

## **Crop Variety Release and Distribution Committee**

### **Minutes of September 15, 2005 Meeting**

#### **123 Williams Hall, OARDC, Wooster**

**Present:** Mr. John Armstrong, Dr. Jim Beuerlein, Mr. Jack Debolt, Dr. Ann Dorrance, Dr. Ron Hammond, Mr. Bill Gault, Dr. Dan Herms, Dr. Pierce Paul, Dr. Ellen Purpus, Dr. Rich Pratt, Dr. Clay Sneller (Chair), Dr. Steve St. Martin, Mr. John Gerard, Dr. Ray Miller, Mr. Jim Currie.

The meeting was convened at 9:30 AM by the Chair. The minutes of the February 16, 2005 meeting of the CVRDC were approved by unanimous consent.

Updates from OSIA, OFS, ODA were presented by Mr. Armstrong, Mr. DeBolt and Mr. Gault, respectively.

Mr. Armstrong reported that AOSCA is attempting to establish some national standards for the release of germplasm from universities. He distributed a copy of an AOSCA working document entitled "General Certification Committee." There are differing philosophies among AOSCA agencies. OSIA is opposed to the adoption of national standards because our (state) standards seem to work well for Ohio. Mr. Armstrong asked that the CVRDC adopt a resolution in support of existing Ohio guidelines. Dr. Beuerlein provided some of the background that led to the current issue in the seed industry. A resolution was drafted by Dr. Sneller and read for the committee's consideration. The resolution as stated reads: "The CVRDC of the OARDC has established criteria for the release of cultivars and germplasm. These criteria meet the needs of Ohio growers and the Ohio seed industry. As such, the CVRDC does not see the need to adopt standards established by other bodies, such as those considered by AOSCA General Certification Committee and drafted in May 18th of 2005." The motion to adopt was made by Sneller and seconded by Beuerlein. After a period of discussion it was resolved by a unanimous vote to issue the above statement for the OSIA to use.

Mr. Armstrong reported that field inspections of public soybean varieties were down 40% during the year. An update on private sector intellectual property issues was provided. He indicated that OSIA had followed up on plant variety protection for 'Freedom' wheat. Filing costs have increased. Copies of the OSIA 2005 Fall Directory for certified seed of small grains varieties and the Ohio Wheat Performance Test report were distributed.

Mr. Bill Gault reported on minor changes to seed law (germination percentages must equal 100%), the status of stop-sales (due mainly to carry-over wheat in the new crop), and interagency discussions regarding problems with noxious weed seed in Canadian-sourced seed, and uncertainty regarding construction plans for a new plant industry (ODA) building.

Mr. Jack DeBolt distributed copies of the OFS reporting the current status of nine wheat cultivars. Total (wheat) seed sales have remained about the same as last year. Public varieties account for about two-thirds of sales. Wheat acreage in Ohio has fluctuated and it has seen a general decline. Scab is a problem. Demand for wheat straw is increasing. He noted that OH708 (a wheat line released by the OARDC for branding) is being picked up by C&M seeds of Canada (where seed must be certified). Branding precludes certification. Thus, OARDC would need to amend the release of OH708 and suggested we do this at the February 2006 CVRDC meeting. Discussion followed and the committee will adopt the recommendation.

Dr. Steve St. Martin discussed posting of soybean variety releases on the CVRDC website. He had posted recent releases prior to submitting them for registration in Crop Science. A Crop Science editor then would not let the registration be published. The rationale given was that posting on the website consisted of "prior publication"-- which is against journal rules. This action will deprive Dr. St. Martin of some publications and also will preclude maintaining the germplasm in the national gene bank a requirement for registration in Crop Science. This issue was discussed with some Crop Science editors and was to be discussed further during the November ASA meeting. Our current recommendation to breeders is to submit the registration article first and then post it on the CVRDC website.

Dr. St. Martin presented a potential scenario for release of Rps8 and RR soybean germplasm (see memo from St. Martin and Dorrance of 8 September 2005 to the CVRDC). He has several BC-derived lines that are of considerable interest to Access Technology. Pending data from the 2005 harvest, Access would like to acquire the germplasm and increase seed quantities in a winter nursery in November 2005. The issue is that Access needs a very quick decision from the CVRDC. There is no data available for the September meeting so release can not be considered. A period of discussion followed. The CVRDC recommended that Dr. St. Martin summarize his data ASAP after harvest, submit it to the CVRDC for review, and then via phone conference or e-mail ballot, obtain a decision from the CVRDC regarding release of the germplasm.

Dr. Pratt mentioned that he thought the CVRDC should draft a letter to Pat Lipps thanking him for his many contributions to the CVRDC and Ohio agriculture. This was approved by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted by Rich Pratt with assistance from Clay Sneller.