

Maize Genetics Cooperation Board of Directors
October 21, 2024 on Zoom
Meeting Minutes

BoD members present:

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

BoD members absent:

Jeff Ross-Ibarra (At Large Member)
Matt Hufford (Incoming Chair)

Invited visitors:

Sherry Flint-Garcia (2025 Steering Committee Chair)
Brandi Sigmon (CODIE Chair)
Ethy Cannon (Maize GDB)

Meeting began 4:30pm ET

Motions in blue

1. Approval of Minutes from the September meeting

Motion made and seconded to approve September minutes. Approved unanimously.

2. MGM 2027 site selection

Conference Steering Committee has completed its process, supported by Conference Direct, to choose a site for the 2027 Maize Meeting. Considerations include availability for our dates, capacity and rooms needed for our conference, pricing, political and social climate, and accessibility for travel and ADA. This process led to selection of Hyatt Regency O'Hare as the top choice (an airport hotel; very easy to get to from O'Hare). BoD approval requested.

Motion made and seconded to approve Hyatt Regency O'Hare as 2027 MGM site. Unanimously approved.

3. MGM 2025 registration fee increases

Goal is to increase revenue by about \$10K to balance the 2025 budget. Specific proposal put together with help of Conference Direct. Increases are very small for students, scale up from there (mostly affects PIs/lab heads).

Motion made and seconded to approve rate increases. Unanimously approved.

4. Support for MGM attendance for members of MGC committees

BoD discussed whether MGC funds should be used to defray cost of annual meeting attendance by committee members, who donate substantial amounts of time to the organization. Given the number of people serving on MGC committees, doing this across the board would require increasing conference fees substantially. Discussion focused on ways to target assistance to meet greatest needs. Decision was to inform MGC committee chairs that they can ask for funds to help with conference fees for one or two committee members whose presence at the meeting is essential and are likely to have financial need, but encouraging chairs to critically consider these needs.

5. Reinvigorating the Nomenclature Committee

Nomenclature guidelines have not been revised since 1996, and the committee charged with oversight of guidelines has been dormant for a long time. BoD agrees that update of nomenclature guidelines is long overdue. Consensus emerged for re-convening the committee with largely new membership.

Motion made and seconded to reconvene the nomenclature committee with a charge to update maize genetic nomenclature guidelines and disseminate them. Unanimously approved.

6. Topics for the Fall issue of the Kernel

Plan to distribute in November, shortly after the next BoD meeting Nov. 18th. Topics:
Root and Shoot Travel awards
MGM venue 2027 and process to select it
McClintock Prize announcement
Call for interest in participating in reconstituted nomenclature committee
MGC budget update

7. CODIE seeks BoD for November ROOT & SHOOT retreat

MGC has participated for about four years now in this NSF-funded initiative (<https://rootandshoot.org/>). Second in person retreat happening in November; five MGC members lined up to participate: Retreat goals reviewed; BoD provided feedback.

8. Update on the MGM Ombudsman meeting

Funds have been budgeted for ombuds services for 2025 Maize Genetics conference

Meeting adjourned 6pm ET