**Minutes – Small Fruit Crop Germplasm Committee Meeting**

**19 October 2015 9:35 AM – Auburn, Alabama**

**Meeting led by, Dr. Chad Finn, USDA-ARS and Dr. Kim Lewers, USDA-ARS**

**Minutes prepared by Michael Dossett**

1. **CGC Administrative**
   1. Roll Call. Persons in attendance in person or on the phone were recorded:



* 1. Minutes. The minutes and comments from the 2014 meeting were reviewed by the members present. Pat Moore moved to approve last year’s minutes and Chad Finn seconded the motion. The minutes from the October 2014 meeting in Corvallis were approved.
  2. Membership. We reviewed the membership of the Small Fruit Crop CGC. Membership lasts for three terms. The only member whose term has reached a completion this year is Ioannis Tzanetakis. The members present voted that Ioannis should remain on the CGC and he graciously agreed to continue. There was discussion regarding bringing in additional members, particularly since some members were not continued after the last meeting and because there is currently only one pathologist on the CGC. Names that were suggested as potential new members were: Steve Knapp, Bill Cline, Natalia Peres, and Kelly Ivers.
  3. Next Meeting (2016) Venue. Next year’s NCCC 212 meeting will be in Virginia Beach. Michael suggested we continue to hold the meeting in conjunction with NCCC 212 and try to have a conference call-in option available as we did this year. There was no disagreement with this plan and no alternative suggested, but also no formal vote was taken.

1. **CGC germplasm evaluation grants**
   1. Annual reports and reviews will now be emailed out instead of reviewed at the meeting. Because the meeting happens at NCCC212, we often have a lot of non-members attending and this will prevent the dissemination of information that is not yet ready to be shared publically.
   2. Reviewed the by-laws and steps to put us in best position for funding.
   3. Discussion and reviewed options for evaluation and collection proposals – ask Kim Hummer to give thoughts on what is new/needs evaluation in collection vs. deciding as group from proposals. No decision was reached other than it is good to get perspective about what is in collection that hasn’t been evaluated yet.
   4. Discussion: the priority list needs to be revamped and more specific information needs to be added in some cases. For example “viruses” under *Rubus* is overly broad. Some viruses are higher priorities than others etc. Need some sort of ranking system. Ioannis will send list of *Rubus* viruses out for consideration, Chad and Michael will work on ranking priorities so that the list is a little more useful. Some of this information should probably be integrated into vulnerability statements that are being revamped.
2. **Status of Small Fruit Breeding Programs:**
   1. **New hires:** Overall trend is to replace breeders with genomicists. Steve Knapp – UC Davis strawberry program, PatrickEdger – Michigan State University, polyploid genomics but will probably pick up some breeding from Jim Hancock. Hamid Ashrafi – North Carolina State University blueberry breeding/genomics. Massimo Iorizzo – North Carolina State University, genomics will be working in berry crops some. Maggie Schaber left NCSU and will be replaced, Terry Bland is handling things at Castle Hayne for now. University of Arkansas will be advertising for new breeder to overlap with John Clark as he approaches retirement.
   2. Kim Hummer has been working on drafts of vulnerability statements. Strawberry is online, *Rubus* will be split into raspberries and blackberries. Drafts will go on to web. Michael will work on putting together raspberry vulnerability statement for publication using the draft that Kim has started. Current draft will go on web in the meantime. *Vaccinium* should be sent out soon. Suggestion is to split out cranberries and lingonberries from blueberries. Vulnerability statements should be reviewed and updated frequently.
3. **Office of National Programs Report**
   1. Gail and Peter gave update from ONP – in a nutshell, demand is increasing and budgets are decreasing or at best are flat and effectively decreasing from inflation. New budget currently working through Congress would add 3.5 million, but far from being final so hard to say what will happen until something is actually passed. Lots of emphasis and resources going toward developing data management systems as handling, making sense of, and storing/archiving huge amounts of data has been identified as one of the major challenges in the near future.
4. **NGRL Report**
   1. Gary Kinard
      1. Updating GRIN taxonomy
      2. GRIN global still in the works, undergoing security audit before it can go live.
   2. Dimitre Mollov – small fruit pathology projects, currently working on Next Gen sequencing for viruses in symptomatic tissue from MD growers and Kim Lewer’s plots, working primarily in Rubus and Ribes
5. **NCGR Report**
   1. Flat budget
   2. Staffing - Joe Sneed, Barbara Reed, and Yvonne Pederson all retired. Currently making do with temps. Barbara Reed’s position will be refilled with a Cat 4 – looking at making it a curator position overseeing TC and virus elimination, so want candidates with a strong pathology background. Discussion continued on NCGR staffing, directions, and needs. Potential areas which would be very helpful would be in seeds, as well as collection evaluation.
   3. Shipped record number of accessions last year (8k+) and continuing effort for QR codes and barcodes on labels.
6. **Plant Expeditions**
   1. Recent short trips into Cascades just to better define *F. cascadensis*. Concept of *F. virginiana* *platypetala* is changing. Platypetala appears to represent introgression with *F. chiloensis*.
   2. Juan Zalapa has been doing molecular analysis of cranberry germplasm – ex-situ collections at repository as well as working with Karen Williams and US Forest Service at in-situ preserves.
   3. Vietnam trip is scheduled to leave next Sunday, but still waiting on bilateral agreement to be signed with government of Vietnam, so may be on hold. Stay tuned.
   4. Small fruit collection priority lists will be addressed through vulnerability statements.
7. **Other Business**

No other business was presented

1. **Adjourn**  - Pat Moore moved to adjourn the meeting. Michael Dossett seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 PM