**MINUTES**

**RosEXEC Meeting**

**Wednesday 25 January 2014, 5:00–6:00 pm (PDT)**

**Held in conjunction with RGC7 (7th International Rosaceae Genomics Conference)**

Attendees

* Gayle Volk (Vice-Chair, gayle.volk@ars.usda.gov) presiding for absent JD Swanson (Chair, jd.swanson@salve.edu)
* Cameron Peace (Secretary, cpeace@wsu.edu)
* Chris Dardick (Past Chair, chris.dardick@ars.usda.gov)
* Dorrie Main (GDR representative)

Bert Abbott, Nahla Bassil, Kate Evans, Felicidad Fernández, Amy Iezzoni, Sook Jung, Jim McFerson, Lee Meisel, Jay Norelli, Mercy Olmstead, Ariel Orellana, Greg Reighard, Janet Slovin, Sujeet Verma, Vance Whitaker, Michael Wisniewski

Minutes of 12 Jan 2014 meeting (at PAG) accepted, adopted. [Posted on GDR in early July by Sook Jung]

Membership

* Elections will take place in Fall 2014 – 5 more U.S. to replace those rotating off, 3 year commitment, etc., as usual
* Membership nominations can begin now. If interested to be included on the election ballot, contact Gayle Volk (chair of Membership subcommittee)
* (RosEXEC membership updated on GDR – July 2014)

Rosaceae Gene Naming Standardization

* Subcommittee members: Sook Jung (chair), Robert Schaffer, Lee Meisel, Doug Bielenberg, Carole Bassett, Michela Troggio, Janet Slovin, Dorrie Main, Chris Dardick
* Committee goal: Establish Rosaceae gene-naming principles and a mechanism for enforcement
* Update covered in RosIGI meeting immediately preceding
* 3-letter codes established for each crop (~30 most important species)
* Marker name standardization also considered, using same 3-letter code

Rosaceae Species webpages for GDR

* Informational pages (text, tables and pictures) about Rosaceae species – Jay, Gayle, and Janet have come up with lists of useful information like pictures, ploidy, etc.
* Already on GDR for apple. Compilation of information was a joint effort between Crop Germplasm Committee Chair and NPGS Apple Curator. Includes species pages (lots of *Malus* species)
* Will discuss for other crops in next day’s Joint Rosaceae CGC Meeting

Evolution of the committee moving forward

* **GDR guidance**: RosEXEC as the official steering committee for the GDR? Dorrie Main included this role for the RosEXEC in recent research proposals. The GDR would give RosEXEC a 1-2 page progress report every quarter about two weeks before RosEXEC meetings. The RosEXEC Chair will provide an annual report about what the GDR has accomplished. Thus, formal community input on GDR priorities will be obtained
* **More on GDR**: Quarterly newsletters, tutorials, monthly emails via the GDR mailing list, and other such needs for/from the GDR have already been identified. If the 2014 tfGDR proposal is funded, Mercy Olmstead will create and distribute a flippable pdf newsletter at least twice a year
* **Industry representatives**: Encouragement on teleconferences? (Here we mean the crop production industry, although this is perhaps not suitable as a single word as there are also the private breeding industry and the commercial service provider industry.) Conclusion: don’t worry about it – industry reps are unlikely to attend PAG meeting; hard to get nominations; our products are what is relevant to industry not our inner workings; industry simply wants to know that we’re working well together and not wasting their funds. Having industry informed would be useful to get interest in new SCRI proposals, etc. How about a *Good Fruit Grower* article on RosEXEC? How about a *New Cultivars* page on the GDR?
* **Germplasm representatives**: Invite to summarize reports on teleconferences? Already have CGC reports available on GRIN. But we’re on the cusp of major advances in exploiting genetic diversity. Need more representation in this area. RosEXEC should send a message to Peter Bretting: germplasm use is being left behind in genomics-genetics-breeding. RosEXEC would be better to put effort into engagement with the NPGS rather than industry.

