

**Minutes from ESA Plant-Insect Ecosystems Governing Board Meeting  
Conference Call  
October 21, 2016**

**Present:**

Melissa Willrich Siebert, President  
Mark Wright, Vice President  
Diane Alston, Vice President Elect  
Rebecca Schmidt-Jeffris, Secretary  
Patrick Moran, Treasurer  
Sujaya Rao, ESA Governing Board Representative  
Carlos Esquivel, Student Representative

1. Feedback from P-IE Networking Session/Business meeting at ICE (Melissa)
  - Positive feedback on speakers, especially for Jeff Harris's talk
  - Room may have been too large, difficult to hear in the back. Consider a smaller room for next year, but keep in mind that attendance may be higher. ICE was unusual in the timing of the session and competing events.
  - iPad raffle and serving food afterward appears to be effective at keeping people in the room
  - We need to start considering talks for next year. Ability of the audience to interact with the speakers is an important aspect that we should keep.
  - Suggestion to move iPad raffle to the end of the business meeting (incentive for people to show up earlier and attend the business meeting)
2. Pollinator Committee update (Sujaya)
  - Sujaya has received lots of positive feedback on the video initiative, nothing negative.
  - Sujaya requested Governing Council input on having another person take the lead on the committee. Sujaya suggested two individuals that had expressed interest in the committee chair position. Sujaya will stay on the committee and serve as leader until the video initiative is kicked off. The suggestion for having a new person step in as chair was to have the pollinator committee determine the chair, that person submits a brief statement of interest, and the governing board approves the selection of the chair.
  - All members of the committee have agreed to stay on for another year.
  - It was discussed whether there were term limits for these committee members. Melissa will request that committee members serve a three-year term.
  - Sujaya will send initial committee information/charge letter to all P-IE GC members (done!)
  - Sujaya will have a post-ICE call with the committee and report back to GC
3. Feedback Section leadership meeting at ICE (Melissa)
  - At this meeting, Becky Anthony reviewed a new potential communication tool to be deployed by ESA. Initially, it would be used as a tool for each section's leadership to share documents or have forum-based discussions.

- It was suggested that an ESA staff person be a part of the pollinator committee to do administrative tasks and also function as the long term memory/keep momentum going
  - Melissa will send Sujaya a list of tasks/functions that an ESA staff member could do, after approval by GC. Potentially including:
    - Compile list of pollinator-related resources (based on location)
    - Post information online
    - Provide consistency/take care of day-to-day tasks
  - There was discussion (no decision during the meeting) as to whether this request should be included within the section governing board report submitted in November.
  - Suggested Chris Stelzig or the new ESA hire for this role (ESA staff vs. contracted labor was preferred by the GC)
4. Feedback from P-IE feedback session at ICE (Melissa)
- Decent turnout and good discussion. Attendance (in addition to the GC): Rayda Krell, Tom Anderson, Chris Sansone, Mark Boetel, Matthew Thom, Bob Peterson, Scott Hutchins
  - Can P-IE moderate or combine the discussion between crop protection and pollinator health? How can P-IE provide utility beyond the current discussion about pollinators. Sujaya suggested making sure that all pollinator-based information/talks be given within the broader context of crop protection
  - This launched discussion of the second pollinator committee initiative:
    - The committee will have some down time between Jan – Oct 2017 while waiting for video submissions to come in
    - At this time, the committee could begin compiling information regarding pollinators online
    - Suggestion to focus on controversial issues, or “myth busting”
      - This would include information dispelling myths like “cell phone towers harm bees”, “honey bees are going extinct”
      - But also could present both sides of actual scientific controversies
    - Also, it is important to make sure stakeholders are aware that this information exists, once it is available. Suggest that P-IE members in extension-related fields point their stakeholders to the website.
    - Sujaya will have a post-ICE call with the committee to discuss the second initiative.
  - Field tour initiative suggested during the feedback session (see below)
5. New field tour initiative (Melissa)
- See Melissa’s PowerPoint for full description
  - MSU provided example of successfully mediating between beekeepers and growers – could this be a first location?
  - Have some invited positions for ESA leadership, policymakers
  - Other positions applied for by the general membership (suggestion to include a brief statement indicating why the member wants to participate). These would be self-funded.
  - Virtual tour suggested for non-attendees

- Suggested scholarship opportunity for students to attend. The student(s) winning the award could be responsible for compiling the video for the virtual tour.
  - Focus should be on crop/ecosystem tour, with pollinators as part of, but not the entire tour
  - This could be tied into branch meetings
  - An individual with policy experience could potentially take the lead, Melissa will contact the suggested individual.
6. 2017 Proposed budget (Patrick)
- Based on current activities, none of the new activities described above
  - Need to project budget needs for pollinator initiatives
  - Clarified that the video initiative is one year only, budget could not sustain it as an annual activity
  - 2016 spending: \$13,854.51
  - Current balance: \$23,811.03
  - 2017 budget projected to include \$22,041 in spending, including at least \$5,000 for the Pollinator Initiative
7. Get 2016 minutes posted on P-IE website (Melissa and Andy)
8. Complete Governing Board report by November 4
- Melissa to draft and send by email to GC for review.
9. Committee vacancies
- Please send suggestions for Government rep on the P-IE awards committee to Melissa
  - Melissa has contacted SEB president for P-IE Nominations Committee replacement, waiting for response