



Research, Education, and Economics (REE)

National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board

**NGRAC Meeting – April 17, 2024 -- Minutes**

**National Genetics Resources Advisory Council Members Present:** Dr. Jim McFerson (Chair), Dr. David Butruille, Dr. Paul Gepts, Dr. Stephen Kresovich, Dr. Mike Lomas, Dr. Troy Ott, Dr. Margaret Smith, and Dr. Terrence Tiersch - 8

**Members Absent:** Dr. Sarada Krishnan - 1

**Ex-Officio Present:** Drs. Harvey Blackburn and Gayle Volk - 2

**NAREEE Board Staff Present:** Ms. Kate Lewis, NAREEE Board Executive Director/Designated Federal Officer (DFO) and Ms. Michele Simmons, Program Support Specialist

**I. Welcome, Roll Call, Quorum Check, Minutes, and Updates**

DFO Lewis welcomed the group, took roll call, and noted that the quorum was met. Ms. Simmons asked if there were any revisions to the March minutes. There was an appendix that Dr. McFerson provided that went with the March minutes which will not be posted to the NGRAC website as they were only for the Council’s information. Hearing that there weren’t any revisions, she asked for a motion to approve the minutes. All were in favor; no one opposed. Ms. Simmons will post the March minutes and agenda to the NGRAC website.

**II. Remarks from Chair**

Dr. McFerson welcomed the Members. He had no remarks this month to leave more time for discussion of the National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS) Crop Vulnerability Report.

**III. Old Business**

DFO Lewis discussed some recent changes about how the NAREEE staff will recruit reappointed and new Board, Committee, and Subcommittee vacant seats. The changes have been approved by the USDA Committee Management Officer and the REE Under Secretary. The previous procedure was to open the application solicitation process from January to May of each year. The new process will change to every other year instead of each year. The next time the formal application submittal will take place will be January 2025 through May 2025. The changes will impact the length of existing and new members’ terms. These changes are being implemented for strategic, operational, and administrative reasons. She informed the Council that we’re going to ask Members whose terms expire at the end of this fiscal year if they would be willing to extend their terms by one year until the end of FY25. DFO Lewis stated that we will be in touch with the Members whose terms are expiring in FY24 to ask for an extension of one year. DFO Lewis asked if there were any questions. There were none.

NPGS Crop Vulnerability Report –The Council members reviewed and discussed the remaining items on the Report. The document was shared on the Zoom screen at the meeting. There were edits and suggestions made to the NPGS Crop Vulnerability Statement during the meeting. The Council came to an agreement on the final draft. Dr. McFerson asked for a motion to approve the final draft of the NPGS Crop Vulnerability Statement. All were in favor; no one opposed. Dr. McFerson and Dr. Smith will look over the final draft for any grammatical errors.

Dr. McFerson gave an update on the Tribal document. He’s making progress on identifying some tribal representatives that can help move the Tribal document along. Dr. McFerson has edited the document where Dr. Preston Hardison left off at. Dr. McFerson will address the matter of more input from the tribal community and the document at the next meeting.

#### **IV. New Business**

Dr. McFerson asked DFO Lewis if there were any updates in planning the FY24 in-person public meeting. DFO stated that there was very little time left in the meeting to discuss the topic with the Council. She did inform the Council that unfortunately, the NAREEE office is constrained by funding to have an in-person meeting this fiscal year. DFO Lewis stated that they can discuss the in-person meeting at the next meeting in May.

#### **V. Wrap-up/Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m. EDT.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 1 p.m. EDT.

**Acronyms:** DFO: Designated Federal Official; NLGRP: National Laboratory for Genetic Resource Preservation; NAREEEAB: National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board; NPGS: National Plant Germplasm System; OBPA: Office of Budget & Program Analysis; OCS: Office of the Chief Scientist; OGC: Office of the General Counsel; OCR: Office of Congressional Relations.