**Minutes from the RosEXEC meeting held on October 31, 2017**

***Committee Members Present****:* Cameron Peace, Mercy Olmstead, Jim McFerson, Bob Curtis, Amy Iezzoni, Ksenija Gasic, Dorrie Main, Dario Chavez, Lee Meisel, Janet Slovin, Eric van de Weg, Vance Whitaker, Ellen Thompson, Jill Bushakra, Sook Jung

Meeting Agenda

### WElcome

* **Standing Officers:**
  + Ksenija Gasic (Chair), Mercy Olmstead (Vice Chair), Chris Saski (Secretary), Cameron Peace (Past Chair)
* **Attendance**: 11 in attendance
* **Approval of Minutes from 27 July 2017 Meeting** – Last phone call of 2017. Motion to accept by Janet and second by Mercy. Minutes were approved without comment.
* **Next in-person meeting –** The next in-person meeting will be held in San Diego in January 2018 at 10AM.

RosEXEC Membership

* 2017 elections for 2017+ membership and Secretary elections
  + Update by Mercy: Felicidad Fernandez from Europe will provide information needed to be considered for international liason. Dr. Khan from Cornell works in apples, Lise Mahoney has agreed to be nominee, Ali Sarkhosh took Mercy’s job at UF and agreed to be a candidate. Industry member Phil Stewart was contacted. Requested for more industry and suggestions from eastern region – Amy Iezzoni asked Patrick Edger, and he agreed to be a candidate. Dorrie suggested Chris Dardick from USDA and Jay Norelli is an option to return. Email was sent to Pere Arus for another European contender. Dorrie suggested Craig Hardner. Timeline for getting this started is to hold elections on 15th – 22 of Nov.

### GDR Advisory Board – Presented by Dorie Main

* Decided not to have GDR at PAG in 2018
  + Will likely be in 2019
  + And will have the workshop at RGC-9
  + December of 2019 will work on a GDR renewal – will need to have a listening and training session prior to submission – to be discussed at RGC-9
  + At the Jan 14th meeting at PAG –Focus will be what needs to be done in the next year and identify new projects coming up to include. This will be discussed at 10-12 at HAMPTON room, with 30 minutes for the next year discussion.
  + Ksenija requested a summary of what has been done and an agenda for discussion for year ahead
  + Janet S. asked if Steve Knapp has discussed putting up the PacBio data for strawberry

### Coordination and updates

* Non-research update (industry, info and tech transfer)
  + Jim McFerson: Pacific NW – unusual season, big apple crop, OK pear, OK cherry. Most exciting news is proliferation of new cultivars in apple with market play. A little introduction in pear, and possibly cherry down the road.
  + SC peaches – nothing new. Really warm fall causes some varieties to bloom. Did have a lot of hurricane activity during the fall. Mercy responded with problems in Florida causing grower loss. Screening new selections that may be more durable and have basically zero chill requirements.
  + For strawberry in CA, focus on disease resistance (fusarium) funded by commission. Main issue is with soilborne diseases.
  + Bob Curtis: No major news from CA. Megatrend occurring in almond with self-compatible varieties. More to come.
* Competitive federal grant project reports
  + Recently funded projects within the Rosaceae: Nothing new or updated.
  + Updates on large-scale projects (RosBREED, RosRosette, NSF for Apple and Peach tree architecture, others?)
    - Vance noted RosBREED3 is moving ahead with surveys and direction for this project.
* International project collaborations

