

Minutes
NRSP6 Technical Advisory Committee meeting 2014
July 25-26, Prosser WA

The meeting was hosted by Chuck Brown, the USDA/ARS Technical Rep. The time was selected to be the days immediately before the Potato Association of America meeting at nearby Spokane (see attached for TAC meeting venue details).

Friday, July 25th

Genebank (USPG) personnel: Max Martin, A. del Rio, J. Bamberg. Tech Reps: C. Brown, C. Miller (Emeritus). Quarantine: J. Abad. USDA/ARS/NPL: P. Bretting (phone in). Industry: L. Thurgood (Simplot), D. Ronis (Frito-Lay), C. Higgins & K. Muder (Norika America LLC), Local scientists and miscellaneous guests: R. Navarre, I. Astarini (guest of C. Miller), S. Sathuvalli, R. Cooper, L. Zhang, J. (Mrs. C.) Miller.

Minutes following are numbered according to the Agenda (attached).

1. Host C. Brown requested that distinguished guest and former SR Tech Rep Dr. C. Miller serve as Chair. Dr. Miller accepted chairman role and appointed Bamberg as Secretary.

Participants introduced themselves. Host C. Brown set the stage for the meeting with background of the Prosser station and agricultural history and significance of the region.

2. Agenda additions and prioritizing:

A specific agenda item was proposed related to acquisitions: In what way should the Genebank take responsibility for clonal maintenance of large mapping populations? Chairman Miller decided to address this immediately: The group had decided in 2012 that the SolCap panel of about 250 clones should be accessed, preserved and distributed by USPG. But when this was undertaken, it became apparent that many of those items are already easily available elsewhere and that many were not available in virus free form. The utility of SNPs for the wild species in the genebank remains to be confirmed, and other markers are gaining in popularity. Decision to revoke the 2012 directive for USPG to maintain the SolCap panel M/S/CU.

3. Review of Minutes from 2013 meeting and approval M/S/CU.

4. Chair Miller appointed Bamberg, Ronis and Abad to the Resolutions Committee.

Martin discussed how USPG accepts clones for which protection has expired. Patent rights may expire but breeders rights still apply. This has to be checked on a clone-by-clone basis.

5. Martin and Bamberg presented highlights of Lead AA R. Lindroth report (attached) and recapped points of conversations with AA Lindroth over the year, noting that the genebank's strong partnership with University of Wisconsin Department of Horticulture, UW Peninsula Ag Research Station, national SAES directors and OTT funding is expected to remain steady. The 2010 imperative by the latter for the genebank to attract industry funding is considered to be well satisfied. A midterm (2013) report prepared by Bamberg (attached) was favorably received.

7. Dr. Brown noted germplasm orders are up. Iron is a nutrient, that when missing, has devastating health consequences that potato germplasm can mitigate. R. Navarre discussed his related nutritional work involving germplasm contributing antioxidants, less toxic glycoalkaloids, reduced greening and other beneficial phytonutrients, all of which have been subjects of cooperative research with genebank staff. A discussion of the reputation of potato as a healthy food, the past and present contribution of genebank germplasm, and the economic and health impact on potato growers and consumers ensued. Written reports were submitted by other US and Canadian Tech Reps (attached).

12. NPL P. Bretting called in at 11 AM and reviewed his report (attached). The demand for germplasm and germplasm information has grown, but financial inputs have not been as reliable, considering sequesters and furloughs. In FY14, base funding increases were awarded to about half of the NPGS genebanks, potato being among those. NPGS international links continue to expand, but our access to foreign collecting has not improved. On the topic of acquisition, Dr. Abad related the story of a recent import of 55 Peruvian cultivars hand carried by an individual with an APHIS permit that was issued in error. It was emphasized that we must be vigilant to avoid imports that are imprudent or illegal with respect to both phytosanitary and germplasm ownership. Finally, we were reminded that a compelling story of how our germplasm is being used and is having positive impact on the public helps our national administration better support us.

9. Industry Reps: Dr. Ronis described the Frito-Lay breeding program and confirmed that they heavily use USPG germplasm and are enthusiastic about its past and future value to US breeding efforts. L. Thurgood of Simplot confirmed their new Innate products, developed with USPG germplasm, are expected to be very successful. Discussion on general needs for potato improvement identified nutrients that impact consumer health, uniformity for processing, and better flavor as priorities.

10. Bamberg presented the genebank Annual Report for CY2013 with updates to the present (attached). Staff members Dr. A. del Rio and M. Martin added comments pertinent to their

areas of responsibility. The report included notes on activities of USDA/ARS research staff Jansky and Spooner. Bamberg emphasized that details of all the genebank administrative reports and plans, as well as full documentation of the germplasm is available on-line. Finally, a breakdown of expected spending of the FY15 NRSP6 budget, as well as plans for the new USDA/ARS base funding addition was presented.

14. Dr. Abad reviewed details in his written report (attached). Genebank staff noted that under Dr. Abad's leadership, quarantine now does a rapid and thorough job of detecting and eliminating pathogens that would threaten the genebank and national potato industry. Dr. Abad's lab also gives the genebank technical advice and assistance on potato pathology problems, and participates with us on research. The group acknowledged their agreement and thanks with applause.

The Friday "Business meeting" day ended with a brief tour of the local labs, and a visit to Dr. Brown's anti-nematode research plots on the Prosser station.

15. The resolutions committee met to prepare resolutions (see below) that were unanimously approved by email after the meeting.

16. Since none of the original officers for 2014 served, it was proposed that these same individuals be slated to serve next year. It was decided that the tradition of meeting at Sturgeon Bay on alternate years should apply for 2015, especially since it will be the final year of the current (FY11-FY15) project (the meeting date will be set later).

New TAC officers for 2015:

DeJong = Secretary

Holm = Chair

Brown = Vice Chair

Saturday, July 26.

Dr. Brown led the group on a tour of the local industry, beginning with grower Randy Mullen. Randy's father was an early potato grower on the first land irrigated in the Columbia Basin, also known as Block One. He has been an officer in the Washington State Potato Commission in one capacity or another for 25 years. On the day we saw him he was digging Shepody for the early French Fry Market for Lamb Weston. We saw Shepody being processed at the Simplot plant in Moses Lake after lunch. His usual crop is a clone of Russet Norkotah selected by Creighton Miller. He and his partners run their own highly automated mechanized shed. His potato spreadsheet is highly sensitive to national supply. In 2014 the economics were against his profit line primarily because Idaho still had substantial stock in storage. He believes the future lies in diversity and is experimenting with a dark yellow flesh European variety, Agata. In the afternoon, we toured the Simplot fry processing plant at Moses Lake.

Respectfully submitted,
John Bamberg, Acting Secretary

RESOLUTIONS of the NRSP6 TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

At its annual meeting, Prosser, Washington, July 25-26.

The NRSP6 Committee hereby resolves to extend...

Appreciation and congratulations to Dr. Chuck Brown and local associates for hosting a highly productive and enjoyable meeting.

Thanks to the Genebank staff for their excellent work in their germplasm distribution, research, and outreach activities.

Recognition, with thanks, to Dr. Jorge Abad for his enthusiastic and efficient management of the APHIS potato quarantine unit, without which the Genebank's service would not be possible.

Appreciation for the participation of Industry; their financial contributions, advice, and help with steering NRSP-6 toward practical applications.

Special thanks to former SR Tech Rep Dr. Creighton Miller for stepping in on such short notice and serving ably as committee Chair.