

Draft: April 10, 2019

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT FOUNDATION
SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER, ABINGDON,
VIRGINIA**

APRIL 5, 2019

The Science and Technology Committee of The American Chestnut Foundation met at 8:00am on April 5, 2019, at the Southwestern Virginia Higher Education Center, Abingdon, Virginia. The Foundation's Board of Directors Chair, Dr. Brian McCarthy, presided.

Other Science and Technology Committee Members in attendance (in no particular order) were Allen Nichols, John Dougherty, Lewis Lobell, John Hempel, Donald C. Willeke, Brad Stanback, Debby Delmer, Carolyn Keiffer, Jeanne Romero-Severson, Hill Craddock, Greg Miller, Kim Steiner, Thomas Klak, and Steve Barilovits (phone).

In addition, the following persons (including Foundation Staff Members) were guests of the Science and Technology Committee: Betsy Gamber, William J. Cude, David Kaufman-Moore, Cartter Patton, Paul Sisco, Tom Saielli, Fred Hebard, Glenn Kotnik, John Wenderoth, Jim Searing, Yuri Bihun, Cathy Mayes, Rex Mann, Brandon Yanez, Jim Tolton, Bruce Wakeland, Dan McKinnon, Dick Will, John Scrivani, Brian Clark, Karen Jones, Yvonne Federowicz, Larry Grossman, Michael Doochin, Kendra Collins, Laura Barth, Eric Jenkins, Ben Jarrett (recorder), Lisa Thomson (phone), and Sara Fitzsimmons (phone).

If names of attendees were inadvertently omitted, they may be included or corrected when the Minutes is distributed after this Meeting, and before the next Meeting of the Science and Technology Committee, so that draft may be corrected before the Minutes are approved.

The Agenda, as proposed by Dr. McCarthy, was adopted by unanimous consent.

The Minutes of the October 26, 2018, Meeting of the Science and Technology Committee as distributed with the materials for this Meeting, were approved upon motion duly made and seconded.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. McCarthy asked that necessary announcements be presented. There were none.

**GENOMIC SELECTION, DIVERSIFYING TRANSGENIC POPULATIONS, AND 2018
SCIENCE REVIEW**

Dr. Jared Westbrook, the Foundation's Director of Science, presented results from genomic research that revealed that there are likely at least nine regions of the genome involved in blight tolerance rather than three as originally hypothesized.

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Dr. Westbrook also presented results from Clapper lines genomic selections, which predict selected BC3-F2 trees will be less blight tolerant than the accidental outcrosses called Pseudo-F1s (BC3 x OP Chinese), but more tolerant than American chestnut.

The Science Review was summarized by Dr. Westbrook and recommended that Committee members read the manuscript posted with the Meeting materials as well as the Science Review and Response.

A plan for outcrossing the transgenic chestnut with a timeline for the process was presented by Dr. Westbrook.

A number of questions and comments were presented to Dr. Westbrook by members of the Committee and he responded to them.

UPDATE ON AIMS STUDY

Dr. Jeanne Romero-Severson provided an update on the AIMS study. She is genotyping with the multiplex PCR method and has submitted the first 88 samples for sequencing within the last week.

A few questions and comments were presented to Dr. Romero-Severson by members of the Committee and she responded to them.

HUDSON-ALPHA PARTNERSHIP

Dr. Jared Westbrook gave an update on the partnership between TACF and Hudson-Alpha Institute for Biotechnology. William J. Cude, Steve Barilovits, Lisa Thomson, and Jared Westbrook had a meeting with Hudson-Alpha in February. Hudson-Alpha will work with Jared to sequence two Chinese chestnut genomes and complete a comparative analysis between American chestnut and Chinese chestnut with blight tolerance to work toward a potential cisgenic chestnut tree. Hudson-Alpha is sequencing all samples from the Landscape Genomics Project.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Science and Technology Committee adjourned at approximately 9:30 a.m. on April 5, 2019.