

**W6 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2008 - Hilo, Hawaii**

Meeting start time - June 24, 2008, 8:29am

Attendees: Ian Ray, Jinguo Hu, Kim Hummer, Bob Zemetra, Meg Gollnick (for Stephen Jones), Jack Martin, John Cho, Francis Zee, Richard Lee

*Current W6 Officers: Ian Ray, Chair
Dan Parfitt, Vice Chair
Stephen Jones, Secretary*

Opening remarks and welcome by Ian Ray - Chair: Dan Parfitt will be taking Ian Ray's place as chair for the next W6 Technical Advisory meeting. John Cho will be retiring to 40% starting October 1, 2008.

W6 Administrative Advisor's Report: Good News, The Western Director's approved the budget for the full amount, \$386, 245. Proposed budget for 2010 is \$389,463 and 2011 is \$399,425. The Hatch multi-state funds will go to the various research stations.

Project Status: We have requested a 1-year extension because of the RL status. This is out of sink with the CRIS-ARS renewal. This must be completed by January 15, 2009. Ralph suggests a deadline of November 1, 2008 to have it written and sent out for comments/edits.

Farm Bill Changes (Tree fruit and grapevine funding) - Clean Plant Bill independent from the germplasm system. Perhaps there will be collaborations from scientist to scientist but no other connection with NPGS. No one has up-to-date information regarding these changes. Ralph Cavalieri will look into this and report back to the W6 Advisory Committee. Dan Parfitt asked about how this connects with the PI Station and W6? Ralph stated that germplasm collection would be the connection. Dan Parfitt also asked about when the RFP call (White Paper) would come out for this. Ralph stated that July 1 would be the RFP date and that this would have a 100% matching component (salaries, benefits, Commodity group funds could be used for the matching). The maximum amount for proposal funding will be \$5 million. Ralph also stated that there is another RFP coming down the line regarding Biomass/Biofuel feedstock.

Action Item: Ian Ray states that we need to move to accept the revised meeting minutes of the 2007 W6 Technical Advisory meeting. Will do so after Dr. Gonsalves' welcome.

Welcome by Dennis Gonsalves, PBARC Center Director: Dennis Gonsalves welcomed the W6 committee and gave an update on the PBARC station. His projection is to have 35 scientists housed in the building. The second building will be built in the near future. Everything will be consolidated here at PBARC with the University of Hawaii scientists as collaborators. The goal is to have a closer link between scientists and an exchange of students etc. New construction started to include offices, screen house, and

head house. The target date of completion is in January. PBARC has funds for this now, \$1.5 million.

PBARC focus is on doing good for Hawaii. Pineapple research, fruit fly research is on going and stakeholder workshops have been held to discuss the goals of PBARC. PBARC will be recruiting two new scientists: 1) Crop Improvement using modern techniques - (ornamentals) biotech and molecular breeding. 2) Nematode - Plant Pathologist position. Hawaii grows 80% GMO papaya. GMO Taro is the next step. Micronesia Taro crop is being devastated at this time. Hawaiians are showing some resistance to GMO Taro.

Action Item: Bob Zemetra moves to accept the 2007 meeting minutes pending friendly amendments. Dan Parfitt seconded it.

Ian Ray thanked Francis Zee for hosting this year's meeting.

Action Item: Ian Ray stated that we will combine Resolutions and Elections later in the business meeting. Bob Zemetra self nominated himself to be Secretary. The chair will be Dan Parfitt, vice chair is Stephen Jones. Dan Parfitt moved to accept the elections and John Cho seconded it. Kim Hummer and Bob Zemetra volunteer to be the resolution committee.

Western Regional PI Report and Budget Request: Dr. Jinguo Hu introduced himself as the new RL for the Western Regional PI Station. The W6 project has an increase in funds to \$386,245. This number is the average of 2009, 2010 and 2011 budgets. This will compensate staff salaries and summer timeslip students. Dan Parfitt asked about how they will address the budget pitfalls. He suggests comparing # of orders to other regional stations to justify budget. Kim Hummer suggests giving reports and discuss budget issues after we hear about other programs budget issues. Kim Hummer also asks if they will be refilling the Parlier position. Jinguo Hu states it is in the process and that they will fill this position eventually.

