

**2005 Minutes of the W-6 Technical Advisory Committee
Bozeman, Montana
June 23-24, 2005**

Attending:

Name	Affiliation
Harold Bockelman	USDA ARS, NSGC, Aberdeen, ID
Peter Bretting	USDA ARS NPGS, Washington, DC
Mark Brick	Colorado State Univ. Ft Collins, CO
Ralph Cavalieri	Washington State University
Richard Hannan	USDA ARS WRPIS, Pullman, WA
Jeff Jacobsen	Montana State University, Bozeman
Stephen Jones	Washington State Univ., Pullman, WA
Jim Krall	University of Wyoming, Casper WY
Robert Krueger	USDA ARS NCGR, Riverside, CA
Jack Martin	Montana State University, Bozeman, MT
Shawn Mehlenbacher	Oregon State Univ., Corvallis, OR
Dan Parfitt	Dept. of Plant Sciences, UC-Davis, Davis, CA
Joseph Postman	USDA ARS NCGR, Corvallis, OR
Dennis Ray	University of Arizona, Tucson AZ
Ian Ray	New Mexico State University
Ed Stover	USDA ARS NCGR, Davis CA
Bob Zemetra	University of Idaho, Moscow, ID
Kevin Jensen	USDA, ARS, Logan, UT

Current W-6 Officers:

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

Thursday June 23, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jack Martin at 8:15 am. Committee members and guests were introduced.

An introduction Montana State University was presented by Dean Jeff Jacobsen. He described the teaching and research programs of the college. A particular emphasis is the involvement of undergraduates in the research activities of the college. There are 6 departments in the college which support a state agricultural industry worth 2 billion dollars, of which about ½ of which is animal agriculture.

Minutes of 2004 annual meeting:

Motion: Minutes of the 2004 TAC meeting to be approved as submitted. (Moved by R. Zemetra, second by K. Jensen). Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Committee assignments:

Resolutions: Mark Brick (chair), Jim Krall, and Ian Ray.

Nominations: Since there will be no change in the appointments for officers next year, a nominations committee was not appointed.

Current Officers: Jack Martin – chair – 1st year
 Ian Ray – vice chair – 1st year
 Dan Parfitt – secretary – 1st year

W6 Administrative Advisor's report – presented by Ralph Cavalieri: An ESCOP draft report is attached. The report includes a recommendation for the creation of a National Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee to coordinate, recommend, and promote the activities of the National Plant Germplasm system to ARS, CREES, Regional Committees, and Stakeholder groups. A key issue is recognition of the role of CREES and the States in the NPGS.

The proposed reduction of HATCH funding to 50% for the next fiscal year, and to 0% for the following year, has been rejected by the U.S. House of Representatives, and action on this proposal is pending in the Senate. Rejection is expected.

At their spring meeting the Western Directors approved \$365,000 for the W-6 project. Dr. Hannan noted that this allocation accounts for 16% of the total funding for the Regional PI Station and supports key components of the program.

There was a general discussion of the ESCOP report by the membership, with a focus on the importance of documenting project impact to support future budget requests. Dr. Parfitt noted that the W-6 project renewals were a source for such information (see critical review sections) and Dr. Brick suggested using CRIS reports as a source of information. The proposed removal of a National Research Support Project in the North Central Region highlights that need to show the significance of the Regional Projects.

National Program Staff Report – The National Program report was presented by Dr. Peter Bretting. The report is attached. NPGS website: <http://www.ars-grin.gov/npgs/>

Some highlights from the report:

Dr. Alan Stoner and Dr. Loren Wiesner have retired and are reported to be enjoying their retirements.

Budget increases proposed for the NPGS have been protected by Congress.

Germplasm distributions from Pullman, Davis, and Sturgeon Bay have set new records.

While the ARS budget seems large to scientists and others looking at the scientific mission, it is really only 3% of the entire USDA budget.

An external review process (OSQR panels) was outlined for CRIS projects in National Program 301 (germplasm). The Office of Inspector General has audited most NPGS sites for GMO issues and security (physical security of the sites). The report is available on the internet (see NPS report for site).

Internationally, efforts continue to resolve key issues affecting international germplasm exchange, such as Material Transfer Agreements, Homeland security, and quarantine issues.

A web site has been created for information on germplasm collections.

Western Regional PI Station report and budget request, Pullman, WA – Rich Hannan (see submitted report and website):

<http://www.ars-grin.gov/ars/PacWest/Pullman/>

Dr. Hannan presented the proposed 2006 and 2007 budgets. After some discussion Dr. Parfitt moved to add \$5000 to the 2007 budget, for a total 2007 Regional Research funded budget of \$370,000. Seconded by Dr. Mehlenbacher. Motion was passed.

Dr. Zemetra moved to pass the amended 2007 budget. Seconded by Dr. Mehlenbacher. Passed. Note: The proposed 2006 budget of \$365,000 was approved by the committee last year.

A new project to curate native rangeland grasses was undertaken in cooperation with the BLM. Apparently, Kew gardens has already obtained collections of US native germplasm from the Great Basin, but these materials are not represented in the US collections.

A full report of the service and research activities at the Western Region PI Station is presented in the attached report.

National Artic Plant Germplasm Resource Unit, Palmer, AK – The report was presented by Dr. Hannan (see attached report).

National Arid Land Plant Germplasm Resource Unit, Parlier, CA – The report was presented by Dr. Hannan (see attached report).

The *Corylus* collection from the NCGR-Corvallis is being backed up at Parlier because of the presence of Eastern Filbert Blight in Oregon. This disease could threaten the collection at Corvallis.

