

A) MEMBERS ABSENT:

John E. Ayers, Pennsylvania, James B. Holland USDA-ARS, Raleigh, NC, Manjit Kang Louisiana, Ann Marie Thro USDA-CSREES, Wenwei Xu - Texas A & M, David Wilmot USDA-ARS, MO, Zeno Wicks III, South Dakota State University, James Dodd, Industry Representative

B) ANNUAL MEETING:

The annual meeting of this multi-state committee (NCR-167) was held at the University of Minnesota Continuing Education and Conference Center (Room 155), Saint Paul, MN on February 21-22, 2005 (see details on the following web address <http://corn2.agron.iastate.edu/NCR167/Meetings/2005/2005NCRAgenda.htm>). The meeting site and date were determined at the 2005 annual business meeting. Ken Russell, Chair of NCR-167 moderated the 2005 annual meeting of NCR-167. Rex Bernardo took care of the local arrangements for NCR-167.

Dr. Russell called the meeting to order at 4:45PM on February 20, 2005. The minutes from the 2004 meeting were unanimously approved.

Dr. Lamkey gave the treasurer's report. The NCR-167 committee did have \$8,006.11 in total expenses for 2004 (hotel) but the total income due to membership and meeting attendance was \$5,712.00. Therefore, the balance at the end of 2004 was negative leaving a negative account balance (\$-710.70).

Dr. Carena gave the administrative advisor's report in representation of Dr. Grafton. The new administrative advisor (AA) is Dr. Kenneth Grafton, former North Dakota State University (NDSU) dry bean breeder, currently Director of the NDSU Agricultural Experiment Station located in Fargo, ND. The AA could not attend and notified the group of his absence. However, Dr. Grafton has not had the chance to meet the group yet. An email from the AA was read regarding two issues:

- a) The need for NCR167 to be reclassified as either NCCC or NCERA. Therefore, Dr. Carena moved to go with NCCC. Dr. Coors seconded the motion. Motion was carried.
- b) The President's proposal to cut hatch funds. As a consequence, we engaged in a long discussion about private-public sector collaboration.

Dr. Lamkey introduced and encouraged the group to attend the seeds and breeds conference to be held on September 12-14, 2005 in Ames, IA. Within its objectives is the awareness of the uniqueness of plant breeding, defining who is a plant breeder, and lobbying for public plant breeding funding. A similar effort was initiated nationally within the US under the USDA and first meeting is scheduled during the annual American Society of Agronomy (ASA) meeting on November 10, 2005 in Salt Lake City, UT. In addition, there are international efforts to raise awareness on the importance of plant breeding (e.g. International Centers). All these efforts directly influence our group that has a tradition on applied corn breeding. The group continued discussion on Participatory Plant Breeding in the US and the potential re-

direction of public breeding efforts. Dr. Coors offered Dr. Carena to lead a panel discussion on farmer-breeder teams in joint cooperation with the Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society (NPSAS) to be held during the ASA meeting. Dr. Carena introduced the NPSAS Farmer-Breeder Club and their potential to breed on farm and the utilization of elite public corn products such as population hybrids. The group agreed on the potential usefulness of the development of products for alternative profitable ways of farming.

Dr. Lee gave the meeting place subcommittee report. Our next meeting will be held in Guelph, Canada on Feb 20-21, 2006. The group discussed various options for how to organize and schedule the meeting. Several suggestions were made to address more cooperative research and develop specific cooperative projects. Dr. Lee suggested we spend time having project leaders talk about what they are doing or proposing to do within their breeding programs and their management. This complements the suggestions made in previous meetings to visit breeding programs. Meeting room will be free and registration fee approximately \$60. All this information will be posted on the website. The meeting place will be on the campus university center. There are hotels available near campus at approximately \$90 per night. There are many alternatives from Guelph to airport (e.g. rent a car or take the shuttle with round trip at about \$100). Dr. Lamkey moved that Dr. Lee and Dr. Bohn should look into graduate student support, meeting logistics, and meeting format for 2006. Dr. Carena seconded the motion and motion was carried.

Sub-Committee Chairs gave their reports. Elite public lines were tested across locations and maturities as usual and results were reported. Dr. Lee moved that the new Chair for the 100-300 maturity group Subcommittee be Dr. Carena. Dr. Coors seconded the motion and motion was carried.

Dr. Davis was introduced to the group as the new representative for Missouri.

Dr. Coors, Chair of the Germplasm Release subcommittee, asked every member to send new releases as soon as possible.

No new business was reported. Meeting was adjourned at 6:10pm.