

2006 Minutes of the W-6 Technical Advisory Committee
Ames, Iowa
June 6-7, 2006

Attending:

Name	Affiliation	e-mail
Jack Martin	Montana State University	jmartin@montana.edu
Dan Parfitt	University of California, Davis	deparfitt@ucdavis.edu
John Cho	University of Hawaii	choi@hawaii.edu
Robert Zemetra	University of Idaho	rzemetra@uidaho.edu
Meg Gollunick (for Stephen Jones)	Washington State University	mvigil@wsu.edu ; jones@wsu.edu
Ralph Cavalieri	Washington State University - Admin Advisor	cavalieri@wsu.edu
Harold Bockelman	USDA-ARS Aberdeen ID	nsgchb@ars-grin.gov
Alberto Pantojc	USDA-ARS Alaska	ffap2@uaf.edu
Joseph Kuhl	USDA-ARS Alaska	ffjck@uaf.edu
Lisa Keith	USDA-ARS Beltsville	lkeith@pbarc.ars.usda.gov
Karen Williams	USDA-ARS Beltsville	kwilliams@ars-grin.gov
Joseph Postman	USDA-ARS Corvallis Repository	jpostman@ars-grin.gov
Kim Hummer	USDA-ARS Corvallis Repository	khummer@ars-grin.gov
Ed Stover	USDA-ARS Davis Repository	ewstover@ucdavis.edu
Wengui Yan	USDA-ARS Guam	wyan@spa.ars.usda.gov
Francis Zee	USDA-ARS Hawaii Repository	fzee@pbarc.ars.usda.gov
Richard Bell	USDA-ARS Kearneysville WV	rbell@afrc.ars.usda.gov
Peter Bretting	USDA-ARS National Program - Beltsville	pkb@ars.usda.gov
Maria Jenderek	USDA-ARS Parlier	mjenderek@fresno.ars.usda.gov
Kim Garland Campbell	USDA-ARS Pullman WA	kgcamp@wsu.edu
Clarice Coyne	USDA-ARS Pullman WA	coynec@wsu.edu
Robert Krueger	USDA-ARS Riverside Repository	rkrueger@ucr.edu

Current W-6 Officers:

Jack Martin, Chair
Ian Ray, vice chair
Dan Parfitt, Secretary

Tuesday June 6, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jack Martin at 8:00 am. Committee members and guests were introduced.

Committee assignments:

Committee assignments were made for the meeting as follows:

Officers (see above):

Current Officers: Jack Martin – chair – 2^d year

Ian Ray – vice chair – 2^d year
Dan Parfitt – secretary – 2^d year

Resolutions committee:

Robert Zemetra
Kim Hummer

Nominations committee:

Harold Bockelman
Jack Martin

Minutes of 2005 annual meeting:

The minutes from the 2005 TAC meeting at Bozeman Montana were reviewed.

Motion: Minutes of the 2005 TAC meeting were approved as submitted. (Moved by R. Zemetra, second by D. Parfitt). Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

W6 Administrative Advisor's report – presented by Ralph Cavalieri: Dr. Cavalieri reported that funding for the WRPIS had been approved for 2006-07 at \$365,000.

HATCH funds. The administration has proposed cutting Hatch by 60% and using 40% for competitive grants. This proposal was rejected by Congress, which approved a small Hatch increase. Total Hatch budget is approximately \$180 million.

A new program, Create 21, is an aggregation of previous programs. 25% of the funding is to be spent on multi-state projects.

Western Regional PI Station report and budget request, Pullman, WA – Clarice Coyne (see submitted report and website <http://www.ars-grin.gov/ars/PacWest/Pullman/>):

The budget was submitted previously to the committee for their consideration. Dr. Parfitt recommended an increase from the flat (no increase budget that was proposed), citing concerns about the impact of current and future inflationary impacts, especially on salaries. Dr. Zemetra pointed out that with more of the money going into mandated salary increases, germplasm maintenance funding would have to decrease, so germplasm increase and related activities will have to be reduced.

Approximately 25,000 seed lots were distributed, with 65% of the distribution going to US recipients.

