?
      - Discussion that it would take significant oversight and support to validate and monitor. There will be consequences for lying about vaccination status.
      - There was a motion and a second motion to vote that attestation is required and sufficient.
      - All voted in favor of attestation, with these stipulations.
    4. There will be a mask mandate for the meeting.
      - There was a motion to vote in favor of a mask mandate, and a second motion to support the first.
      - All voted in favor of mask mandate protocol
    5. Requirement for negative COVID test 48 hours prior to conference start.
      - a. Discussion: it would take significant oversight and support to monitor this.
        - There was a motion to vote that no test would be required, though it can be encouraged.
        - All voted in favor of not requiring COVID test prior to the conference.
    6. If a person registers for in-person attendance, the person must attend in person unless exposed to or infected by COVID. If, after registration a person wishes to switch from in-person to virtual attendance, there will not be reimbursement. However, there will be a no-additional-cost transition to the virtual attendance.
      - There was a motion to vote and a second motion in support.
      - All voted in favor of not reimbursing for post-registration switch to virtual

**2024 Meeting:**

- Additional costs are coming up related to security costs, food costs, and hotel prices. One hotel is being dropped due to financial risk, but two hotels are still in negotiation on room pricing.
- May need legal review of some contract sections

**FINANCE Update**

- We have sales and use tax exemption in WI
- We have certificate of authority in MO
- Sales and use tax exemption in MO has been submitted
- We are getting a debit card in connection with our First Business Bank

**Approval of August Minutes**

There was a motion and subsequent motion to vote on approving August meeting minutes. The approval vote passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2:09 pm