

Minutes from ESA Plant-Insect Ecosystems Governing Board Meeting
Conference Call
April 27, 2017

Present:

Melissa Willrich Siebert, President
Mark Wright, Vice President
Diane Alston, VP-Elect
Fred Musser, Past President
Rebecca Schmidt-Jeffris, Secretary
Patrick Moran, Treasurer
Sujaya Rao, Governing Board Representative
Carlos Esquivel, Student Representative
Chris Stelzig, ESA
Rosina, ESA (ESA Awards Task Force)
Cindy, ESA (ESA Awards Task Force)
Carol Anelli, ESA Awards Task Force
Judy Wu-Smart, Pollinator Initiative Committee

1. Pollinator Initiative Committee Update (Judy)

- Getting requests to have “talking points” for media/public – what’s our brand for insect policy?
 - Question from Judy: are they speaking as a committee, individual, voice of a brand?
- Chris – open to do almost anything, as long as it doesn’t conflict with other current ESA policy work; this is within the role of the ESA sections
- P-IE could become the science policy “go to” when ESA is approached for policy issues relating to pollinators
- ESA has a position paper on pollinators available to use
- Judy – desire to create a Top 10 Q&A list for different audience. When the committee creates these documents, should they go to GC for review?
 - Yes, PIE Section GC will review and then it will be posted on section website
- Also desire to create “expert list” for pollinator related topics. The ESA database is a good starting point go gather names and the P-IE newsletter can be used to advertise that the committee is looking for experts for the list. Melissa suggested an application process or short form should be considered for screening, selecting, vetting.
- Currently working on getting website of resources organized. Where should these be posted? Current ESA pollinator resource pathway is hard to navigate to (lots of clicks).
 - Melissa said to get more of the framework complete and more concrete progress then can determine the final website to deposit.

- Funds for advertising video contest – need a proposal with cost for GC, but this concept is supported
- Pollinator committee has access to email account to check video submissions, but no one is currently checking the email. The committee will assign someone to this task.
- Next meeting of pollinator committee will be in May.

2. ESA Awards Task Force (Carol, Rosina, Cindy)

- Currently examining what awards are being offered, diversity and quantity of applicants, etc.
- Possibly moving national level awards to sections, there are some that could be moved to P-IE:
- ESA desires P-IE input on this potential change
- These awards have funds attached – how this will be handled will be addressed with ESA GB later
- Hoping to streamline awards and make national awards more cross-sectional to get more applicants for these awards AND have more specific section awards to increase applications
- #1 reason to not apply (based on ESA member survey) is “I’m not worthy” – how can ESA fix that and better advertise?
- If P-IE took up these awards, are only P-IE members eligible to apply? Yes.
- Would P-IE pay for registration of these awardees as it does for other awards? General approval for this, but would need feedback from ESA GB on how funding for these awards works before committing (funding for the award amount and a plaque).
- General support for this idea, but concern that we need to make sure we get enough applicants for all awards.

Potentially have separate subcommittees on the P-IE awards committee to handle student vs. professional awards, or other restructuring to streamline and increase applicants

3. Section Leaders Meeting at Summer Strategy Meeting (Chris)

- P-IE has made a lot of progress as a section (pollinator initiative, field tour, video contest)
- So the next focus at the strategy meeting might be “What’s next?” – focus on process building instead of specific events.
- P-IE GC will start working on strategy development before the summer meeting
- Chris – invasive and endangered species in next big ESA focus, that could be a potential direction for P-IE

4. Social Media (Chris, Rebecca, Melissa)

- Becky is currently working on getting the P-IE Twitter information on the website
- Need more regular updates, especially for awards, contests, elections

- Undergrad award needs advertising now – due May 1
- Rebecca will work on setting up a Tweet deck for automatic tweets

5. Field Tour (Melissa)

- Completely covered financial responsibility already – people have registered and paid to reserve their spots
- MSU has funds ready to pay for food they committed to pay, which eventually offset registration fees for everyone attending.
- Only two remaining P-IE members who have not yet registered (23/25) – Melissa is in contact with them

6. Budget Update (Patrick)

- Current balance: \$40,988.03
- No expenses since last conference call

7. Summer elections (Mark)

- Three interested in publications council
- One person interested in treasurer
- No current inquiries about VP-Elect
- Will continue to ask each member of nominations committee to get one name per open position
- Becky will need names for advertisements/ballots soon

8. IPM Voice Membership (Melissa)

- P-IE received letter to rejoin
- GC discussed and will not rejoin at this time

9. Branch Meeting presentation (Melissa and Carlos)

- NC last branch left for the P-IE update
- Diane recommends more than 10 minutes for presentation based on PB presentation
Also notes that many people are positively recognizing P-IE efforts
- Carlos will check with NCB president

10. Awards

- None have been submitted yet
- IPM Team Award – “priority is given, but is not limited to small teams (10 or fewer)”. It was brought up at the EB meeting that excluding large teams has been problematic for applying; the ESA member was likely not aware of the award wording change (which occurred in 2016)

11. Newsletter

- Melissa will get newsletter draft out to GC by next week
- Will get newsletter out in time for one more advertisement before awards are due

12. Summer Program Planning Meeting

- Rebecca will go as the second P-IE representative (along with Melissa), Mark and Diane are unable to attend