U.S. RosEXEC Meeting Minutes

# zoom online

# April 19, 2023 10-11:30 AM PDT

### WElcome

* Standing Officers:
	+ Gayle Volk (Chair), Jonathan Fresnedo Ramirez (Vice-Chair), Per McCord (Secretary), Lise Mahoney (Past Chair)
* Attendance and introductions
* Jim Luby, Per McCord, Sook Jung, Cameron Peace, Dorrie Main, Chris Gottschalk, Loren Honaas, Vance Whitaker, Chris Dardick, Jonathan Fresnedo Ramirez, Nahla Bassil, Gayle Volk, Tom Gradziel, Ksenija Gasic
* Minutes from January 2023 RosEXEC meeting are posted: https://www.rosaceae.org/community/us\_rosexec

### RosEXEC MEmbership

* + New elections will be held Fall 2023
		1. Need to replace 5 domestic positions and 2 international positions
		2. Information handled by vice-chair (Jonathan)
		3. Trying to balance crop groups, institution, and geographical location
		4. Cameron suggested that RosEXEC leadership draft an SOP for future recruitment
			1. Gayle will initiate this
			2. Nahla found documentation from 2006, work with this to update roles of officers and members
	+ Determine timeline for RosEXEC elections
		1. Timeline Agreed
			1. Nominations begin 5 September
			2. Candidate documentation provided to Jonathan who will review them and send to Dorrie/Taein Lee by October 13
			3. Voting from November 1-17, 2023
			4. Note: ASHS and NAPB meetings are a good time to spread the word
			5. Send out an announcement of purpose/process/ timeline via GDR mailing list, soon after our July meeting

### GDR Advisory Board

* Report from GDR
	+ Presented by Dorrie. See attached report
		- Major focus on outreach this past 4 months
		- Links to recent GDR presentations included in newsletter
		- Putting a hold on tool development to work on system upgrades and update of critical modules (until about June). Will continue with updates
* Sustainability plan for GDR
	+ Federal grants won’t continue forever
	+ Need to update compute server hardware (estimate $350K to fully update)
	+ 2 models proposed:
		- Adding funding in researcher grant proposals

GDR (Dorrie and Sook) to produce a document with rationale, suggested budget amounts that can be shared via RosEXEC. Dorrie expects to have this ready in May

* + - Congressional appropriations
		- $1.5 million/year would be ideal
* Comments from RosEXEC to GDR
	+ Regarding sustainability via appropriations:
		- Per/Loren suggest contacting NW Horticultural Council, also Ines Hanrahan (WTFRC)
		- Combine with other Specialty Crops, partner with USDA
		- Need interoperability/complementarity with USDA systems
		- Gayle suggests meeting with NPLs Peter Bretting and Tim Reinhart

### RosEXEC Activities

### **ROSEXEC Mission**

* Serve as a communication and coordination focal point for the US Rosaceae genomics, genetics and breeding community.
* Define research priorities based on input from the industry and research community.
* Facilitate scientific interaction and foster dynamic research teams.
* Promote research priorities.
* Coordinate educational efforts from the research community to the industry and the public.
* Serve as an official steering committee for the Genome Database for Rosaceae

**ROSACEAE INTERNATIONAL GENOMICS INITIATIVE (RosIGI) DISCUSSION:**

RosIGI is an organization that serves to:

* Ensure communication among Rosaceae researchers and organize the biennial Rosaceae Genomics Conference.
* Coordinate international efforts on several key initiatives within the areas of Comparative Genomics, Structural Genomics, and Functional Genomics.
* Facilitate scientific interaction among members of the research community.

Proposed RGC11-associated RosIGI meeting was cancelled due to the lack of a speaker volunteer. Will revisit in a few months.

**ONGOING ACTIVITIES**

* **One-page RosEXEC summaries**

Summary was provided as part of the October GDR newsletter. Plan to continue this coordinated effort going forward. Future RosEXEC meetings are proposed to coincide with GDR newsletter releases. Minutes written by RosEXEC Secretary. Summary written by RosEXEC Vice-Chair based on the minutes.

* + Sook requested summary be ready by 27 April at latest. Jonathan’s goal is Monday the 24th
* **“RosBREED” like session at meetings** to allow real/virtual participants to be more involved. Loren Honaas will coordinate this effort during PAG30 RosEXEC meeting and see if it works. Strategy could be used at future possible conference-associated meetings.
	+ PAG 30 meeting was a hybrid meeting, but not really a RosBREED ‘type’
	+ Try again at NAPB? Loren suggested dual RosEXEC business/informational meeting
	+ Consensus is no (on meeting at NAPB)
	+ Invite all (via GDR) to join virtually at next meeting on July 13th

**Additional proposed activities**

* GDR: additional taskforces (such as for GBS/genomics)
* GDR interoperability with GRIN-Global via BrAPI
* Dorrie plans to request Breeding Insight to include Tripal databases
* Community resource for standardized protocols, ”bigger picture” items (across taxa/groups) - a role for GDR?

**New Business**

Discussion of multispecies array (K. Gasic) & other Arrays

* Nahla suggested DARTtag ($10-15/sample including extraction, around 3,000 SNPs but can do more), ThermoFisher (Luca Bianco is using) as options
* Neogen information from RGC11 – but costs seem high

Brief summary of RGC11 conference (from RosEXEC attendees)

* Friendly environment, no concurrent sessions to have to choose from. Very Science-focused, excellent presentations and opportunities for networking and collaboration
* Lots of new and young faces. About 100 attendees
* Next meeting in 2025 in Barcelona. Dorrie suggests RosEXEC work towards obtaining funding from federal sources for early career scientists to attend. We have done this in the past.
* Dorrie requested a “thank you” letter to RGC11 organizers on behalf of RosEXEC. Gayle will write draft, circulate to RosEXEC members who attended the meeting

### Coordination and updates

* Non-research update (industry, info and tech transfer)
* Competitive federal grant project reports
	+ Recently funded projects within the Rosaceae
	+ Updates on large-scale projects
		- SNP Array development
* International project collaborations
* Any other important research funding coordination opportunities

### Research fields and technology updates

* Germplasm (genetic resources)
	+ Crop Germplasm Committees and USDA-ARS germplasm status, current and recent evaluation funding, other germplasm resources?
	+ Pear CGC was held March 24, 2023
	+ Prunus CGC on April 26, 2023
* Phenotyping
	+ Standardized phenotyping, High-throughput/high-resolution phenotyping/phenomics, USDA collection evaluation data (GRIN-Global)
* Whole genome sequences and physical maps
	+ Updates on status of Rosaceae genomes
* Enabling technologies in genomics and genetics
	+ Sequencing, annotation, transcriptional profiling, genome-scanning SNP arrays, reference linkage maps, QTL & MTL methods/software and discoveries, MAB: evaluation (trait predictions) – available DNA tests and platforms, MAB: characterization (identity/parentage/ancestry/relatedness) – approaches and progress

### usrosexec_logoWhite Papers?

* n/a

### Personnel changes

* Retirements and other departures, new positions available, recent positions filled, graduating students, candidates looking for positions (e.g., promising grad students, postdocs)

### Announcements for upcoming meetings

* Upcoming meeting announcements
	+ National Association of Plant Breeders, July 16-19 2023, Greenville, SC
	+ ASHS July 31-Aug 4, 2023, Orlando, FL
	+ ISHS Rubus and Ribes Symmposium, July 16-21 2023, Portland, OR

### Next RosEXEC meetingS

* 13 July 2023
* October 2023