

Maize Genetics Cooperation Board of Directors
January 24, 2025 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 Yandea-Nelson (Outgoing Chair)

BoD members absent:

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

Vistors Present:

Brandi Sigmon (CODIE Chair)
Sherry Flint-Garcia (Steering Committee Chair)

Meeting began 2:00pm ET

Motions in blue

1. Approval of Minutes from the December meeting

Motion made and seconded to approve December minutes. Unanimously approved (6/6 present at time of vote)

2. CODIE matters

Discussion of new policy announced a few days ago barring federal support of DEI efforts. Will need time to figure out how this impacts BoD (especially CODIE) activities, who works on them, and how they are communicated. In the meantime, CODIE page and other DEI-related information may need to be removed from MGC website (because it's USDA-supported site; they have only 10 days to comply).

Decision was made to keep MaGNET awards in place for this year's Maize Meeting (awardees already notified), with use of non-federal funds if necessary even though this was an approved expense in our NSF conference grant. CODIE will seek guidance from NSF on this.

3. ANC matters

Award nomination deadline was extended by a week to Feb. 7. Decision timeline short; need approved awardee names a few weeks before the Maize Meeting to make plaques and put information in program. Minor revisions to ANC procedures were discussed. ANC charge document needs to be revised to reflect current practices. Proposed revisions to charge document will be presented to BoD for approval soon.

4. Planning for Maize Genetics Conference in St. Louis Mar. 6-9, 2025

Schedule (still in progress) presented to BoD as it currently stands. BoD needs to plan and lead the community session Saturday 4:30-6pm.

Discussion of community session resulted in a decision to run it the same way as last year, which was a big revision compared to prior years: request short reports with maximum of 2 slides from committee chairs – 15 min total for this portion of meeting. Brevity here is justified by more detailed committee chair reports that will go into The Kernel issue distributed about two weeks before the meeting. Might have presentations from representatives of federal funding agencies, for another 15 minutes. Then at least 1 hour of community discussion. This worked well last year.

5. Committee reports for the February issue of The Kernel

Submissions to be solicited this week from committee chairs for an issue that will go out about two weeks before the meeting, allowing discussion during community session instead of lengthy reports from each committee chair. Submission deadline will be Feb. 14th.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm ET