**Minutes of the 2012 Peanut Crop Germplasm Committee**

10:25 am, July 10, 2012, Kelly Chamberlin called the meeting to order.

1. Minutes from the 2011 meeting were distributed and have been corrected. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Corley Holbrook and seconded by Mark Burow and the motion passed.

2. Membership of the Peanut CGC was reviewed and it was noted that Hassan Melouk has retired. Dr. Melouk was removed from membership and Rebecca Bennett was approved as his replacement.

3. National Germplasm Research Lab (NGRL) Report – Karen Williams was absent and no report available. Kelly Chamberlin will call Karen Williams to find out if a report is available and if so, Kelly will send via email to members.

4. Roy Scott – USDA NPL Report- Budget cuts had impact but thanks to Gary Pedersen there were no negative effects or personnel. Budget is in limbo for FY 12. The budget has increase for NPGS of $3.3 million but did not pass. There was a 3% reduction in ARS budget so had to reduce staff. The FY13 budget as a modest increase although the House and Senate markups are different with the House increasing ARS budget and the Senate decreasing. Dr. Scott thanked university participants for their service in reviewing programs. A new website with action plans and objectives is being launched and the entire 4-5 page report will be emailed to the Peanut CGC members.

5. Noelle Barkley- Curator’s report. Dr. Barkley provided a written report as attached to the minutes. She thanked the breeders for their assistance in seed increase and provided a verbal summary of her report. The goal of the program is to regenerate the entire collection every 10-15 years. There are lots of requests from those interested in organic peanut production. The personnel situation in Griffin has improved with a permanent state (University of Georgia) employee assigned to the program. Dr. Simpson asked how many wild species were being regenerated in Griffin. Dr. Barkley indicated between 20-30 accessions. Dr. Barkley is pushing to provide digital images for GRIN users to assist in decision making. Other points that emerged in discussion were:

* Imports from some countries (Bolivia for example) are an issue for USDA.
* Germination rates for the dntire peanut collection have been tested allowing evaluation of changes over time. Seed are stored in vacuum sealed bags @ 4 C and a sample is stored at 18 C. All stored as seed, not pods. However, all wild species are stored in pods.
* Funding- operating budget is lower by 50% compared to earlier when Dr. Roy Pitman was peanut curator. It was reduced 30% again and more cuts are expected. The question arose “Can we write grants for regeneration?”.
* If you have digital images of accessions, please send them to Dr. Barkley to share in GRIN.
* There are 184 total in the ICRISAT Mini Core and we have 128 of them because seed was not available. We hope to have them all in the future.
* Dr. Corley Holbrook increased 56 in Tifton. Dr. Holbrook is making additions to the Core & Mini Core and will have a publication by next year with Dr. Charles Chen. There are some missing accessions from the Core. A backup is available in Fort Collins but not specifically the Core & Mini Core.
* Dr. Charles Simpson has increased 3-4 of missing Core & Mini Core and Dr. Mark Burow will help to increase the missing lines.
* Dr. Tom Stalker asked about greenhouse space for quarantine and wild species work. Dr. Barkly said issue has settled but will probably not go away due to demand from other species.
* Dr. Burow asked about Germ testing and others indicated that some of the accessions they received did not germinate well. Dr. Barkley indicated that there is one person responsible for testing germination of 90,000 accessions, so there is a backlog of germplasm that has lower that optimal germination awaiting regeneration.
* Dr. Tom Stalker asked how many lines are at least 50% germination. Dr. Barkley said the results were just completed so she could not provide an answer, but she will use data to determine which lines to increase.
* Dr. Victor Nwosu commented that the peanut collection requires lots of work maintain with declining resources to work with it and asked how we can protect the germplasm resource? Can we get USDA to increase funding to help? Peter Breting is the NPL for germplasm stations and he is the decision maker. Griffin houses several collections and Sorghum is a large collection (40,000 accessions) so it takes a lot of funding to run that program. Dr. Roy Scott will bring up concern about USDA funding for peanut. The President’s request added $3.3 million but the house and senate removed it. The bottom line is that we need to begin talking about the importance of the germplasm collection. Howard Valentine with the Peanut Foundation will lead the effort.
* Tom Isleib asked how multiple seed lots of the same PI are handled. All seed lots need to be germ tested, not just the PI number per se. Doing so increases the number of germ tests required. Understanding that peanut seed quality tends to deteriorate faster than other species makes it clear that peanut has a case to increase funding or to at least have a high priority for germ testing and regeneration.

6. Wild species collection- Dr. Charles Simpson

* Stephenville collection is about at the stage of hospice care. It is in critical need of regeneration and maintenance. There is no computerized inventory of the collection and budget cuts have taken their toll. Dr. Simpson expressed his disappointment in the shape of the collection.
* Victor Nwosu asked, if there is a duplicate in Griffin. Dr. Simpson was not sure, but Dr. Tom Stalker said that NC State University has 443 wild species in collection and that 410 of them are not in Griffin. So, the TAMU/Stephenville accessions may not be in Griffin either. Dr. Barkley said that she has been working in the wild species and that Griffin has about 600 accessions not the 800 indicated on GRIN.

7. Mini Core Collection- Dr. Corley Holbrook

* He will try to publish a paper describing the Mini Core collection.
* Dr. Charles Chen will do an official release of his cleanup of the mini core collection. Based on molecular work, about 96 of the lines have been cleaned of off-types. He looked at the Mini Core data and USDA-GRIN descriptors and the majority of them are similar to the accessions he tested.
* Dr. Simpson asked if new PI numbers should be assigned to the accessions which have been purified. Dr. Scott said that maybe a suffix of some sort should be okay.

8. UPPT update- Dr. Bill Branch

* The 2011 UPPT booklet has been published and there are 9 runner types, 4 Virginia types being tested in 2012.
* As a side note to the UPPT, Argentina has a new smut disease in cultivated peanut so we need to be extra vigilant in important peanut seed from Argentina. Dr. Simpson stated that he saw the disease in 1979 in the wild species.

9. Winter Nursery Update- Dr. Tom Isleib

* Dr. Isleib reiterated the priorities for grant funding received to facilitate the winter nursery.
  + 1st priority = land rent
  + 2nd priority = harvest
  + 3rd priority = travel
* There will be a winter nursery in 2012-13 with the aid of a grant from the Peanut Foundation. Dr. Isleib has helped to cover excess costs in the past, but may not be able to do so in the future.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:40pm