

**Maize Genetics Cooperation Board of Directors**  
**May 13, 2024 on Zoom**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**BoD members present:**

Wojtek Pawlowski (Chair)  
Marna Yandean-Nelson (Outgoing Chair)  
Matt Hufford (Incoming Chair)  
Erin Sparks (Treasurer)  
Laurie Smith (Secretary)  
Mike Muszynski (Communications Director)  
John Fowler (At Large Member)  
Andrea Eveland (At Large Member)

**Members absent:**

Jeff Ross-Ibarra (At Large Member)

**Invited visitors:**

Sherry Flint-Garcia (Chair of Maize Genetics Meeting Steering Committee)  
Irina Makarevitch (Chair, CODIE)  
Brandi Sigmon (candidate for next Chair, CODIE)

**Meeting began 5pm ET**

[Motions in blue](#)

**1. BoD meeting minutes**

[Motion made and seconded to approve April 15 2024 BoD Meeting Minutes. Motion was passed.](#)

**2. Discussion about future Maize Genetics Meetings**

Site needs to be determined soon for 2027 MGM. According to the historical pattern, that conference should be in the U.S. Midwest. Steering Committee proposes a site; BoD approves. Conference Direct can help identify potential sites based on criteria we give them. Among other things, we want to consider the site selection guidelines developed by the Inclusive Conference Workgroup of the NSF Roots & Shoots project. These guidelines were used in the process of identifying the 2025 Germany conference site; Conference Direct is familiar with them since they assisted with research on potential sites in Germany. In the past, CD has not charged for this service.

[Motion made and seconded for Board approval of the use of Conference Direct services to search for a site in the US Midwest for 2027 using ICWG guidelines, assuming this is free. Motion passed.](#)

[Motion made and seconded to approve SC contacting Conference Direct for a quote to continue providing conference services for us including long-term deals that give us a discount. Motion passed unanimously.](#)

**3. CODIE Discussion**

CODIE is revising its charge document to create a formal structure with greater clarity on how people become members, membership terms, etc. As part of that process, CODIE wants to formalize an expectation for overlap in BoD and CODIE membership. Currently we have a BoD member who is also on CODIE, but CODIE would like to formalize expectations for the future, in their revised charge document.

Discussion centered on the best way to set this up given that BoD members are elected by the community, but CODIE would like to have some control over who is their representative to BoD.

Motion made and seconded to ask CODIE to present the BoD with answers to questions raised today before we decide about having a “CODIE advocate” as a regular participant in BoD meetings. Motion passed.

#### **4. McClintock Prize**

2025 awardee needs to be notified.

Motion made to go into closed door session was seconded and approved.

**Meeting adjourned 6:30pm ET**