Minutes from ESA Plant-Insect Ecosystems Governing Board Meeting  
August 17 and August 24

Conference Call  
August 17, 2020

Present:
Jeff Bradshaw, President  
David Onstad, Vice President  
Rebecca Schmidt-Jeffris, Vice-President Elect  
Anjel Helms, Secretary  
Anh Tran, Student Representative  
Nicholas Larson, Early-Career Professional Representative  
Erin Cadwalader-ESA Representative  
Melissa Siebert ESA Governing Board Representative

1. WIG survey – Jeff  
   a. We have received 78 total responses to date  
      i. GC is still aiming to increase member participation before November, but we have likely hit a limit on responses  
   b. We will leave the survey open and continue to promote it on social media

2. Governing Board Updates – Melissa  
   a. President Alvin Simmons provided a recent statement to members  
      i. Melissa confirmed that diversity and inclusion (D&I) was a pervasive issue across many topics in their recent meeting  
   b. The GB had a motion to hire a new ESA manager of D&I to coordinate this effort  
   c. D&I committee had a motion to create some new D&I awards  
      i. General support but several questions remain about logistics for these  
      ii. D&I committee has been asked to continue working out details  
   d. Lisa Junker (Director of Publications, Communications, and Marketing) has accepted another position so ESA will now be recruiting to fill this position

3. P-IE Awards – David/Jeff  
   a. Winners have been contacted and an announcement was made in last newsletter  
   b. We will follow up with winners/presenters about instructions and notify them about time for live ceremony (5PM EST on 11/17/20)  
      i. Presenters will be invited to a training/rehearsal for the event  
   c. GC needs to coordinate award celebration/ceremony and decide on final details for program  
   d. Cindy Myers will assist with getting section winners their plaques and checks (information due August 23rd)  
      i. We will also include the $50 for the pie party with their prizes
4. Virtual Booth – David
   a. We have been given space for a virtual booth for P-IE during the meeting
   b. We need volunteers to help with the booth
      i. August 24th deadline to name a leader and committee
   c. The booth will contain basic information about our section and any other content we want to promote or information we want to share
   d. A major goal is to invite members to join P-IE as their primary or secondary section
   e. We can also include content for the 30-min opening of each day (11/16-19/20)
      i. Rebecca volunteered to take the lead on this and will coordinate information highlighting P-IE events
   f. Anjel volunteered to contact section symposium organizers and ask them to put together a promotional/informational slide. We will promote these through our booth.
   g. Idea was proposed to include features or information from P-IE members
      i. Rebecca will contact Entomology Departments, USDA-ARS groups, and smaller entomological societies with our invitation
   h. Examples include: Open positions, Lab/Research highlights
   i. Melissa will prepare a feature on the science policy tour
   j. Anh will prepare a Tweet deck of current content to post during the meeting

5. Hot topics – David
   a. GC decided to hold on the event on November 12th or 13th, the time is still pending
   b. Rebecca sifted through the WIGs surveys and prepared a list of common themes for topics.
      i. GC expressed general support for topics. Now we need to recruit discussion leaders.
      ii. Proposal was made to contact individuals who completed surveys and provided contact information.
   c. Anh volunteers to coordinate the topic “Public education/outreach and inclusion and diversity” and to find discussion leaders

6. Speed networking – Nick
   a. They have signed up some members pending date and time of event
      i. GC decided to hold on the event on November 12th or 13th, the time is still pending
      ii. Nick will contact MUVE to decide how to schedule
      iii. 19 Students and ECPs committed so far
      iv. 17 established members committed so far
   b. Planning will resume next meeting
Conference Call
August 24, 2020

Present:
Diane Alston, Past President and Interim Treasurer
Jeff Bradshaw, President
David Onstad, Vice President
Rebecca Schmidt-Jeffris, Vice-President Elect
Anjel Helms, Secretary
Anh Tran, Student Representative
Nicholas Larson, Early-Career Professional Representative
Erin Cadwalader-ESA Representative
Melissa Siebert ESA Governing Board Representative
Keri Carstens, Science Policy Committee Representative

1. IPM Statement – Keri
   a. Keri walked GC through science policy committee’s purpose and tasks:
      i. Lead effort to establish science policy agenda for ESA that will guide and
         focus society’s outreach efforts with government, NGOs and other
         organizations
      ii. Select science policy fellows and develop their educational program
      iii. Work with contracted advocacy firm in Washington, DC to update
         legislators and agency leaders on topics of ento. importance
      iv. Develop position statements for ESA
      v. Oversee activities and reports of (Allan Felsot ESA liaison to EPA)
      vi. Coordinate participation in events to present ento to national leaders
      vii. Develop methods to keep members informed and engaged on issues
   b. Roster and terms (sections, at large members, student, staff, EPA) 3-year terms
   c. Tiered priority science policy topics listed on website
      i. Active: highest priority with greatest resource investment (integrity,
         invasive species, pollinator health, public health, climate change,
         communication, biodiversity loss, etc.)
      ii. Engaged: medium investment of resources (resistance management, IPM,
         outreach, GMO disease vectors, collections, etc.)
      iii. Watching: moderate investment (ag GMOs, sustainable ag, prof education,
         food safety, urban pests, etc.)
   d. Proposal was made to incorporate WIGS with science policy to make sure section
      WIGS are represented in the society’s high-priority events
      i. Goal is better coordination of national and section goals
      ii. Suggestion was made to include the policy committee rep. in the policy
         event coordinating team
   e. Position statement activities
      i. 3 were recently approved and will be announced through ESA
      ii. 1 is currently under review
      iii. 3 others were approved in late 2019 of potential interest for the section
iv. General process: The committee gets volunteers to assist with drafting statements-usually goes back to original authors if an old draft exists and then volunteers are solicited to participate. ESA keeps a list of members with various expertise. Policy fellows and committee members were included to ensure representation. Then there is a comment period for members for a couple months through the website.

v. Suggestion by GC to include these in our newsletter because few member comments are typically received

f. Overall reflections
   i. Time commitment is high, but the experience is very rewarding
   ii. Enthusiasm and willingness to participate important for future reps
   iii. Lots of knowledge/skills are gained, but some prior background in this area would be very helpful
      1. E.g. what is policy, how is it developed, and how is it used?
   iv. Science communication background/ability would be very helpful
   v. Having a breadth of topics/viewpoints relevant for the section
   vi. Diversity of backgrounds important for committee
   vii. Committee also puts on a symposium at the national meeting
   viii. Focus on better integration of committee rep with the GC
   ix. Hot topics and WIGS would be good areas to coordinate

2. New positions – Jeff/David
   a. Jeff contacted newly elected members
      i. Surendra K Dara new VP elect
      ii. Lina Bernaola treasurer elect
      iii. Michelle Boone student rep
   b. Cheri Abraham has volunteered to serve as a member of the Event Oversight Committee
      i. GC approves appointment to committee

3. Virtual Booth – David
   a. GC members still collecting content
   b. September 28, 2020 current deadline for submissions
   c. Content will be uploaded to a shared folder