

Maize Genetics Cooperation Board of Directors
January 10, 2024 on Zoom
Meeting Minutes

BoD members present:

Marna Yandea-Nelson (Chair)
Wojtek Pawlowski (Incoming Chair)
Erin Sparks (Treasurer)
Andrea Eveland (At Large Member)
Thelma Madzima (At Large Member)
Laurie Smith (Secretary)
Jay Hollick (Outgoing Chair)
Mike Muszynski (Communications Director)

Absent:

Jeff Ross-Ibarra (At Large Member)

Meeting began 2pm Central Time

Motions in blue

1. Dec. 11 BoD meeting minutes

Motion made and seconded to approve Dec. 11 2023 BoD Meeting Minutes. Unanimously approved.

2. Awards and Nominations Committee (ANC) updates

- a. Review of MGC awards timeline: Nominations due 22nd; ANC meets to make decisions on 29th; BoD approval scheduled for Feb. 1. Call will go out Jan. 23rd for community nominations for elected positions: Incoming Chair of BoD + 1 new At-Large Member, also one new At-Large Member of MGAC. Nominations due Jan. 30th. Community voting period Feb. 16-26.
- b. BoD membership: discussion of process for replacement of BoD members who resign; length of terms for the person filling the slot replacement. This affects some current board members.
- c. Making the physical awards: reviewed the needs, logistics, and costs of creating the medals and glass awards to be given out at the 2024 Maize Meeting.

3. 2024 Maize Meeting updates

- a. All registered participants at the 2024 Maize Meeting will be invited to participate in bystander training hosted by ADVANCEGeo on Monday, Feb. 12 from 2-5pm EST (11am-2pm PST) – on Zoom. They just need to fill out a Google form to sign up.
- b. Discussion of having BoD members serving as moderators for each session, charged with speaking up as advocates for Code of Conduct using bystander training experience if a need arises.

- c. Planning for BoD meeting at the 2024 Maize Meeting, with possibility for virtual participation as well.

4. Maize Genetics Advocacy Committee (MGAC) updates

- a. BoD members asked one last time to review the revised MGAC charge document discussed in a prior meeting. Will vote later this month on whether to approve the revised document.
- b. Discussion of who will be the next chair of MGAC and what and the committee's priorities should be.

5. Donations to MGC

BoD discussed a proposal to direct donations made at MGC website to a new endowment fund independent from Univ. of MO. Reasons for doing this were reviewed, along with challenges.

Motion made and seconded that donation links at MGC website be changed to route donations to new, MGC-controlled endowment fund, contingent on a finding that there are no unfavorable tax consequences. Motion passed with 8 votes in favor (unanimous).

6. MGC Committee funding

Discussion of request from Chair of Membership Committee for \$1200 to support activities of that committee. BoD in support but we are reminded by our Treasurer that full BoD vote is not necessary for approval of this expenditure (below threshold requiring BoD approval). Discussion of need to create committee budgets so they don't have to come to Treasurer or BoD Chair asking for below-threshold amounts of money to support committee activities.

7. The Kernel

Plans for first issue of The Kernel (community newsletter) discussed. Plan is to distribute it in February before the 2024 Maize Meeting.

Motion made, seconded and approved to enter a closed door session for remainder of meeting

Meeting adjourned 3:45pm Central