

## **Minutes of the American Oat Workers Conference Business Meeting**

**June 21, 2018 - Seattle, WA**

The meeting was called to order by Nick Tinker, Chair. Forty-five individuals were present.

Nick started the meeting by pointing out that AOW is an important group, receiving recognition from such entities as the USDA and AAFC, who do act on information provided by the group.

Nick also reminded everyone that the AOW Chair is the person who hosted the \*previous\* AOWC meeting, not the current one. Thus, at the end of AOWC 2018, Kathy Klos and/or Rick Jellen will become Chair(s) for the next four years.

Business continued as follows:

(1) Minutes of the last meeting of the AOWC, held July 16, 2014, in Ottawa, Canada were approved.

(2) The agenda for the current meeting was approved.

(3) Nick recognized the sponsors of the current AOWC (Grain Millers, Pepsico, Clif Bar, University of Idaho, General Mills, Richardson, SeCan, Prairie Oat Growers Association, Shepherd's Grain, and FP Genetics). Kathy Klos indicated that the financial statements would be shared as soon as final numbers were available.

(4) The revised "Statement and Purpose of the American Oat Workers" (attached – Appendix 1) was adopted with the following revisions:

For the following statement: "This committee is now owned by the International Oat Conference", the group substituted the following: "This committee is now appointed by the International Oat Conference".

(5) Report from the Oat Newsletter (Charlene Wight): See attached (Appendix 2)

Charlene was commended for her contributions to the Newsletter over the past 4 years. Bruce Roskens asked if links to or reprints from the Newsletter could be included on commercial websites or used by stakeholder groups. Charlene and Nick pointed out that instructions for using information in the Newsletter can be found on the website.

(6) Reports or updates from regional/sector reps.: No oral reports were forthcoming.

(7) Report from Oat Germplasm Committee:

At the recent AAFC/USDA meeting in Ithaca, the effects of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (IT PGRFA) were

discussed. José Costa (USDA) is working on a best practices document for breeders and it should be available at some point in the Newsletter.

It was moved, seconded, and approved that the Oat Germplasm Committee members be reappointed.

(8) Nominations and Future Site Selection (Jennifer Mitchell Fetch):

- Aaron Beattie was nominated and elected as Chair for the 2022 meeting, which will be held in Saskatoon, Canada.
- Melanie Caffé-Treml was nominated and elected as Secretary of the AOWC.
- Charlene Wight was nominated and reelected as the Editor of the Oat Newsletter.

The following AOWC positions were affirmed:

- The official AAFC representative is now Felicitas Katepa-Mupondwa.
- The official USDA representative is José Costa.
- Bruce Roskens is the industry representative and Eric DeBlieck was affirmed as Bruce's successor in the event of Bruce's retirement.
- The Prairie Oat Growers Association representative is Wade Hainstock.
- The North Central USA representative is Melanie Caffé-Treml.
- The Northeast USA representative is Mark Sorrells.
- The Western USA representative is Tyler Gordon.
- The Southern USA representative is Ali Babar.
- The representative from Mexico is Eduardo Espitia Rangel.
- The South American representative is Luiz Federizzi.
- The Eastern Canada representative is Weikai Yan.
- The Western Canada representative is William May.
- The members at large are Jim Dyck, Paul Richter, Shahryar Kianian, and Monica Mathias-Ramwell.

(9) Pamela Zwer invited members of the AOW to the 11<sup>th</sup> International Oat Conference in Perth, Australia.

(10) Resolutions passed:

Whereas generous financial support that made this conference a success was provided by Grain Millers, PepsiCo, Clif Bar, University of Idaho, General Mills, Richardson, SeCan, Prairie Oat Growers Association, Shepherd's Grain, and FP Genetics; now, therefore, be it resolved that the Conference participants gratefully acknowledge these contributions.

Whereas Hickman 'Pat' Murphy (1902-1968) passed away 50 years ago in a tragic drowning on the Big Lost River, ID, and whereas Pat made enduring contributions to oat breeding and research including chairmanship of AOWC, leadership of USDA research, identification of crown rust resistance sources, establishment of crown rust differentials, development of the first oat varieties of hybrid origin (including Clinton, which was once grown on 75% of US acreage),

international collaborations (including many with South America), and collection missions and taxonomy research that led to the discovery of *Avena magna*; now, therefore, be it resolved that the conference participants wish to make a special 50-year dedication of remembrance to his life, career, and contributions to oat improvement.

Whereas Charles M. Brown, who passed away on June 1, 2018, has made substantial recognitions to oat improvement, and was a well-known, highly respected and admired oat breeder who developed many oat varieties (including the successful variety Ogle that was grown commercially for many years and used extensively as a parent in many other breeding programs); now, therefore, be it resolved that the conference participants wish to mark and remember his life, career, and friendship.

Whereas Lon Hall, who passed away on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017, was passionate about oat breeding and developed several oat varieties including Shelby 427, Goliath, and Hayden; now, therefore, be it resolved that the conference participants wish to mark and remember his service.

Whereas this has been an enlightening and highly enjoyable American Oat Workers Conference, held in the lovely city of Seattle, and whereas the success of this conference has been largely due to the excellent organization provided by Kathy Klos and Rick Jellen and their many colleagues; now, therefore, be it resolved that the American Oat Workers Conference participants express their sincerest appreciation to Kathy and Rick and colleagues for their efforts in hosting the conference.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair.

Reported by:  
Mike Bonman, AOWC Secretary.

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Appendix 1: [AOW Statement new DRAFT revised 2018](#)

Appendix 2: [Oat Newsletter report, AOWC 2018](#)