

MINUTES OF THE NATIONAL WHEAT IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE (NWIC) MEETING.**9 January, 2009.****San Diego, CA, USA.**

Attendees: C.J. Peterson (chair), R.A. Graybosch (secretary), C.A. Griffey, T. Payne, J. Rudd, D. Marshall, H. Bockelman, James Anderson, R. Zemetra, B. Bahm, A.M. Thro, L. Talbert, F. Dowell, S. Haley, Joe Anderson, T. Bartram, R. Bowden, D. Worrall, B. Carver, K. Simmons, K. Garland-Campbell, D. Coppock, S. Chao, J. Nelson, G. Cisar, R. Ward, M. Pumphrey, D. Matthews, K. Kahn, M. Bonman, and J. St. John.

Informational items.

National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG). It was noted the position of NAWG Science & Technology Advisor presently is vacant. This position holds voting membership on the NWIC. A motion was passed to allow NAWG to appoint an individual to represent their interests, with full voting privileges, at future NWIC meetings, until this position is filled once again.

The following individuals, agencies/organizations provided funding or research updates to the Committee.

National Association of Wheat Growers

USDA-ARS

USDA-CSREES

CIMMYT

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Annual Wheat Newsletter (Brett Carver, Oklahoma State University)

NWIC Wheat Genomics Subcommittee (Jim Anderson, University of Minnesota)

Graingenes (Dave Matthews, USDA-ARS)

Wheat Germplasm Committee (Kim Garland-Campbell, USDA-ARS). It was noted some new individuals are needed for this committee.

Rust reports.

Durable Rust Resistance in Wheat Project. The DRRW Project announced the launch of the 'Rustopedia' (<http://www.rustopedia.org/traction/permalink/Resources262>), an online resource for scientists, policymakers, donors, and others interested in the wheat rusts.

David Marshall, USDA-ARS, Raleigh, NC, provided an update on the rust screening nurseries sponsored by USDA and established in cooperation with CIMMYT in Kenya. The intent of the nurseries is to screen germ plasm for response to Ug99 stem rust. Only about 5% of tested U.S. cultivars carry resistance. M. Bonman, USDA-ARS, Aberdeen, ID, noted the National Small Grains Collection is conducting a preliminary screen of materials for resistance to Ug99.

Carl Griffey, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and K. Garland-Campbell, USDA-ARS, reported on the status of stripe (yellow) rust and leaf (brown) rust. It was noted that leaf rust still is the predominant rust causing yield losses in the U.S. Stripe rust continues to effect production, but races tend to be more stable than those causing leaf rust.

Research initiatives.

The NWIC supports ongoing research efforts in the following areas. The committee voted this year to support all efforts equally, without assigning priorities. All were deemed of critical importance to U.S. and world wheat production.

Cereal Rust Initiative
Small Grains Genotyping Labs
Food Security/Wheat Quality Initiative
Aberdeen Small Grains Research Enhancement
Karnal Bunt Research Initiative

Future meetings.

The next meeting of the National Wheat Improvement Committee was set for 10 December, 2009, in Orlando, FL.

A Joint Congress: Hard Winter Wheat Workers Workshop and the National Wheat Genomics Workshop, 7–10 March, 2010, Lincoln, NE (<http://conferences.unl.edu/wheat>).