### Nothing new reportedResearch fields and technology updates

* Germplasm (genetic resources)
  + Crop Germplasm Committees and USDA-ARS germplasm status, current and recent evaluation funding, other germplasm resources?
  + Jim McFerson – Advisor on committee to secretary of agriculture. Committees have met a few times with no outcomes. Something to consider for Rosaceae community to get together and prepare a statement to address static or declining funding.
  + Ksenija (vice chair) noted she and Kate Evans (chair) are on Plant Breeding Coordinating Committee whose objective is to assess germplasm repository problems – new paper is published in Crop Science Journal in September. This activity created initiative lead by Peter Bretting to apply for funds to set up workshop on needs of repositories in U.S. because of big wave of retirements. Concern is lack of expertise to replace these positions. Need to educate students to fill these USDA germplasm positions.
  + Janet requested Crop Science article. Janet asked what Jim sees RosEXEC’s role in promoting germplasm maintainence. Jim noted the group could prepare the statement regarding the importance of clonal germplasm repositories and send it to national germplasm advisory council – nationally and internationally.
  + “NIFA listens” is a opportunity to express an opinion on what next funding cycle needs to focus on and Bob Curtis noted that we have until December 01, 2017 to submit a comment – important for RosEXEC as a body to submit a comment to the committee.
  + Ksenija noted the 3 questions for which NIFA is requesting opinion – Ksenija will send this out for input.
  + Jim noted there is NO DEADLINE for a one pager document developed by the RosEXEC on the topic as it would be good to relate to other issues (eg., other NIFA submissions) as a coordinated response. An update to the white paper would be a terrific vehicle.
* Phenotyping
  + Standardized phenotyping, High-throughput/high-resolution phenotyping/phenomics, USDA collection evaluation data (GRIN-Global) – status, utility
* Whole genome sequences and physical maps
  + Cherry genome is updated and uploaded to GDR
  + David Chagne submitted new assembly of black raspberry genome
  + Janet noted Pat Edger is working on another iteration of the black raspberry genome
  + Ksenija noted we have ‘Regina’ sweet cherry genome sequenced by France.
  + Sook noted new annotation for F. vesca v2.0 is in GDR. Paper accepted in Gigascience.
* Enabling technologies in genomics and genetics – nothing new.

### White Paper update

Rosexec white paper: Mercy has established a link. People can collaborate and do it online. Comments are available. Mercy is chair of sub-committee and role is to update these short papers.

<http://tinyurl.com/mrdbwh5>

* Need to leverage for RosEXEC stand on germplasm resources
* Develop this as a handout.
* Mercy asked for everyone to write a paragraph or 2 as input.
* Ksenija suggested review of the white paper as publications:
  + Genetics, genomics, and breeding
  + Successes and challenges in certain topics
  + Others – discuss in San Diego
  + In line with vunerability statement and will be complimentary

### Personnel changes

* Several top USDA positions vacated and being filled – KG asked Dorrie to send via GDR mail list.
* Pear program that Richard Bell retired from – not yet replaced
* Cherry breeder being hired at Washington State University

Recent scientific meetings – comments

* Armillaria Summit: August 09 – 11 in Davis CA
  + Discussed problems in industry across country.
  + Idea from this meeting is to apply for planning grant – led by K. Baumgartner and Ksenija for meeting on East Coast at Clemson in fall to discuss full SCRI project to work on replant issues.
* NAPB/PBCC Annual Meetings: 7-10 August 2017, at Davis, CA
  + Lots of industry and student participation
  + Education of workforce in light of mergers b/w big companies was a primary outcome. Do not see job numbers going down, just shifted to translational genomics/genetics positions. Want someone that can communicate with breeders, know molecular and informatics. The technical requirements are changing.
  + John Clark was awarded for plant breeding impact from the National Association of Plant Breeders
* ASHS Sept 19-22, Hawaii
  + GDR presentations and workshops

### Announcements for upcoming meetings

* NC140 meeting in Washington State in November
* SCRI project meeting in Washington State in November
* Plant & Animal Genome XXV: 13-17 January 2018, at San Diego, CA, USA
* Eric sent workshop announcement – Apple replant disease combined with fungal resistance workshop in East Lansing 1-3 in November.
* RGC9 Nanjing China June 26-30 2018 – Committee is selecting keynote speakers and applying for grant from Chinese government to help with travel for students.
* ASHS in D.C -- Jim noted support received for ASHS President for 3 sessions that will focus on SCRI, accomplishments, and future. Hoping to recruit policy makers to attend to hopefully look for more political support. Trying to get a doubling of SCRI on annual basis.

### Other items

* Organizer of the PAG 2019 Fruit and Nut workshop – Ksenija noted that it would alternate b/w US person and then someone outside each year. Need nominees from outside US for 2019. RosEXEC committee should do this. How do we solicit nominations? Should discuss at the beginning or first break.
  + Nominations:
    - Janet suggested: ??
    - David Chagne
    - Eric agreed to be nominated

### Next RosEXEC meeting

* Next RosEXEC meeting – PAG , 14 January, 2018, from 10 am – 12pm, Hampton Room

**Minutes submitted by: Christopher A. Saski, Secretary**