

Cotton Germplasm Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday January 3, 2024. 2:00 – 3:00 pm CST

Omni Hotel Fort Worth, Fort Worth Ballroom 6-8

Members in attendance: Todd Campbell, Jim Olvey, Josh Udall, Cory Mills, Jodi Scheffler, Don Jones, Kolbyn Joy, Lori Hinze, Tom Brooks

The current chair, Peng Chee was unable to attend due to a family emergency and Todd Campbell chaired the meeting in Peng Chee's absence.

Todd Campbell informed the committee that Steve Hague had requested resign from the committee.

The committee was also informed that the National Program Leader (NPL) Peter Bretting had retired, but is still active.

Roll was taken and after a short discussion, it was determined that we had a quorum.

Introductions were made including the two new committee members, Duke Pauli and Lori Hinze.

The minutes from the 2023 CCGC meeting were reviewed.

It was noted that Lori Hinze's appointment to the committee was not included.

It was proposed to add:

Lori Hinze nominated as a new committee member by Jodi Scheffler

Todd Campbell seconded and the nomination was passed by vote of the committee.

Motion to accept minutes as amended (K Joy) Second (D Jones). Passed by general consent.

Committee Membership

Currently we have 4 university members, 4 private industry members and 5 ARS members.

Need to elect a new member to replace Steve Hague and someone to replace Steve as the vice chair Steve Hague.

Don Jones nominated Jodi Scheffler for the vice chair position, seconded by Tom Brooks.

Motion to close nominations (C Mills) and seconded (D Jones) motion carried.

Don Jones nominated Jenny Koebernick as the new committee member, seconded (J Olvey).

There were no other nominations. J Scheffler moved to close nominations and seconded (K Joy). J Koebernick elected by general consent.

Winter Nursery Report and Discussion

Report (Don Jones)

This year planting was delayed 4 weeks due to prolonged rain and flooding. The first planting was 4 weeks late and at the same time as the second planting. The third planting was December 11th.

Land rent increased significantly and forced the winter nursery manager to move most of the

planting to a new field adjacent to the previous site. A new well was also installed. Don Jones provided some history on the budgeting transition that occurred two years ago and commented that it was working well.

Josh Udall presented the Winter Nursery Report in James Frelichowski's absence. Universities were the most active users of the NCGC with 13 users from those institutions requesting seed. The other major users were USDA-ARS and US commercial companies. The number of requests declined again but the number of accessions requested per order rose. Probably due to individual users building up their cotton breeding base with many and diverse accessions.

Funding for seed increases has remained flat while costs have increased significantly. Greater commitment to accession increases is needed to keep the seed of all sub-collections viable while meeting the increasing demand from users and the additional seed required for long term storage at Fort Collins, CO. A better balance is needed to sustain seed increase activities of the more easily curated sub-collection and accessions along with intensive care of the critical ones.

The number of accessions sent to the winter nursery (173) held steady.

Jim Olvey asked how much of the CGC material we are losing yearly. J Udall said that they were currently conducting germination tests on the collection accessions and prioritizing those with poor germination for expedited rejuvenation.

CottonGen database is maintained by Jing Yu and no problems reported, but there was some concern about future funding.

National Plant Germplasm Report

Todd Campbell presented the report from Peter Bretting and highlighted that there were significant changes with six germplasm collection curators leaving or retiring.

The 2018 Farm Bill mandated a report on the status of the National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS). The report was led by Peter Bretting and has just been released. This report was the basis for the NPGS Plan that will be included in the future government budget.

T Campbell encouraged the committee members to read the report and plan and see where cotton could fit.

Other Business

Lori Hinze added some information about the NPGS plan stating that there were requests for permanent funds to support personnel and one time funding for genotyping the collections.

There was no other new business and D Jones made a motion to adjourn, seconded (J Udall) and motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.