Research: Vicki Bradley is working on a tef project. Steve Clement is studying pea aphids and virus transmission, as well as evaluating materials for pea weevil resistance; also some work on pod borer. Richard Johnson is working with BLM on collection and use of native plant germplasm. He is also studying garlic germplasm disease problems.

The Central Ferry grow-out site has been expanded from 60 acres to 100 acres. An additional 20 acres is also available for use at Pullman.

Retirements: Fred Muelbaur will retire in October, 2006. Dr. Richard Hannan also announced on Friday June 9 that he was retiring after 32 years of USDA service. (See resolution at the end of the minutes.)

The 2008 budget was discussed again, prior to the vote for approval. Dr. Parfitt reiterated the need to plan for budget increases to keep up with inflation.

Motion: Dr. Martin moved to approve the budget as presented. Meg Gollunick (for Washington State University) seconded. The motion to approve the budget was passed by a vote of 4 in favor with 1 abstention.

National Arid Land Plant Germplasm Resource Unit, Parlier, CA – The report was presented by Dr. Jenderek. Current areas of focus are the transfer of a large *Limnanthes* collection from UC Davis to the NPGS. This collection had been maintained by Dr. Jain at Davis, who has been retired for a number of years. Two significant problems that have occurred are the discovery that much of the collection has very low viability and that there is no passport information associated with the materials. A *Simmondsia* (jojoba) collection, originally maintained at the UC Shafter research station and later moved to Riverside is also being transferred to the arid lands unit. Two other collections of interest are an *Opuntia* collection and a *Hylocereus undatus* (dragonfruit) collection that are being developed at this location.

National Small Grains Collection, Aberdeen, ID – The report was presented by Harold Bockelman (website <http://www.ars-grin.gov/ars/PacWest/Aberdeen/nsgc.html>). The collection currently maintains about 129,000 accessions and approximately 21,300 distributions were made in response to more than 600 requests. There were a larger number of small requests than in prior years as well as an increase in non-domestic requests. There will be a dedication for a new advanced genetics lab. The completion of this facility is expected to free some space for base collection storage. A question was raised about the status of RILs (recombinant inbred lines) at the small grains collection. The materials are becoming increasingly important as reference research tools for genomics programs. They will be maintained at the NCGRP (National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation) rather than at the small grains facility.

Dr. Yan, leader of the USDA Rice Research Institute was introduced. This program is a combination of the prior programs at Beaumont Texas and Stuttgart Arkansas, and is headquartered at Stuttgart. This program has a significant backlog of materials to grow out (8132 accessions) and this will be a priority for the program. The program maintains rice accessions from 115 countries, including materials from the IRRI collection. 18407 accessions are maintained. 44% were curated in the 1970s (thus, the need for grow-outs). A core collection of 1,790 has been defined, which is 99% *O. sativa*. These have been characterized with 50 markers. The relationship of the core to the whole collection was evaluated with 14 descriptors. $r=0.9$.

National Clonal Germplasm Repository, Corvallis, OR – The report was presented by Kim Hummer (see submitted report and website <http://www.ars-grin.gov/cor/>). The current budget of the Corvallis Repository is \$1.45 million, of which 72% is salary. Due to ‘salary creep’ inflation, several term positions will be terminated. A record number of distributions were made in 2005 (approximately 4600). Other activities included cooperative studies of edible fruited blue honeysuckle, octoploid strawberry molecular analysis, discovery of new viruses in mint,

evaluation of materials for pear scab resistance, continued work to deal with the impact of eastern filbert blight on the *Corylus* collection. Other potentially important disease problems for the collections: blueberry shock virus, which is pollen transmitted, and sudden oak death (*Phytophthora ramorum*).

National Clonal Germplasm Repository, Davis, CA – Ed Stover presented the report (see attached report and website <http://www.ars-grin.gov/dav/>). The Davis repository budget is \$1.1 million. There are 14 employees, 6 of which are term employees. It is expected that at a stationary budget level, one of these term positions will be lost per year. The repository maintains about 6000 accessions, including approximately 3000 *Vitis*, and 1500 *Prunus*. A crop plan has been developed for each crop group that the repository is responsible for. *Vitis* is now being backed up in screenhouses, due to the movement of Pierce's disease via the sharpshooter. The issue of whether to attempt to maintain repository accessions virus free was discussed. Approximately 400 accessions per year are being tested. 628 new accessions have been received, including new *Ficus* species.

