

**Maize Genetics Cooperation Board of Directors**  
**May 19, 2025 on Zoom**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**BoD members present:**

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

**BoD members absent:**

Mike Muszynski (Communications)  
Andrea Eveland (At Large Member)

**Visitors present:**

Brandi Sigmon (Root & Shoot; UN-L)  
Tony Studer (2027 MGM Chair)  
Sherry Flint-Garcia (2025 MGM Chair)

**Meeting Began at 6:00pm EST**

**Motions in blue**

**1. Approval of Minutes from the April meeting**

Motion made and seconded to approve April minutes. Unanimously passed (7/7).

**2. Advocacy:**

- Update on recruitment/selection for MGAC

We have set a deadline for the end of this week to fully assemble a committee. Need to schedule a meeting for MGAC in the next couple weeks. Members of the MGAC will attend the next MGC-BoD meeting. A post-meeting and community survey still needs to be created and distributed for feedback.

- McClintock Letters

Publishing news articles in the middle of June. Encourage people to participate.

- Vetting of emails sent to community

Advocacy emails do not need to be vetted by the entire BoD. Time sensitive emails can be sent out from the BoD email to distribute to the community. Non-time sensitive emails and information should wait to be distributed to the community via The Kernel.

- End of Year funds proposal

End of year funds may be available. The PI Station is concerned about regenerating stocks and lack of resources that are available. PI Station could work with MaizeGDB to do genotyping. A cooperative agreement has begun to be written and once it has been vetted, it will then move up the chain to see if this is a viable option.

- Plan for advocacy trip to DC

This is on hold for now and will be scheduled for when Congress is back from break in September.

### **3. Discussion of Reports from Ombuds for 2024 and 2025 meetings.**

The MGM has been using the same ombuds for the past two years. In the latest report, it was recommended to use the ombuds more, especially on the last days of the meeting. The MGM-SC is looking into getting a local ombuds for the 2026 meeting in Germany. This could be beneficial because they would likely better know German laws to better facilitate advice. An advantage of keeping the current ombuds would be for continuity but may cost more. More information will be known in June for both the MGM-SC and MGC-BoD meetings to ensure that coordination is happening between both to have the best outcome.

### **4. Discussion of providing the green light for site selection for the 2028 Maize Genetics Meeting.**

The MGM-SC has decided to have the 2028 meeting on the west coast of the US. There are currently 10 cities that are on the short list, and this will be narrowed down to five or less. There was discussion about possibly choosing the west coast of Canada, to possibly let higher attendance.

[Motion made and seconded to continue to use ConferenceDirect to do the 2028 meeting. Unanimously passed \(7/7\).](#)

There is a current proposal to have the 2026 MGM Saturday night meal and a local brewpub instead of the hotel. There is a written contract that needs to be signed for this. There is no penalty for not having the meal at the hotel on Saturday night. If this option does fall through, then the meal could be moved back to the hotel.

Motion made and seconded to have dinner and approve signing of a contract with a brewpub on Saturday night for MGM in Germany in 2026. Unanimously passed (7/7).

#### **5. Discussion/Vote on adding an additional at-large member to the MGC Membership Committee**

The MGC Membership Committee was seeking at-large members for three positions. There were four applicants. The chair of the committee asked if they could add one at-large position for one year, to make the total of four at-large positions.

Motion made and seconded to add one at-large member for one year (four total). Unanimously passed (7/7).

#### **6. Budget update and discussion of the future of financial management.**

The MGC expenses and revenue were both lower than originally budgeted for last year. The good news is that we are currently in the black. The bad news is that the financial support we are currently using is not doing well. We have had many problems obtaining financial documents. The Treasurer is beginning to explore other options for financial support. A proposal will be drafted and presented to the BoD in the near future. A discussion about setting up an additional endowment was proposed. This will be explored in the near future.

#### **7. Discussion/Vote on ANC selections for the R. Emerson Lifetime Award and McClintock Prize**

There were eight or nine nominations each for both the R. Emerson Lifetime Award and the McClintock Prize. The ANC narrowed the nominees down and the choices were presented to the BoD for each award.

Motion made and seconded to make a vote on the award selections today and to approve the nominations. Unanimously passed (7/7).

#### **8. Discussion/Vote of hosting Zeavolution talks on new website**

Zeavolution, a youtube channel that presents talks on maize research and related topics, asked to have a link to their channel on the new MGC website.

Motion made and seconded to add link to Zeavolution youtube channel on MGC website. Unanimously passed (7/7).

There was additional discussion about making a resources page on the MGC website that this link could be posted to along with other potential online resources and talks.

## **9. Discussion on engaging with emerging Maize Genetics communities in China and Europe**

There continues to be a fraction occurring between the global maize research community. Every year there are fewer attendees to the MGM outside of the US when it is held in the continental US. There are now local European and Chinese MGMs. There should be better coordination between all of the groups. The MGC can offer to publicize the European and Chinese local meetings on the MGC and MGM websites, as it was brought up that many of the US researchers do not see solicitation for these local meetings. There was also discussion about having a joint meeting between all three groups sometime in the future.

## **10. Other Agenda Items**

### **Report from CODIE**

Discussion is ongoing about the possibility of changing the name of this group. A community vote was proposed. It was stated that if the name defines the mission, a change could be detrimental, but if it does not change the mission then this could possibly be okay to change the name. Advice and information from the BoD will be conveyed back to CODIE to continue discussions and allow them to decide what to do.

### **NSF reimbursement**

The NSF members that asked for reimbursement were informed that they would not be reimbursed for the MGC registration fee. This matter appears to be resolved.

**Meeting concluded at 7:22pm EST.**