



Minutes of the Governance Committee Meeting June 22, 2021

A meeting of the Governance Committee was held on Tuesday, June 22, 2021, at the Lake Placid Government Center, Lake Placid, Florida. The meeting was properly noticed and recorded. The meeting was called to order at 2:11 p.m. by Chairman Ned Hancock. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Committee members participating were Rob Atchley, Ned Hancock, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Josh Snively, and John Updike. Also present were Rick Dantzler, David Howard, Ron Mahan, Morgan McKenna, Audrey Nowicki, Pat Ouimet, Brandon Page, Ray Royce, Matt Story, and Deidra Whatley.

Mr. Atchley moved to accept the minutes of the May 25, 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Updike and passed unanimously.

Mr. Hancock began with the discussion of the search for a Research Director. Discussion ensued on how and where to find the appropriate candidate. Mr. Updike suggested contacting the two candidates who turned the position down in 2019 to see if they might reconsider. The consensus was that it would be difficult to find a Research Director that wouldn't need a significant learning curve, and that the ideas or gaps that a Research Director could provide, or fill could possibly be done without the need to hire another person. A suggestion was made for a potential Outreach/Communications position in lieu a Research Director.

The Committee discussed the research gaps and need for formulating a plan to move forward. Other suggestions were that Dr. Moira Sheehan from Cornell potentially be held on retainer to review data, and a recommendation that the National Academy of Sciences report be updated with what has transpired in research in the past five years.

Mr. Hancock suggested that the Board, at it's next meeting, consider authorizing a targeted group to review these items and strategize what may be needed to move forward. Finding the correct team for such an endeavor was discussed, and Dr. Mastrodicasa and Dr. Ouimet were asked to consider how this could be implemented. Mr. Snively also offered to reach out to ADM's Global Research for potential members.

Mr. Hancock directed discussion to the structure of the Foundation and Committees. It was the consensus of the Committee to consolidate the RMC and CPD Committees. Direction was given to Staff to poll for dates to hold a joint meeting of the two committees to discuss in greater detail, prior to the next Board meeting.

The final topic discussed was Plant Improvement. Mr. Hancock stated that to support plant improvement funding the person hired would have to have no less than equal footing than the established breeder(s) in place or head the breeding program, not just another plant breeder assigned to work in the program. Conversation continued among the Committee and attendees concerning the matter. No action was to be taken at the time of this meeting, so Mr. Hancock wrapped up the discussion quickly.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Deidra Whatley