

Maize Genetics Cooperation Board of Directors  
April 1, 2022 12:30 at Maize Genetics Meeting, St. Louis (Midway Room)  
MINUTES

BOD members present:

Candy Hirsch, Jay Hollick, Ed Buckler, James Schnable, Ruth Wagner  
Laurie Smith, Thelma Madzima, David Braun, Andrea Eveland, Marna Yandea-Nelson

BOD members absent:

Sherry Flint-Garcia  
Lisa Harper

[Motions in blue](#)

**Discussion with funding agencies and stakeholder groups**

Cliff Weill (NSF; in-person meeting participant), Kan Wang (NSF; in-person meeting participant), Diane Jofuku Okamuro (NSF; on Zoom), Jack Okamuro (USDA; on Zoom) shared perspectives on current funding opportunities and trends. Robyn Allscheid (NCGA) discussed the NCGA Ambassador program and opportunities for joint advocacy efforts between MGAC and NCGA. Jack Okamuro mentioned an open position for a grants program officer at USDA. A report of outcomes from the NSF funded RCN were discussed including updates on the MaGNET program and the mentoring program. Further points emphasized by each organizational rep:

NSF: continue focus on “use-inspired” and virtual incorporation. Contact program directors with ideas and they will advise on funding opportunities.

USDA: US Secretary’s website lists the 2022-2026 themes for ag foundations. Climate change will continue as a priority area.

NCGA: point of contact for advocacy on the hill, in partnership with growers. NCGA has funding for community meetings.

**BoD Business**

Newly elected members were welcomed (Marna Yandea-Nelson, Incoming Chair; Andrea Eveland, Member at Large; Laurie Smith, Secretary)

General structure and purpose of MGC was reviewed, along with roles and responsibilities of the BOD, insurance policy, etc.

[A motion was made and seconded to approve the MGAC charge document just approved by MGAC members; vote passed unanimously by the 2021-2022 BoD Members who were previously able to review the document](#)

Annual calendar (cycle of activities for BOD) was reviewed

BoD meeting frequency was discussed; will continue at one meeting per month with additional ad-hoc meetings as needed.