



COUNCIL American Society of Plant Biologists

Committee meeting, Friday, January 21, 2022; 11:00 am – 12:00 pm EST

Via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/3012960900>

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Maureen McCann, Past President and Chair; Katie Dehesh, Member; Kent Chapman, Member; Clint Chapple, Member; Stacey Harmer, Member; Clint Chapple, Member; Elena Monte, Member; Ruth Welti, Member; Miguel Vega-Sanchez, Member; Steve Theg, Member; Patricia Leon, Member; Tessa Burch-Smith, Member; Eva Farre, Member; Kathrin Schrick, Member; Nihil Dharmasiri, Member; Anna Locke, Member; Amanda Storm, Member; Stefan de Folter, Member; Al Meyers, Member; Asia Hightower, Member

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Crispin Taylor, ASPB CEO; Clara Woodall, ASPB CFO; Sylvia Lee, ASPB Executive and Governance Affairs Administrator

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dan Tecker, Tecker International

Minutes

- 1. Opening and notice of intent to record meeting:** Maureen opened the meeting at 11:03 a.m. ET and noted intent to record; approved by unanimous consent.
- 2. Welcomes and Introduction of guests:** Maureen welcomed Dan Tecker who is filling in for Founder of Tecker International, Glenn Tecker. Crispin adds that Sylvia will be sending calendar invitations for 2022 to Council members soon.
- 3. Approval of the agenda:** Katie made motion to approve; seconded by Steve Theg. Approved by consent.
- 4. Approval of minutes from October 25, 2021 Meeting:** Tessa made motion to approve minutes and Katie seconded. Minutes were approved by consent.
- 5. UPDATE: Strategic Planning :** Crispin provided a brief description of the strategic planning session which will be facilitated by Tecker International. Current make-up of participants will be 2/3 governance with 1/3 staff – a group of about 30 because of the in-person limitation but the count could increase now that this meeting will be virtual. Dan Tecker, who is a senior consultant and solutions architect with Tecker International, spoke in place of founder Glenn Tecker and provided an outline of their approach, process, and timeline; Tecker International will facilitate the two-day meeting and make an initial draft of the strategic plan. Dan handles their online platform for virtual events and in person events. Dan shared his screen and sent meeting participants an email so they could join the platform while he discussed it. Maureen signed off at 11:23 for another commitment, and Katie assumed the chair responsibilities.
- 6. UPDATE: Membership Committee Activities (Ruth; 10 mins)**
 - a. Redesigning *The ASPB News*.
 - b. Anticipated updates to the Ambassador Program

i. Upon subsequent votes by Council

Membership Committee chair Ruth Welti has been working with staff members Shoshana Kronfeld and Diane McCauley on themes for the newsletter, which is now published quarterly. Themes such as science policy, membership, education, and research will be included. Previous features, including Luminaries, which will be headed up by the ambassadors, Membership Corner, and Tributes will continue. Adding perspectives from ASPB sections and adding profiles of students and postdocs could inspire membership. The membership committee is planning a workshop for Plant Biology 2022. During their next committee meeting, changes to the ambassador budget will be considered, as will a proposal from the Ambassadors to develop a symposium for the 2023 conference.

- 7. DISCUSSION: Plant Biology 2022 (Crispin, Stacey, et al.; 20 min)** Current plans are for an in-person meeting. Covid is still happening, and so registration has been delayed until mid-February to allow more time to see how Covid plays out and to give us time to consider factors that influence everyone's thinking for attending an in-person meeting. An informal poll was done, and 72% on the call would not attend an in-person meeting now with the status of the pandemic and 28% would. Some USDA folks cannot travel from different countries. Some companies will not allow their employees to travel presently. The question of whether we might cancel the conference came up, and the only scenario to cancel is if health guidance says to do so. There would be financial loss if we did change the meeting to virtual. A hybrid model is not on the table because of the increased cost to do it well, although some options were discussed. ASPB would require vaccinations for attendees.

8. Any other business? (Katie)

Crispin: nominations are open for awards and for committee positions.

- 9. Meeting adjourned at 12:01 pm.** Moved by Kent, seconded by Tessa. Approved by consent.