

Maize Genetics Cooperation Board of Directors
April 14, 2025 on Zoom
Meeting Minutes

BoD members present:

Matthew Hufford (Chair)
Norman Best (Secretary)
Erin Sparks (Treasurer)
Mike Muszynski (Communications)
Mark Lubkowitz (Incoming Chair)
Wojtek Pawlowski (Outgoing Chair)
Andrea Eveland (At Large Member)
John Fowler (At Large Member)
Thomas Slewinski (At Large Member)

BoD members absent:

None

Visitors present:

None

Meeting Began at 6:00pm EST

Motions in blue

1. Approval of Minutes from the March meeting

Motion made and seconded to approve March minutes. Unanimously passed (9/9).

2. Advocacy:

• **Plant Introduction Station germplasm and sequencing**

It was identified at the crop germplasm meeting that was held before the MGM that maintaining germplasm is an issue. It was noted that 50% of stocks haven't been generated during the timeframe that they need to be. There is currently no budget or person power to increase these stocks. There is currently no re-generation of these stocks occurring at the PI station. They have asked 9 labs to incorporate accessions into their nursery this summer to increase stocks. A total of 47 accessions will be increased this summer. Ex-PVP stocks from industry are requested by the PI station that are then increased and provided to the community. Ex-PVP lines are in high demand and require substantial resources for seed increase. There is also genotyping and analysis that needs to be done to identify what is currently there and what needs to be increased.

An idea to ask for industry help with increasing these lines was brought up. Increasing Ex-PVP lines are not compatible at industry sites. Could possibly write a cooperative agreement between government and industry (FFAR) to fund this task. The PI station is currently funded entirely through the USDA. There is now a lack of funds for this summer to hire people to do this.

Asking the community to increase these stocks would likely cause some burn out in the community. There are also concerns about contamination by doing it at multiple labs, as well as the person power needed to complete this. Corn grower's associations could be contacted to see if help can be provided.

• **MaizeGDB**

Given recent reductions in federal funding, there is concern in the maize genetics community that MaizeGDB may experience cuts. The MGC BoD needs to continue to explore contingency plans to support MaizeGDB and to back up the database. Advocacy for MaizeGDB should be a top priority for the Maize Genetics Advocacy Committee.

- **Stock Center**

The maize genetics community is similarly concerned about the future and continued support of the stock center.

- **Organize trip to DC (Advocacy and Grant Planning)**

Opportunity to advocate for maize and meet with administrators in Washington, DC to inform about the needs of the MGC and community as a whole. MGC-BoD members are supportive of this idea. MGAC could lead this initiative. New RCNs are currently gone on the NSF website.

- **Update on recruitment/selection for MGAC**

MGAC should lead the initiative of selecting and recruiting committee members, but MGC-BoD should also be involved. The MGAC has reached out to a number of members in the community about joining the MGAC. The MGAC needs a new industry person to add to the MGAC due to personnel turnover that has occurred recently. It is noted that the MGAC should be involved at the beginning of BoD meetings to provide additional input and updates.

3. New MGC website

There are currently not many updates on the new website. This initiative will continue to be worked on this month. The new URL has been secured.

4. Brief Update on finances post-Maize Meeting

The BoD was provided background on how 501(C)(3) are financed.

We have requested a budget from each committee for this year but has not heard back from all of them. The biggest cost item is always the MGM. We do not have final figures for the budget yet for the 2025 meeting as the budget is only a draft and we are awaiting final charges.

The good news is we have made our minimum occupancy at the Union Station Hotel. Root and Shoot is in the process of reimbursing for awards given. The conference grant is only for supporting attendees and the good news is that we should be able to use this for first time attendees. However, this is still not final. We are still waiting for the final bill from the Union Station Hotel.

The NSF wanted refunds for those who could not attend the 2025 MGM due to travel restrictions. The MGC-BoD decided at the meeting in March that we are not reimbursing the registration costs.

The MGC-BoD was informed that the MGM-SC had a lapse in chair and are off by one year. They are working to resolve this issue.

5. Plan for this year's BoD Meetings

There has been variation in the past 4 years on how the MGC-BoD meetings have been organized. There have been open forums at the beginning of the meeting with topics provided to the community. We have had committee chairs attend the beginning of MGC-BoD meetings to provide updates.

Discussion on past formats for MGC-BoD meetings: In the past the open community forum has had poor turn-out. We have always tried to have a specific topic to get people to show up. This may not be a high priority. We could overlap with advocacy updates and the open forum for the community to increase participation. Multiple members of the BoD support this idea.

It was helpful for chairs of other MGC committees to attend the MGC-BoD to keep everyone on the same page. It was stated that not every committee chair needs to attend every meeting. If there are specific questions or agenda items that the MGC-BoD may need to help with then specific committee chairs should attend.

It was decided that 10-15 minutes at the beginning of every MGC-BoD meeting is for advocacy and to make members aware that they can attend. Fully supported by the BoD. The MGAC should attend the beginning of the BoD meetings.

6. Other Agenda Items?

CODIE

There were issues with MaizeGDB and sending out nominations for CODIE. Therefore, there were no new elections for this committee.

CODIE to first discuss and decide on a possible name change to the committee and then bring to the MGC-BoD. This should be acted on quickly to properly identify this committee online when the new website goes live.

Root and Shoot

Root and Shoot still have funds and do have activities coming up. We got recommendations from Root and Shoot on how to make conferences more inclusive. There is a manuscript at Elife documenting this that is to be published soon. We reported about the MGM to other societies about the stand up for science initiatives we are doing. There were no code of conduct violations at the 2025 MGM meeting.

We have not received written reports from 2024 from our ombuds. We also do not know what is happening with the videos taken at the 2025 MGM. The reports should be delivered within 90 days after the completion of the meeting.

7. The BoD went to a closed-door session.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:29 pm EST.