National Clonal Germplasm Repository, Hilo, HI – The report was presented by Francis Zee. A new ARS building under construction may be completed this year. Lisa Keith, a new plant pathologist at the repository, was introduced to the committee. The repository has 3 scientists and a total staff of 13, including 5 term appointments. Two of the term appointments are intended to become permanent. The repository maintains approximately 1000 tropical fruit and nut accessions. Tracy Matsumoto has been working to develop a subtraction library for flowering genes in litchi. Molecular work is also being done on rambutan and longan.

National Arctic Plant Germplasm Resource Unit, Palmer AK – The report was presented by Alberto Pantojc. Joseph Kuhl, a scientist with the unit, was introduced to the committee. The Palmer station receives about \$5 million annually, of which \$1 million is allocated to the germplasm unit. Their major crop is rhubarb.

National Clonal Germplasm Repository, Riverside, CA – Robert Krueger presented the report. (see website for information <http://www.ars-grin.gov/ars/PacWest/Riverside/homepg1.htm>). An interesting PowerPoint presentation of the current status of the repository was shown. The budget for the Riverside repository has grown by two times since 2002. There are 3.5 scientists at the location, of which 1.5 scientists are assigned to the germplasm preservation program, along with 4 technicians. Space is becoming an issue, with the recent inclusion of a Citrus mapping population from Dr. Roose's genomic program. Dr. W.B. Bitters, a famous name in *Citrus* research, has died at the age of 90. The repository also curates *Phoenix canaryensis* (date palm).

National Program Staff Report – The National Program report was presented by Dr. Peter Bretting (see attached report) after the state reports and the business meeting, due to the scheduling conflicts associated with four regional meetings being held at the same time. NPGS website: <http://www.ars-grin.gov/npgs/>.

National Germplasm Resources Lab – no report.

National Center for Genetic Resource Preservation, Fort Collins, CO – no report.

Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service – no report.

BLM – no report.

Forest Service – no report.

State reports:

Alaska – no report:

Arizona – no report:

California - presented by Dan Parfitt – see attached report.

Colorado – no report.

Germplasm was requested for research on anti-cancer compounds.

Idaho- presented by Robert Zemetra – see attached report.

Montana – presented by Jack Martin – see attached report.

New Mexico – no report.

Oregon – no report.

Utah – no report.

Washington - The report was presented by Meg Gollunick, representing Stephen Jones – see attached report.

Wyoming – no report.

Hawaii – no formal report, represented by John Cho.

General comments concerning the state reports. Committee members noted that the early date of the joint meeting precluded participation by state representatives who have spring quarter or semester teaching obligations. Future meetings should be scheduled at the more traditional dates near the end of June to increase participation. The cost of this meeting, especially for airfare and registration, may have been an issue for some participants as well.

Dr. Lee Sommers (Agric. Experiment Station Director – Colorado State University) visited the committee in the afternoon and described the creation of a new coordinating committee to facilitate USDA-ARS and State Experiment Station interactions. The committee is called the

National Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee and will meet in conjunction with the State Experiment Station Directors' meeting at Lake Tahoe in September.

Business meeting:

Meeting site for 2007:

Dr. Coyne invited the committee to Pullman for the 2007 meeting. Since the committee has not met at Pullman for several years, and since a new research leader will be taking over leadership of the program, the consensus of the committee was that a meeting at Pullman was timely.

Motion: Robert Zemetra moved to schedule the 2007 TAC meeting at Pullman. Seconded by Dan Parfitt, and passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Suggestions for the 2008 meeting location were either New Mexico or Hilo Hawaii. The committee has not visited New Mexico for many years, but a meeting there would require an invitation and participation by the New Mexico state representative. Dr. Zee indicated that the committee would be welcome to visit Hilo Hawaii and tour the repository.

