

2017 Minutes of the National Sweetpotato Collaborators Meeting

February 3-4, 2017

Mobile, AL

Melanie Filotas, Chairperson

Saturday, February 4, 2017

Called to order by Melanie Filotas at 1:40 PM.

Melanie Filotas asked those in attendance to review the 2016 business meeting minutes. Scott Stoddard motioned to approve the minutes; David Picha seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Melanie Filotas thanked Stephen Meyers for his work as Secretary/Treasurer/Proceedings Editor, Jeff Main for his work on AV, and members of the Resolution and Nomination Committees.

Melanie Filotas acknowledged and introduced MS for the award portion of the business meeting. Mark Shankle thanked the students for well-prepared presentations and the faculty who helped them prepare. The graduate student paper competition included five PhD and three MS presentations. The award-winning presentations were as follows:

MS Level

1st Place

Impact of Palmer Amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*) Removal on Sweetpotato Yield and Quality. Stephen Smith*, Katie Jennings, and David Monks, Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695.

PhD Level

1st Place

Viral Distribution Titer of SPVG, SPVC, SPFMV and SPV2 (Potyviridae) in 'Beauregard' Sweetpotato (*Ipomoea batatas*). Herrera Favio* and C.A. Clark, Department of Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center. Baton Rouge, LA 70803.

2nd Place

On-field Sweetpotato Skin Strength Enhancement as a Result of Main Stem--Root Separation by the Harvest-Assist Vine Puller-Chopper Machine. Anirudh Akula*, J.A. Macialek and M.D. Boyette, Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC.

After chairing the Graduate Student Contest for several years, Mark Shankle was stepping down. Michelle McHargue was nominated to succeed Mark and was elected unanimously.

Mark Shankle spoke about the new National Research Impact Award and recognized the award committee of Raja Reddy, Jonathan Schultheis, Tara Smith, and Mark Shankle. The award was sponsored by Lamb Weston. Mark read from the letters of support and outlined the accomplishment of the award winner- Mike Boyette, who received a standing ovation. Mike gave a brief speech of gratitude for the help of others and the National Sweetpotato Collaborators Group.

Melanie Filotas called on the Resolutions Committee. Chris Clark read the submission proposed for 2017. Jonathan Schultheis motioned to accept the Resolutions as written, the motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.

Malanie Filotas asked the group to reassess the role of the Secretary/Treasurer/Proceedings Editor, which is a very time consuming role in the weeks immediately prior to the annual meeting.

Tara Smith opened the floor to suggestions on the processing and handling of content for the annual report.

Craig Yencho thought it best to be consistent with one person; Ken Pecota agreed.

It was suggested that the variety trial data would be processed solely by the editor while the remaining content would be received and edited by the chairperson, and Craig Yencho retracted his statement.

Scott Stoddard motioned that the chair would format titles, abstracts, and state reports (before submitting to the editor). The Secretary/Treasurer would lead variety trial efforts and assemble results. He/she would also print reports, but would no longer be responsible for preparing the program. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Melanie Filotas turned the floor over to Scott Stoddard for the Nomination Committee report. The committee consisted of Scott Stoddard, Tara Smith, and Stephen Meyers. The Nomination Committee nominated Mike Boyette for Chair-Elect. Victor Njiti made a motion to accept the nomination, David Picha seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

The next order of business was discussing the location for the 2018 National Sweetpotato Collaborators Group Meeting. The Southern Region ASHS meeting will be held in Jacksonville, FL; the National Sweet Potato Convention will be held in Wilmington, NC. Tara Smith suggested Wilmington would provide a great opportunity to meet with producers. Jonathan Schultheis voiced concerns that the sweetpotato group makes up a good number of the SR-ASHS abstracts and that meeting with the National

Sweet Potato Convention does not allow for an abstract which justifies attendance for some people.

MS said abstracts from the National Sweetpotato Collaborators Group (NSCG) meetings were put in the report so that presenters would have an abstract.

Craig Yencho said the Convention should be well-attended and a great opportunity and added that there should be lots of industry represented and the cost would not be very expensive.

Tara Smith asked if there was an opportunity to tour sweetpotato facilities.

Craig Yencho, Jonathan Schultheis, and Mike Boyette said that would be doable for the NSCG. If the USDA-NIFA-SCRI planning grant proposal were funded, it would require a meeting time, perhaps Monday morning on the educational program of the Convention. Scott Stoddard motioned to meet in collaboration with the National Sweet Potato Convention. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

Craig Yencho stated that 2016 was a big year for the sweetpotato globally as a team of researchers consisting of Maria Andrade, Howarth Bouis, Jan Low, and Robert Mwangi were awarded the World Food Prize for their sweetpotato biofortification efforts.

Melanie Filotas suggested adding this information the Resolutions.

Melanie Filotas turned the floor over to David Picha to talk about the 75 Year Compendium of Sweetpotato Research. He apologized for the lack of progress on this effort and stated that chapters would be due before the end of the year. The compendium would need to be printed by mid-2018 at an estimated cost of \$5 to \$10/bulletin.

Michelle McHargue asked how much of this information was available online. David Picha responded, "almost nothing." David said he would send the chapter leaders a scanned copy from the compendium of 25 years ago. Tara Smith stated she thinks it needs to happen. Mark Shankle asked what happens to funds from the Excellence in Multi-State Research Award if they are not used.

Roger Crickenberger stated that the award consisted of \$15,000 (\$5,000 for travel to Washington D.C. to receive the award and \$10,000 in programmatic funds). He told the group to be sure to use the funds where they will have the best benefit. He spoke with Eric Young, Executive Director of the Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Stations, and he stated the funds will be reverted back to North Carolina State University (NCSU) if they are not used in a timely manner. The \$10,000 must be spent by September 30, 2018 by invoicing NCSU for expenditures.

Craig Yencho asked if the funds could be used for awards. Roger stated that he would ask administration. David Monks stated it is difficult to keep a pot of money opened. Jonathan Schultheis suggested the funds could be used for next year's meeting (bus tour, etc.).

Mark Shankle asked if NSCG could invoice NCSU for a future purchase (AKA pre-bill). Roger stated that doing so would be difficult.

Melanie Filotas summarized suggestions for spending the award money. David Monks, upon looking into it further, stated that using the funds for a bus would be okay; using the funds for awards was not.

Tara Smith asked about using funds for visiting scientists. Chris Clark proposed a committee to spend funds consisting of David Picha, Don LaBonte, Jonathan Schultheis, and Stephen Meyers. Don LaBonte suggested a production manual as a complement to the 25 year compendium.

Melanie Filotas feared the group was proposing a lot of effort in a short period of time. David Picha stated there would be some overlap of the two efforts, but did not know a time frame. He was uncertain one production publication could capture all the production issues for the entire United States and Canada. Tara Smith said they did something similar for the Sweetpotato book.

David Monks stated that some science may not make it into a production guide.

Stephen Meyers gave a Secretary-Treasurer Report.

Melanie Filotas handed the gavel to Victor Njiti, the incoming NSCG Chairperson. Victor stated he was looking forward to a good meeting in 2018.

Jonathan Schultheis asked the group to give Melanie Flitoas a hand, those in attendance did so.

A motion was made to adjourn, was seconded, and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

This report respectfully submitted by Stephen L. Meyers with additional content provided by Melanie Filotas.