

Maize Genetics Cooperation Board of Directors August 8 2022 on Zoom Meeting Minutes

Meeting convened 3:30 ET

BOD members and MGC Committee Chairs present:

Marna Yandea-Nelson
Jay Hollick
Laurie Smith
Paula McSteen
David Braun
Matt Hufford
Mark Lubkowitz
Lisa Harper
Andrea Eveland
John Fowler
Thelma Madzima
Natalie Nannas
Candy Hirsch

BOD Members absent:

Jeff Ross-Ibarra

Motions in blue

1. Open Session with the community: no community members present

2. Announcements

- Work is ongoing to develop guidelines for future conference site selection.
- Proposal submitted to NSF requesting financial support for 2023 Maize Genetics Meeting

MGC Committee Updates

3. Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (CODIE)

- Multiple candidates under consideration for the Fostering Diversity talk at the 2023 Maize Meeting
- CODIE membership changes reviewed (current membership shown at <https://www.maizegdb.org/mgc/outreach/index.php>)
- MGC will be represented on equitable conferences working group that is part of the NSF Roots & Shoots Research Coordination Network. This group is working on guidelines for equitable, inclusive conferences that will be distributed to 7 participating plant science societies including MGC.
- MGC will also be represented at the upcoming annual retreat for the Roots & Shoots RCN.

4. Maize Genetics Meeting Steering Committee

- Plenary speakers now confirmed for 2023 Maize Genetics Meeting: Candice Hirsch, Damon Lisch, Seung (Sue) Rhee, and Ralph Bock
- A new registration platform will be developed and used in 2023 due to multiple problems with ACSES system used in 2022
- Annual community survey results were presented and discussed

5. Maize Genetics Advocacy Committee (MGAC)

- Working on recommendations re nomenclature guideline updates to relay to Nomenclature Committee
- Committee rep will advocate for maize research funding and community interests at PGRP PI meeting in September 2022
- Working on McClintock Prize press release

Committee Chairs left 4:23pm ET

BoD only business

6. Maize Genetics Advocacy Committee (MGAC) discussion. Since creation of the Maize Genetics Cooperation as a 501c(3) organization, MGAC has consisted mainly of members of the MGC Board of Directors (BoD). Concerns were voiced that this is not the best strategy for pursuit of the core MGAC charge (<https://www.maizegdb.org/mgc/advocacy/charge.php>) to support advocacy-related activities such as communications with funding agencies and stakeholders. The unique MGAC charge can be pursued more vigorously if populated with members dedicated to it.

[A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to uncouple MGAC from the BoD.](#)

The BoD will actively support the transition to an independent MGAC that functions in a similar way as other MGC committees with BoD oversight, including recruitment and support of new MGAC members.

7. June BOD meeting minutes. [Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the June BOD meeting; unanimously approved.](#)

[Motion made, seconded and approved to open a closed-door session](#)

Meeting adjourned 5 pm ET