

Maize Genetics Cooperation Board of Directors
December 9, 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)
Jeff Ross-Ibarra (At Large Member)
Matt Hufford (Incoming Chair)

Meeting began 4:30pm ET

Motions in blue

1. Open community session

Several non-BoD members joined for a discussion of MGC committees. Committee chairs or their delegates outlined activities of each committee. Visitors departed 5pm.

2. Steering Committee business

Board discussed proration of membership dues, to avoid charging people for a full year membership fee less than one year apart. This would be a one time thing, to get everyone on same cycle. Decision was made to ask Membership Committee to work this out in discussion with Steering Committee.

Board discussed possible ways to expand financial support for international participants at the Maize Meeting, given that federal agencies won't pay for this, and we don't want to increase registration costs for everyone else to accomplish this. Ideas discussed included using funds donated by private industry to support the Maize Meeting, and solicitation of donations from the MGC community.

3. Approval of Minutes from the November meeting

Motion made and seconded to approve November minutes. Unanimously approved.

4. Root and Shoot updates

Board heard a report from the recent Root and Shoot retreat. [Root and Shoot](#) is an NSF-funded initiative involving several plant biology societies including MGC, aiming to create a more inclusive culture within the plant science community. We had about five representatives at this retreat. Initiatives discussed at the retreat included pan-society affinity groups, mentee empowerment training, collection of demographic data from society activity participants, accountability (i.e. what happens when there are CoC violations at conferences), and culturally responsive mentorship training.

Meeting adjourned at 6pm ET