**Minutes** from Wednesday September 18, 2024

New Crops, Crop Germplasm Committee Meeting

 Zoom Meeting

Introductions: New member Dr. Mark Newell, Bridgestone Americas. Our updated membership file was sent to Gary Kinard for inclusion on the GRIN website under CGCs.

Attendance: Damian Ravetta, Colleen McMahan, Zachary Stansell, Grisel Ponciano, Marilyn Warburton, Maria Jenderek, Katrina Cornish, Mark Newell, Von Mark Cruz, Claire Heinitz, Alex Cornwall, Hussein Abdel-Haleem, Laura Marek, David Brenner, Brad Morris, Mukhlesur Rahman, Daniel Packer, Paul Galewski, Gary Kinard, Pablo Morales-Payan, Guest: Carlos Iglesias.

* USDA- ARS-ONP Report – Gary Kinard, RL gave presentation for Acting ARS NPL Gayle Volk who was not able to attend. Gayle is on Detail for retired NPL Plant Genetic Resources, Peter Bretting. Updates on financial status and personnel are included in her report.
* NGRL Report –Gary Kinard presentation. GRIN enhancements and changes including new regulations, search functions, autogenerated submission emails, frequency counts were discussed as well as new requirements on International Distribution of all taxa.
* NLGRP Report – Maria Jenderek report: A table of backup collections at Ft. Collins specific to this CGC was provided.
* Curator’s / Site reports
* Zach Stansell, Geneva, NY –currently > 600 Hemp accessions are currently available. Focusing plant evaluation on plant architecture, flowering, secondary metabolites, seed traits, and fiber quality. Highlighted other working groups involved with trait mapping, diversity and multi-location trials. Working with Hudson Alpha to Skimseq genotype Hemp accessions and find markers associated with sex expression.
* Brad Morris, Griffin, GA – reported on regeneration activities of castor beans, guar, kenaf, roselle, and sesame. Castor is especially low (8%) and efforts this year are devoted to increasing 32 accessions. Plots are buffered with Sun Hemp for pollination control. Efforts also with Roselle (39%) increases. Due to photoperiod requirements, the seeds need to be increased in greenhouses. All accessions are backed up at Ft Collins NLGRP genebank.
* Daniel Packer, Parlier, CA- reported on *Parthenium*, *Physaria* and *Paysonia*, *Limnanthes*, *Simmondsia chinensis*, *Opuntia*, and *Cucurbita foetidissima*. He is focusing on improving seed regeneration, develop core collections, and plan repropagations of the field collections especially in *Parthenium* and *Opuntia*. The guayule collection from Manzanar, called the Kageyama collection was increased this year. Due to the lack of diversity in the 14 accessions, they will be bulked and added to the permanent collection as a single accession. The collections of guayule from the Big Bend area of TX were also increased and evaluated. He reported on a collection trip to Arizona near Tucson in Nov 2023 where a few guayule populations were identified. Likely they established on the limestone sites from a historical planting around 1920. This is out of the range of where native guayule exists.
* Laura Marek, Ames, IA – Reported on lack of resources that resulted in reduced summer help they rely on for regeneration (12 students compared to 50+ students). There has been a big spike in interest in *Camilina* in the past year. Laura made a motion to transfer the oilseed Brassicaceae genera (26) currently in our CGC since 2015 back to the Crucifer CGC because that group is active again. The genus *Brassica* includes species used for canola and industrial oil production (such as *Brassica napus*, *B. rapa*, *B. juncea*, *B. nigra*) and it is the largest subgroup within the oilseed Brassicaceae. The motion was seconded and passed.
* David Brenner, Ames, IA – reported on a Success Story with one of the grain Amaranth accessions. He reported on the first regenerations plantings of *Atriplex* and *Salicornia*. The *Atriplex elegans* (Ames 36038) did well but the *Salicornia depressa* (Ames 36039) which is a perennial died without a harvest in early 2024. He plans to eventually transfer annuals of these genera to Ames.
* Alex Cornwall, Pullman WA- reported on *Grindelia, Lunaria, Salvia, Plantago*, and *Taraxacum*. 356 seed packets in 31 orders to 29 requestors (5 foreign requestor) during the reporting period and the majority of the packets distributed were Plantago ovata (170 packets). Following is the reported utilization of all New Crops distributed accessions: Disease resistance and tolerance, Varietal development, Germination protocol studies, Assessing the viability of Taraxacum kok-saghyz in a hydroponic system for latex production, Exploring rubber production mechanisms in adventitious roots, Hormonal and environmental impacts on rubber production in TKS, and Genetic trait mapping of TKS.
* Paul Galewski, Pullman WA- Reported on Safflower. This is the first year of regenerating the collection. 183 accessions were included. Plots were caged and harvested.

Marilyn Warburton led a discussion on potential of inclusion of Stevia into the NPGS, along with Carlos Inglies. Carlos is Director of the Plant Breeding Consortium at NCSU and works with industry. Most Stevia is currently produced in China. There are 23 commercial lines for breeding. Industry plans to lobby Congress for funding to add to NPGS. ARS ONP will be involved in discussions. It was thought that the best location would be Griffin, GA. Marilyn plans to contact them for discussion of what would be needed.

Brad Morris led a discussion on how our CGC can keep our Vulnerability Statement current that was recently published by Industrial Crops and Products. Title: *Vulnerability of U.S. New and Industrial Crop Genetic Resources*. It was decided that each Curator should include a section titled ‘Vulnerability Statement’ at the end of their Report to our CGC each year. This section should highlight any new biotic or abiotic threat to the crop that could endanger the collection.

Next meeting likely to be a zoom meeting around September 2025.

There are two nominations for Chair of this committee 1) Dr. Hussein Abdel-Haleem, a geneticist at USDA, ARS, ALARC and Dr, Mark Von Cruz, Principal Plant Breeder, Bridgestone Americas. A ballot will be sent to the membership in the next few days.

Close

Sincerely,

Dave Dierig Chair.