

# Maize Genetics Cooperation Board of Directors September 26 2022 on Zoom Meeting Minutes

**Meeting convened 1:00PM ET**

**BOD members and MGC Committee Chairs present:**

Marna Yandea-Nelson  
Jay Hollick  
Laurie Smith  
Paula McSteen  
David Braun  
Matt Hufford  
Mark Lubkowitz  
Andrea Eveland  
John Fowler  
Candy Hirsch  
Jeff Ross-Ibarra

**BoD Members and MGC Committee Chairs absent:**

Natalie Nannas  
Lisa Harper  
Thelma Madzima

**Motions in blue**

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

**MGC Committee Updates**

2. Awards and Nominations Committee (ANC) Update: review of current membership, need for new appointees, and appointment procedures (<https://www.maizegdb.org/mgc/awards/charge.php>). Request for nominees by early November including PUI faculty, industry scientists, and international scientists.

3. Treasurer's Update: account balances and pending fund transfers reviewed.

4. Committee on Outreach, Diversity, Inclusion, and Education (CODIE) Update:

- Maria Elena Zavala from Cal State Northridge will be the Fostering Diversity speaker at 2023 Maize Meeting (planning to attend in person).
- Roots and Shoots (NSF RCN involving MGC and 6 other plant societies) activities were discussed. Guidelines from a workgroup focused on best practices for inclusive conferences are expected in draft form around the end of the year, and in final form during 2023.

5. Maize Genetics Advocacy Committee (MGAC) Update:

- 2023 McClintock Award press release is coming soon
- Working on recommendations for nomenclature revision

6. Maize Genetics Meeting Steering Committee (MGMSC) Update:

- Conference financial support discussed: existing NSF funds not used for prior conferences + raising support from industry this fall.
- Recent discussions on location of future meetings beyond 2025 (last year for which we are already under contract). The committee has discussed possible locations for the 2026 meeting including international and virtual. The BoD will further consider site selection criteria and MGMSC proposals for the 2026 meeting location at the October MGC meeting. Beyond 2026, discussions continue about U.S. sites outside the midwest, and periodic (e.g. every four years) virtual meetings. Virtual conferences are accessible to many who cannot attend in person including international scientists for whom cost and logistics are prohibitive. Fully virtual conferences can be structured with diverse time zones in mind.

**Other Business**

7. Conference site selection guidelines are being developed to make our process more transparent to the community. A draft document was circulated and will be further discussed and voted on at the October meeting.

8. Maize Genetics Cooperation communications: discussion of expanding the use of Twitter to publicize our meetings, and Maize GDB “hot papers” blog.

9. Archiving MGC documents. Strategies discussed for archiving MGC documents now housed on a Google Drive to ensure preservation and readability in distant future.

**Committee Chairs departed 2:30 ET**

**BoD only business**

Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the August BOD meeting; unanimously approved.

**Meeting adjourned 2:35 ET**