

Minutes from ESA Plant-Insect Ecosystems Governing Board Meeting

Conference Call

Friday March 20, 2015

Present:

Sujaya Rao, President

Fred Musser, Vice President

Melissa Willrich Siebert, Vice President Elect

John Adamczyk, Past President

Patrick Moran, Treasurer

Alton “Stormy” Sparks, ESA Governing Board Representative

Andy Michel, Secretary

Absent: Lina Bernaola, Student Representative

1. ESA 2015 Symposia – Sujaya
 - GC discussed their rankings and the overall/averaged rankings
 - A few symposia were suggested to be placed in other sections
 - Some symposia were very overlapping, and there was a suggestion to contact submitters and suggest they merge. There was a question whether this was possible/probable
 - Some GC member expressed difficulty in choosing good symposia based on submission process
 - are submitters members in P-IE?
 - have speakers been invited/confirmed/or just suggested
 - GC decided to choose the top 18 symposia as P-IE section symposia. This would allow 3 sessions on the morning and afternoons of Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Will pilot this approach this year, with perhaps moving to top 12 sessions in 2016 (although ICE may complicate this).
 - Sujaya will send out final list Sunday night for GC approval, and will be submitted on Monday, March 22.
2. Starks Award – Stormy
 - Discussion focused on 3 aspects:
 - Monetary supplements: how much should P-IE contribute/supplement?
Suggested that P-IE can cover registration to the annual meeting
 - Nomination procedures: original documentation requested a simpler recommendation, but the award now follows standard ESA P-IE award nomination procedures. Another question was whether US citizenship should be required.
 - Award review committee composition: The MOUs between the Stark Family and ESA request a different make-up of review committee.

-was decided that any requested changes should be made in consultation with ESA HQ and the Stark Family. Stormy and Sujaya will draft a document expressing P-IEs concerns with the above 3 issues and then send to ESA-HQ for discussion with Starks Family

3. P-IE Committees Update - Sujaya

4. Treasurer's Report – Patrick

5. March newsletter items

-A section on the EPA's call for comments on western corn rootworm resistance (see below)

-Suggest to P-IE members that submitted symposia with confirmed speakers are viewed more favorably

-Any additional vacancies for ESA positions

6. Other items

-EPA comment period related to corn rootworm management plan, P-IE response?

-Discussion on who or how P-IE should respond to these topics of public interest

-ESA-central HQ and outreach office

-Through P-IE EPA subject matter expert?

-Should P-IE respond at all, depending on the complexity of the issue?

-Was suggested to add a newsletter section encouraging P-IE members to submit comments, but that P-IE will not develop a coordinated response.