Resolutions – Three resolutions were adopted. They are provided at the below. A fourth resolution expressing concern by committee members about the loss of term positions and erosion of the NPGS units capability to continue to curate the collections at present or higher levels with constant funding was tabled. Draft text of that resolution is shown below. The committee has provided similar resolutions to the National Program Staff in the past and did not perceive any value in repeating this resolution at the present time.

Draft resolution on funding from the resolutions committee:

The W-6 Technical Committee is concerned with the potential loss of critical term positions involved in germplasm preservation at the plant introduction stations and clonal repositories in the Western United States due to the inflationary creep of costs eroding the funds available for these positions. Loss of these positions would greatly impact the critical mission of the National Plant Germplasm System of germplasm maintenance in the Western region

Be it resolved that the W-6 Technical Committee recommends that the funding for the National Plant Germplasm System's programs in the western region be increased each year to off-set inflationary increases and that funding for the critical term positions be made permanent

Motion: A motion to accept the three resolutions was presented by Dan Parfitt and seconded by Meg Gollunick. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

Officers for 2007:

Nominations: Ian Ray to Chair

Dan Parfitt to Vice Chair

Stephen Jones nominated to become Secretary

Each of these terms is for 2 years.

Motion: Robert Zemetra moved to close nominations and accept the nominations from the nominations committee; seconded by Meg Gollunick; passed unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

After dinner at the Gateway Conference center, Dr. Jules Janick from Purdue University gave an entertaining talk ‘Cupid & Psyche: Fables and Festoons’ which highlighted the use of Renaissance art to determine what crops and cultivars were being grown in the 1400s-1600s period.

Wednesday June 7, 2006

A joint meeting of the four Regional Technical Advisory Committees was held in the morning. Dr. Candice Gardner of NC-7 provided a brief welcome, followed by Paul Brown, asst. director of Iowa State University Extension. Terry Nelsen and Peter Bretting gave brief updates for USDA-ARS and Ann-Marie Thro talked about the CREES program.

Kent Whealy, Director of the Seed Savers Exchange, Decorah IA, gave an excellent keynote address “Rescuing Heirloom Garden Plants” with many excellent visuals.

This was followed by Ted Hymowitz, well known soybean geneticist from the Univ. of Illinois, who presented a provocative talk “Plant Germplasm: Past, Present, and Future”.

Ed Buckler, USDA-ARS, Ithaca NY presented a talk “Using Genomics and Bioinformatics to Create an Allele Index to NPGS” in which he suggests the creation of a comprehensive bioinformatics database to completely describe all of the genetic variation in NPGS collections.

Mike Grusak, USDA-ARS, Houston TX presented “Nutritional Diversity in Germplasm Collections: Valuable Resources to Enhance the Nutritional Quality of Food Crops”, presenting nutrition as a basis for plant improvement.

Dr. Gardner arranged an afternoon tour of the NC-7 program and facility. Indoor storage facilities, seed cleaning facilities, and outdoor grow-out facilities were featured. This was followed by a tour of the Iowa State University Seed Science Center, where seed purity is evaluated for both private and public clients. A dinner was provided at the Reiman Horticultural Gardens of Iowa State University.

Submitted by
Dan E. Parfitt
Secretary for the W6 Technical Advisory Committee, 2006

Resolutions:

1. Be it resolved that the W-6 Technical Committee would like to thank and recognize Dr. Rich Hannan for his 32 years of service to the National Plant Germplasm System and for his leadership of the Western Regional Plant Introduction Station at Pullman, Washington. Under his leadership the mission of the Western Regional Plant Introduction Station was greatly expanded to include Palmer, Alaska and Parlier, California as germplasm sites. Staffing was increased and facilities improved at the Plant Introduction Station at Pullman Washington, as well as the Prosser and Central Ferry locations during his tenure.
2. Be it resolved that the W-6 Technical Committee would like to thank Dr. Jack Martin for his two years of service as chair of the W-6 Technical Committee.
3. Be it resolved that the W-6 Technical Committee would like to thank Dr. Candice Gardner and her staff for coordinating the combined germplasm meetings and the tour of the North Central (NC-7) Regional Plant Introduction Station.