

Woody Landscape Plant Crop Germplasm Committee
Annual Meeting Teleconference
Minutes
2019.11.20

ATTENDANCE Pam Allenstein, Peter Bretting, Jeff Carstens, Kevin Conrad, Ryan Contreras, Richard Criley, Stan Hokanson, Margaret Pooler, Kim Shearer (chair)

GUEST PRESENTER Andy Sherwood, M.S. student University Minnesota

Teleconference meeting hosted by the Morton Arboretum was called to order at approximately 2:05 pm EST.

ANNUAL UPDATES AND REPORTS

WLP-CGC QUAD (Shearer) The QUAD was drafted, reviewed by committee, and finalized 2019. The final draft of the QUAD was shared with committee via email upon completion and submitted. Final draft is included in Appendix.

CROP VULNERABILITY STATEMENT (Pooler) Revision of CVS based on QUAD revisions is in progress. Deadline for draft to be submitted to CGC for review was set at January 31, 2020.

USNA REPORT (Conrad) Full report is submitted in Appendix. Highlights focused on collaborative *Sassafras* project as a model for realizing conservation objectives through the use of the broad range of resources available through USDA-ARS and partners. Project included cooperation between USDA curator and scientists and various public gardens.

NC7 REPORT (Carstens) Full report is submitted in Appendix. Highlights focused on included *Cladrastis* and *Salix* collections. It was noted that conservation of *Cladrastis* via seed collection may be difficult due to lack of viable seed possibly from stinkbug damage. *Salix* collections were relatively easy and productive.

*UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA *Hydrangea quercifolia* (Sherwood)* The *H. quercifolia* exploration and evaluation project funded through the USDA-PEO is nearing a close. Sherwood updated the committee on a summary of exploration and evaluation. In 2017, seed was collected from 64 populations and tissue was collected from 7 populations in the wild. Over the following years, populations were then evaluated for four traits: seed germination, plant architecture, disease tolerance, and cold hardiness. Findings include: northern plants more compact, disease tolerance potential in one population, and all northern populations and one southern outlier population were found to be cold hardy. Hardy populations were rated to be hardy to zone 4a. Hardiness evaluation included outdoor plantings and lab freeze tests of stem samples. One novel phenotype that may have been identified was remontancy, although this is not

confirmed. A GBS study was conducted, SNPs were identified, and there appear to be 3-5 genetic clusters. Seed will be shipped to Conrad.

APPALACHIAN BLUE RIDGE EXPLORATION (*Shearer*) This expedition was funded by the USDA-PEO for FY2018. A preliminary report of 2018 activities is included in Appendix. September 2018, Hurricane Florence threatened to cause mudslides in the Blue Ridge region, and the collection trip was postponed to 2019. Final report is in progress and will be submitted to Karen Williams (USDA-PEO) by EOY. A total of 44 collections of target taxa were made, and 26 opportunistic collections were made. Seed is currently in stratification at Morton Arboretum. Germinated seedlings will be shipped to repositories 2020.

USDA-PEO PROPOSAL *Fraxinus cuspidata* (*Shearer*) WLP-CGC Letter of Support was submitted to Karen Williams (USDA-PEO) regarding the proposal entitled *Plant Exploration in Arizona to collect Fraxinus cuspidata Torr. Germplasm for Crop Improvement and to Safeguard Wild Populations against Emerald Ash Borer*, Tim Thibault. This proposal was sent to the WLP-CGC via email labeled URGENT due to the late timing of submission (September). Members emailed votes to Chair. Letter and proposal have been included in the Appendix. Body of letter incorporates comments submitted by WLP-CGC to Chair via email. There were no dissenting votes regarding support of the proposal.

(*Contreras departed conference call for class.*)

NPGS 2019 STATUS, PROSPECTS, CHALLENGES (*Bretting*) A report was provided via slide presentation, included in the Appendix. In short, there is increased demand, rising costs for maintenance and research, and a significantly reduced budget based on 2012 dollars. Highlights for NPGS areas of focus include filling taxonomic and eco-geographic gaps in germplasm, increasing capacity and knowledge in the areas of cryopreservation and in vitro propagation protocol, updating management procedures for accessions with GE traits, and developing curatorial/management training materials.

NGRL REPORT (*Kinard*) While Kinard was not present due to scheduling conflicts, a report was submitted to the Chair. Full report is included in Appendix. Summary of highlights was provided by Shearer. Key points to note: PEO FY2021 proposal guidelines will be available in February; last proposals submitted by WLP-CGC to USDA-PEO receiving funds were FY2018.

NEW BUSINESS

WLP-CGC MEMBERSHIP Shearer briefly summarized current roster and updates. The committee discussed refreshing membership with additional regional and commercial industry representation. *Motion:* New members should be added to ensure inclusion of regional coverage of Southwest US and industry propagation expertise in woody plant material. Motion

introduced by Shearer. Motion seconded by Allenstein. Vote unanimously in favor. Motion passed.

2020 ANNUAL MEETING At the 2018 Annual Meeting held at the US National Arboretum, Michael Dosmann offered to host the next in-person meeting at the Arnold Arboretum. Proposed dates include July 6-10 and July 20. Agenda items that Shearer raised include addressing issues raised in QUAD (e.g. tropical germplasm, standardized collection protocols) and voting on proposed new WLP-CGC members. Motion: Proceed with plan to hold 2020 Annual Meeting at Arnold Arboretum. Motion introduced by Shearer. Motion seconded by Conrad. Vote unanimously in favor. Motion passed.

ACTION ITEMS

CRILEY will connect USDA Coffee Crop Germplasm Curator with contact in Brazil.

HOKANSON will send *Hydrangea quercifolia* seed to Conrad and touch base with Karen Williams regarding Field Report per Carstens request for more detailed collection information.

POOLER will continue revision of CVS and submit draft to WLP-CGC January 31, 2020

SHEARER will send a poll regarding 2020 Annual Meeting dates; email WLP-CGC members to ensure they would like to remain active; and solicit recommendations for new membership on WLP-CGC from other members

ALL MEMBERS not federally employed or otherwise prohibited are encouraged to reach out to horticulture industry lobbyists regarding the addition of increased funding for germplasm repositories on lobbying agenda.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:20 p EST.