John Cho has comment for resolution committee regarding solar power for facilities, germplasm labs should become greener. Jinguo Hu states that WSU pays all utilities.

Action item: Bob Zemetra moves to approve the 2010 budget at \$389,463, seconded by Jack Martin.

Germplasm Resources Program Report (PGRC): Kim Hummer discussed the Global Consortium of Genetic Research Conservation. Bill Gates has given 32 billion to the Global Crop Diversity Trust to help preserve genetic diversity research and collection. There has been a standard material transfer agreement devised - an exchange of material with the CG center within GRIN. There were originally 64 crops (annex crops) exchanged but now other genetic resources are footnoted. This applies to all genetic resources. This will be done via the internet when you place an order within the GRIN system. GRIN is considered the primo database in the world. They want to establish

GRIN Global (all databases together), one common system for the world. GRIN Global will be more user friendly and there will be some exciting activities regarding database management. GRIN received a grant to work with European databases as well. GRIN GLOBAL will manage all data associated with accessions. International access to genetic resources is exciting news.

The Svalbart Gene Bank is now open, Kerry Fowler is overseeing the management of this operation.

Steve Smith, head of Pioneer is looking into Seed preservation and possibly reinstating a lobbyist for seed trade.

The PGO is recruiting for a new director and have opened it up to international applications.

Annual report for the NCGR will be uploaded to the website and available to all.

National Arid Land Plant Germplasm Resource Unit
National Temperate Forage Legume Genetic Resources Unit
National Small Grains Collection Report
Clonal Repository Reports

Francis Zee reported on the Tropical Plant Genetic Resource Management Unit. There main focus is Ginger, Lychee, Blueberry and Papaya. Report will be available via the website.

Richard Lee, Germplasm Repository for Citrus and Date Palms. Report will be available via website.

Business Meeting:

- Business (Elections, Meeting site and time for 2009/2010)
Discussion of a possible biennial meeting or teleconference meeting. Teleconference one year and original meeting the following year.

Action item: Bob Zemetra moves to go to biennial meeting with the off year being a teleconference. The teleconference year agenda would include budget, National Program Reports and State Reports. Jack Martin seconded it. Dan Parfitt abstained. Ian Ray will speak with Ralph Cavalieri to make sure this is within the guidelines. Discussion ensues to have the back-up site for next year be Davis, CA. Jack Martin moves to have Davis as the back-up site and Bob Zemetra seconds it.

2009 - Teleconference

2010 - National Meeting

Project Renewal: Jinguo Hu will compile the document and everyone will work on the objectives and send in publications. Discussion over content of document. Jinguo Hu will contact Ralph Cavalieri to ask questions about this.

Resolutions:

1. Be it resolved that the W6 Technical committee sincerely thanks Dr. Francis Zee and his staff at the Tropical Plant Genetic Resource Management Unit for hosting the 2008 W6 Technical committee meeting.
2. The W6 technical committee is concerned with the flat level of federal base funding that has led to critically low operating funds for the W6 Plant Introduction Station and the clonal repositories in the western US. With current and multi-year projected funding levels the units are either below or will be below the minimal discretionary funding level per SY as set by ARS jeopardizing maintenance of these critical national treasures. Given the current situation with the International Treaties concerning germplasm and germplasm exchange, adequate funding of the germplasm system is imperative for maintenance of current collections to prevent loss of potentially critical germplasm to protect the food security of the United States.

Be it resolved that the W6 Technical Committee advocates increasing the level of federal base funding of all units of the national plant germplasm system to ensure adequate funding to pursue its mission of collection, maintenance, documentation, distribution, and evaluation.

New Business: None