

Abbreviated Minutes

CROP VARIETY RELEASE AND DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE MINUTES OF MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 ROOM 123, WILLIAMS HALL, WOOSTER

Present: John Armstrong, Jack Debolt, Pat Lipps, Jim Beurlein, Brice Nelson, Ron Fioritto, Ray Miller, David Lohnes, David Tay, Susan Stieve, Ron Hammond, Richard Cooper, Richard Pratt, Forest Muir, Dan Herms, Bill Goodman, Steve St. Martin

Dr. Miller convened the meeting at 9:20

1. **Review of the Minutes from May 30th meeting**

Vote to approve the minutes: Unanimous

2. **How to keep plant industry groups more informed about activities of the CVRDC.**

One suggestion was to make minutes available.

Proposed Mechanism: Send hard copy or electronic copy. Post minutes on the Web site.
Consensus to proceed.

3. **Dr. Lohnes introduced the CVRDC web Link.**

Dr. Lohnes described functions, membership, provisions and the link to 178-01 (circular describing CVRDC guidelines and policy). Latest releases will need to be updated. Other links include OSIA, crop performance trials, etc... Dr. Lohnes asked for input on other links to add. Decision: Send Dr. Lohnes suggested links

The committee thanked Dr. Lohnes for his work on the Web site and asked him to proceed with improvements.

4. Dr. Miller provided news of plane crashes into the World Trade Center buildings in New York City. It was announced that the university was officially closed. It was decided by consensus to observe a moment of silence and continue the meeting, as terrorists activities are designed to disrupt.

5. **Telephone link with Mr. Van Brimmer and Mr. Cleveland – Trademarks Office**

Discussion about Ohio Bicentennial program and how we might be involved through release of Ohio Bicentennial varieties.

History: OSU made a "pitch" two to three years ago to run the licensing for the Ohio Bicentennial program. Program works as many of OSU licenses work: agreements are signed with manufacturer or partner, OSU collects royalties, and OSU forwards the majority of royalties to the state.

As this program relates to OSU varieties, licensing of e.g. seeds, would accrue royalties based on wholesale production. Royalties are more or less depending on the product class. His perception was that we would have to work with the manufacturer – what would be done would be "logo specific." Dr. Miller inquired if there would be an added cost for using the OSU logo as well. Probably not, because we would already be in a licensing arrangement and the university would be benefitting.

Dr. Myers indicated that CVRDC could work together closely with Trademarks Office as we go along. One (variety) would simplify marketing if being the only one would carry significance. Fee is 10% of wholesale. Discussion continued about the time line for cultivar development to meet the goal for release during the bicentennial. The goal will be to try to have release notices prepared by February meeting, if possible.

Process: Perhaps two licenses, one for variety and one for logo. Royalties usually take into account mark-up.

Question from CVRDC: Are these products marketable? Mr. Van Brimmer answered, It is as grass roots as you can get. Technology from OSU, made in Ohio, appears to have high marketability.

Question from CVRDC: Additional fee for use of OSU logo? Mr. Van Brimmer answered, probably not...University benefits from royalty on variety.

Time line: OSU prepared to sign licenses today. Process involves the completion of an application and submission of a sample (quality control). Sample is what makes it to the market. Package of seed or plants (envison seed packets).

Each separate product is subject to approval. e.g. Seed, transplant, identity preserved product.

6. **Update on NC-7 and Handouts by Dr. Francis.**

About 10 representatives (in NC-7). The northeast region is struggling to keep a critical mass. Question from CVRDC about industry rep on NC-7. Dr. Francis indicated that there are none.

Dr. Muir: noted that the intent is to do away with regional projects and develop multi-state projects.

7. **Update on FG1 License Agreement.**

Mr. Nelson: Sent cease and desist letter to SRL (company believed to be illegally selling seed of Ohio FG1 Soybean in Argentina). Argentina has a policy that only one company gets a license.

CVRDC members reiterated that there is a reduction in FG1 acreage (thus competition may be more perceived than real). Furthermore, Ohio benefits from name recognition and regional climate favorable to high quality FG beans. Finally, a license to Areco is a response to a situation created by an Ohio seedsman who illegally sold seed to SRL. A license to Areco will give us some leverage against SRL where we currently have none.

The topic of licensing FG1 to Argentina is controversial, and it is possible that OSU might not go through with it. The concern is that if we license to Argentina it could hurt Ohio production.

8. **Dr. Miller introduced Dr. Tay and Ms. Stieve, Ornamental Plant Germplasm Center.**

Dr. Tay - Last 4 months formulating strategic plan and website. Work plan approved by herbaceous ornamental germplasm committee. Recommended 26 priority genera (5000+ species). Will narrow to 10 priority species. Decision pending January 1, 2002. Transferring germplasm from other sites, e.g. 500 coming from Ames, etc. Main thrust of OPGC: collection, evaluation, establish database, distribute germplasm..

Ms. Stieve - Described equipment, physical structure improvements, faced with many challenges due to diverse culture and propagation needs of seed, many research opportunities.

Dr. Tay – Whole germplasm network facing difficulty. Every exchange of germplasm with other countries has to be developed through proper channels (have support from Beltsville office).

Dr. Miller – Also possibility for researchers to I.D. traits-genes in the germplasm.

9. **OSIA Update - Mr. Armstrong**

National issues: New seed biotech center at UC Davis. Handout distributed.

Status of varieties submitted to national seed centers need to be clarified by breeders. Identify samples of seed as Breeder, Registered or Certified class. Mechanical seed certification discussed. OSIA does not favor going back to past standards. Ohio certifies on genetic purity only. .

USDA national organic certification of seed is an evolving area for Certification agencies. OSIA's Hopewell promotional program largest in history. Hopewell was the highest yielding Certified wheat variety in 2001 Wisconsin State Performance Trials. This was the first year Wisconsin tested this variety.

Ohio Roundup Ready® soybean seed acres totaled 62,000. Certified soybean acres show sharp downward trend.

First hard red winter wheat cultivar certified for Agri Pro in Ohio this year.

Dr. Miller: OSIA – approved funds for continuing upgrade of H & CS marker lab in Williams Hall (Wooster). Agreement states wheat, soybean and oat varieties developed within next 7 years will result in a portion of royalties to repay contribution.

10. **Ohio Foundation Seed Report, Mr. DeBolt.**

Handout distributed on wheat sales, export demand is sour and acreage is dropping off. Five years ago sold 15,000 units. Demand for Freedom is trailing off.

Major change due to declining demand. Private varieties are taking some sales. Some due to declining market, some due to binrun, more rented land, which rarely sees wheat. There is a combination of things affecting market.

11. **Release proposal for Oh645 Wheat, Drs. Sneller and Lipps.**

Dr. Lipps brought forward information of upcoming releases. Proposal distributed. Oh645 has similar yield potential to Hopewell. Yield not as consistent outside NW. Prone to physiological leaf flecking. Good milling and baking properties, good disease resistance. Evaluation: 25 trials over 5 years. Good powdery mildew resistance, slight susceptibility to leaf rust. Shines in grain quality area. Probably should be exclusive. Fit to NW area. Probably won't compete with Hopewell in other areas. Propose release through branding.

Dr. Pratt proposed release of Oh645 (public release). Motion failed.

Release of Oh645 as branded variety was proposed. Motion passed.