

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