

Maize Genetics Cooperation Board of Directors
November 17, 2023 on Zoom
Meeting Minutes

BoD members present:

Marna Yandeau-Nelson (Chair)
Wojtek Pawlowski (Incoming Chair)
Erin Sparks (Treasurer)
Andrea Eveland (At Large Member)
Laurie Smith (Secretary)
Jeff Ross-Ibarra (At Large Member)
Jay Hollick (Outgoing Chair)
Mike Muszynski (Communications Director)

Absent:

Thelma Madzima (At Large Member)

Meeting began 2pm Central Time

[Motions in blue](#)

1. Oct 31 meeting minutes/records

[Motion to approve Oct. 31 meeting minutes was made, seconded and unanimously approved](#)

Videos of reports from Treasurer and MGAC Chair at the Oct. 31 meeting are posted on MaizeGDB

2. MGC Awards and Nominations Committee (ANC) Update

A. Disclosure of evaluation rubrics: ANC will be publicly posting these beginning with 2024 awards to increase transparency and promote equity in the award process. BoD member comments and approval requested.

B. New ANC members needed to replace outgoing members. Candidates reviewed.

[Motion to approve these nominee was seconded and unanimously approved](#)

3. Maize Genetics Advocacy Committee

Current MGAC charter says that its members are mostly the same as BoD members, but a decision was made at previous meetings to reconstitute MGAC with members who are mostly distinct from BoD members. Discussion of membership goals, wanting representation from different parts of the world, academic and industry, primarily undergraduate institutions. MGAC charter needs to be revised to outline these membership goals and the selection process. Plan to do that in time to have MGAC membership included in the annual ANC call for MGC committee nominations, which will go out in January.

4. MGM Updates

- Conference planning for 2024 meeting going smoothly
- Negotiations underway for 2026 conference in Germany

5. Discussion about dates of BoD leadership change

BoD discussed changing the timing for newly elected BoD members assuming responsibility for their roles. Up to now the transition from old to new BoD members has occurred at the Maize Meeting, but that requires new BoD members to step into the middle of many things at an especially challenging time (e.g. meeting affairs). BoD voiced broad support for delaying the transfer of full responsibility to new BoD members with specific functions (Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Communications Director) from the Maize Meeting to at least two months later or the start of the next fiscal year July 1. Will require a change of committee charge and BoD approval vote.

6. Creation of a policy for responding to requests to distribute information to maize community e.g.

petitions, announcements about conferences, funding opportunities, and meeting travel awards. Goal is to have uniformity in response to such requests. BoD discussed a process in which individuals who want information distributed to the community can fill out a Google form for periodic review and distribution by BoD.

7. Policy for BoD/MGC involvement in creation and distribution of tributes/obituaries.

The BoD wants to be consistent with responses to such requests and not have responsibility for deciding who does or doesn't merit a tribute or writing these. Decision was made that a community member who would like to honor another who has passed will be invited to write one for inclusion in the biannual community digest (The Kernel). This opportunity will be communicated to the community by MGC Director of Communications.

8. A library of BoD policies will be created for internal use

8. Discussion of optimal timing of call for membership dues vs. conference registration

Need to coordinate this with MGC Membership Committee.

9. CoC/Community Agreement/Reporting Process document revision

Workgroup assembled to update the reporting process document in time for implementation at the 2024 Maize Meeting

Meeting adjourned 3:52 Central Time