

Maize Genetics Cooperation Board of Directors
February 10, 2025 on Zoom
Meeting Minutes

BoD members present:

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

BoD members absent:

Jeff Ross-Ibarra (At Large Member)
Mike Muszynski (Communications Director)

Vistors Present:

Brandi Sigmon (CODIE Chair)
Sherry Flint-Garcia (SC Chair)

Meeting began 4:00pm ET

Motions in blue

1. Approval of Minutes from the January meeting

Motion made and seconded to approve January minutes. Unanimously approved (6/6)

2. MGC website and email distribution

BoD discussed moving the MGC website from a USDA server to a non-government server. Multiple advantages: avoids concerns about conflict with ever-changing executive orders, also avoids having our site go down or be unable to make modifications during a government shut down (since the MGC webmasters are USDA employees, they cannot work during a shutdown). Domain names and logistics of porting the MGC pages to new site were presented and discussed.

3. CODIE update

Many scientific societies have sent messages out to their membership (BSA, ASPB, SSE, others) re-affirming their principles, offering support to members, and making suggestions for actions their members could take if concerned about impacts of Executive Orders, etc. Should MGC BoD also send such a message? Pros and cons discussed. Differences between MGC and other societies were recognized, including the need to ensure that USDA and corporate employees can still participate in our meetings. Also recognized that silence implies intent to abandon initiatives MGC has not decided to abandon. BoD will collaboratively work on a message to see if we can come up with one that all BoD members can stand behind.

4. MGM 2025 update

All speakers have been chosen and notified. BoD and SC members are asked to be on hand and ready during scientific sessions to ask questions after talks (incase others don't) and actively uphold our Code of Conduct.

5. Root and Shoot update

[Root and Shoot](#) is an NSF-funded project with DEI-related objectives that MGC has been participating in for the past few years. They ceased activity initially in response to the Executive Order in late January, but have since resumed based on a judge's ruling saying that the EO violates contractual obligations, and will still be funding some participants attending the 2025 MGC.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50pm ET