National small grains collection, Aberdeen, ID – Harold Bockelman (see submitted report and website):

<http://www.ars-grin.gov/ars/PacWest/Aberdeen/nsgc.html>

National Clonal Germplasm Repository, Corvallis, OR – Joseph Postman (see submitted report and website):

<http://www.ars-grin.gov/cor/>

Non-US requests were 20% of the total distributions. They were mostly sent as DNA samples. The report can be obtained at <http://www.ars-grin.gov/cor/news/AnnualReport2004.pdf>.

National Clonal Germplasm Repository, Davis, CA – Ed Stover (see attached report and website):

<http://www.ars-grin.gov/dav/>

Several explorations are being planned, including one to Taiwan to collect *Vitis*, Guatemala to collect *Juglans*, and domestic explorations to collect *Juglans*.

A project to genetically characterize *Prunus* is continuing. DNA from 550 *Prunus* accessions have been isolated and 15 microsatellites developed. 74 figs have been characterized with 12 microsatellites and a similar project on olives is being conducted.

National Clonal Germplasm Repository, Hilo, HI – No report:

National Clonal Germplasm Repository, Riverside, CA – Robert Krueger (see website):

A PowerPoint presentation of the current status of the repository was shown.

<http://www.ars-grin.gov/ars/PacWest/Riverside/homepg1.htm>

National Germplasm Resources Lab – from Mark Bohning, presented by Dr. Hannan.

Plant explorations and exchanges for 2004 and 2005 were described (see attached reports).

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

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

State reports:

Alaska – no report:

Arizona, Dennis Ray – see attached report:

California, Dan Parfitt – see attached report:

A large number of requests were received from individuals for pomegranates and figs, as well as the usual number of multiple requests from commercial breeding companies.

Colorado, Mark Brick – see attached report:

Germplasm was requested for research on anti-cancer compounds.

Idaho, Bob Zemetra – see attached report:

A significant use of germplasm was the use of jointed goatgrass to introgress genes into wheat.

Montana, Jack Martin – see attached report:

Significant requests were for wheat and oilseed accessions. A wide variety of different materials were requested for oilseed development and research.

New Mexico, Ian ray – see attached report:

The major requests were received from the Rare Vegetable Seed Consortium. Cotton, forages, and peppers were also requested for research use.

Oregon, Shawn Mehlenbacher – see attached report:

Dr. Mehlenbacher noted that requested germplasm was used in a wide variety of applications.

Utah, Kevin Jensen – See attached report:

As in past years, there was a strong emphasis on forage germplasm, especially forage grasses from the Utah group.

Washington, Steve Jones – see attached report:

A wide variety of materials and germplasm uses were highlighted. Many large requests were received.

Wyoming – Jin Krall, no report:

Hawaii, reported by Rich Hannan:

36 requests were filled and 12 responses were received. Most of the germplasm requests and use were for *Camellia sinensis* (tea). Others were for *Caesalpinia* and ginger.

Business meeting:

Plant exploration proposals – presented by Dr. Jensen.

Dr. Jensen noted that the overall quality of the proposals has improved, especially with respect to developing local contacts. Preproposals are due in May, and full proposals are due sometime during the summer. Contact Karen Williams at Beltsville for details.

Meeting site for 2006:

The NC-7 project has invited all of the regional projects to a joint meeting of the 4 regional committees at Ames Iowa, June 6-8 2006. There was general agreement among the W-6 committee members to participate in such a joint meeting.

Motion: W-6 TAC should meet at Ames Iowa with the other 3 regional Technical Advisory Committees. Moved by Robert Zemetra, seconded by Kevin Jensen, passed unanimously.

Resolutions – A list of the resolutions is provided below. A motion to accept the first 4 resolutions was presented by Dr. Jensen. The fifth motion was added at the request of Dr. Brick and will be approved as part of the approval of the minutes unless the committee decides otherwise.

Motion: To adopt the (1st) four resolutions (presented below). Moved by Kevin Jensen, seconded by Shawn Mehlenbacher, passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Friday June 24, 2004

Dr. Martin arranged a morning tour of the Montana State University greenhouse and controlled environment facility for the Committee members. The Committee members on the tour also visited the Biotechnology Building next door.

Submitted by
Dan E. Parfitt
Secretary for the W6 Technical Advisory Committee, 2005

Resolutions:

1. Be it resolved that the W6 TAC thank Montana State University, Bozeman MT especially thank Dr. Jack Martin for organizing and hosting the 2005 meeting. We also thank Dr. Jeff Jacobsen, Dean College of Agriculture for welcoming the group to Montana.
2. Be it resolved that the W6 TAC thank Dr. Ralph Cavalieri, W6 Administrative Advisor, and the W6 officers Jack Martin, Ian Ray and Dan Parfitt for their leadership and work to ensure a successful meeting.
3. Be it resolved that the W6 TAC thank Peter Bretting from NPGS for his participation in the W6 TAC meeting in Bozeman, MT. The W6 encourages their participation in the future.
4. Be it resolved that the W6 TAC thank Kevin Jensen for his leadership as the W6 representative on the germplasm exploration committee for the past year.
5. Be it resolved that the W-6 advisory committee thank Dr. Rich Hannan for the long hours and dedication to the W-6, especially for writing and successfully getting the W-6 Regional Project renewed for an additional 5 years. Moved by Dr. Brick, seconded by Dr. Parfitt. Approval via approval of minutes.