Research coordination and non-research updates

* **GDR funding update**: Dorrie Main and the team have been very active in seeking sustainable funding – three proposals are pending; if get all, GDR would be very fully operational; expect to hear funding results ~Aug. Current federal funding will end Aug 31, so need such new funding. NRSP proposal ($2M over 5 yrs) requests four full-time positions; core database development across all GDR crops (24 of them including blueberry, various *Citrus*, and cotton); concept is that other grant sources would fun crop-/family-specific efforts – with a shift to a self-sustaining model after the five years in which researchers would have to pay for GDR access. How? Difference between uploading vs. downloading/viewing? RosEXEC needs to help answer these questions. Subscription is a good model, suggests Bert Abbott – e.g., $50 annual fee (per researcher/program/institution?); if the GDR has something to offer, such a fee will be worth it to users. TAIR is now fee-based – e.g., $5K for universities. Institutional fee for the GDR will be better. Some data would be open access, other pay for. Future database funding will be cheaper than in the past because no longer using legacy databases – research communities are converting to standard formats. Expertise should be crop-/family-specific, but databases interoperable such that they are more sustainable such as if a programmer leaves. Opportunity for RosEXEC to make Rosaceae the lead, show other communities how it’s done. Will federal funding agencies stop funding databases? Seems unlikely Orphan crops need help, need an efficient model. Databases need to be valuable enough to their user community. Major crops are probably safe. But database projects should leverage the federal funding – we have this already, and should achieve a sustainable system, and can leverage this to ask for more. Build an endowment? We could be the first, then ask for $ to fund specific expansions, functionalities. Maybe it’s our responsibility to fund, not the government’s. We should build operations, not require rescue missions. The user community does need to be kept fully updated. Own journal? How about the GDR be the repository for supplementary Rosaceae GGB data for any journal. not just Tree Genetics & Genomes?
* **Non-research update**:
	+ Industry: 2014 is overall a great production season! Have the Farm Bill out – a huge difference with the past year or more in which we were worrying about future SCRI funding. Stakeholder Relevancy Statements required for SCRI proposals have been a hit for stakeholders (effectively informing industry about new SCRI proposals) and is expected to remain a useful requirement of SCRI proposals for the next four annual funding rounds. Farm Bill has also injected more funds into state Block Grants (SCBGP). “Regional Centers for Excellence” appears to still be conceptual.
	+ Extension (info and tech transfer): not addressed in this meeting
	+ GMO regulatory & market update: not addressed in this meeting
* **Competitive federal grant projects**:
	+ Newly funded projects within the Rosaceae: Apple pollenizers (Stefano Musacchi and Karen Lewis, WSU, $1.9M) – funded via TASC (Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops)
	+ SCRI recent submission for RosBREED:
		- “RosBREED 2” = *Combining disease resistance with horticultural quality in new rosaceous cultivars* (PIs: Amy Iezzoni & Cameron Peace, MSU & WSU, $10M). Major matching support from overseas collaborations – much gratitude for their support and evidence of our strong international network. Builds on previous RosBREED project (ending 31 Aug 2014) in enabling marker-assisted breeding in Rosaceae by expanding to: *new traits* (disease resistance as well as fruit quality), *new crops* (blackberry, rose, pear, and *Prunus* rootstocks as well as peach, apple, strawberry, sweet cherry, and tart cherry), and *germplasm* (pre-breeding families and replicated selection trials as well as cultivar-generating parents and seedlings)
	+ Other recent SCRI submissions:
		- tfGDR (PI: Dorrie Main, WSU $3M)
		- raspberry genomics-genetics-breeding (PI: Catherine Daniels, WSU)
		- ameliorating freeze damage for fruit crops especially involving management practices ($7M)

Meeting reports and announcements for upcoming meetings

* Crop Germplasm Committees (CGC): minutes of most recent meetings are on GRIN (GDR will make a link to these); tomorrow (June 26) will be a joint Rosaceae crop CGC meeting
* ISHS Pear: July 15, Belgium
* ASHS: July 28–31, Orlando, FL
* IHC: Aug 18–22, Brisbane, Australia
* NAPB & PBCC: “Breeding for Water Stress”, Aug 5–8, Minneapolis, MN
* 2015: Eucarpia Fruit Breeding & Genetics (14–18 June); NAPB: (Pullman, WA)

Not addressed in this meeting (running out of time in meeting, and participants felt that RGC7 itself was showcasing these advances)

* Other funded AFRI/NSF projects
* Leverage of large scale opportunities (e.g., RosBREED, CGCs)
* International project collaborations (e.g., FruitBreedomics, EUBerry)
* Research Fields and Technology updates (Whole genome sequences and physical maps, Enabling technologies in genomics, Genetics – maps and QTLs, Phenotyping/Phenomics, Germplasm/genetic resources)

Minutes taken by Cameron Peace, Secretary.