

ARKANSAS SOYBEAN PROMOTION BOARD MEETING
Zoom Only

Minutes

April 17th, 2024
8:30 a.m.

Members Present via Zoom: Josh Cureton, Brad Doyle, Rusty Smith, John Freeman, Shannon Davis

Members Absent: Joe Thrash, Douglas Hartz, West Higginbothom, Donald Morton

Chairman John Freeman commenced the AR Soybean Promotion Board meeting at 8:48am and welcomed all members and guests present on Zoom. A quorum was established and confirmed by the Department.

Administrator Scott Bray gave a quick overview of the meeting agenda, highlighting that the board must nominate a delegate and alternate delegate to send to the United Soybean Board.

Chairman Freeman then explained to the board that Robert Petter had expressed his willingness to continue serving in this capacity and agreed to accept the first delegate position.

Chairman Freeman then asked the board for any suggestions for a second alternate nominee to the United Soybean Board.

Member Brad Doyle then moved that Drew Flowers would be a great alternate delegate nominee for the board to consider.

Chairman Freeman asked Administrator Bray about the board's track record in successfully nominating and securing the board's first-choice candidate for the United Soybean Board.

Administrator Bray indicated that he was unaware of the board's history regarding this matter, but expressed confidence that the board would likely secure their first-choice candidate.

Chairman Freeman asked the board if they had any other nominations for the alternate slot.

Member Doyle added that he knew Robert Petter would do a fantastic job serving as the first delegate nominee. Some discussion ensued.

Member Shannon Davis expressed confidence in the re-appointment of Robert Petter and endorsed Drew Flowers as the board's alternate nominee, **seconding Member Doyle's motion.**

Chairman Freeman then invited any further discussion on the topic. Some discussion ensued.

Motion carried.

Chairman Freeman then provided an update on the Request for Proposals (RFP) Procurement Procedures with the state, noting that it is progressing well despite its complexity and unfamiliarity.

Chairman Freeman then inquired if there were any other business to address before the board.

Administrator Bray introduced Dr. Nathan Slaton from the UofA Division of Agriculture to address a certain funding request to be presented before the board.

Dr. Slaton informed the board that the Southern Soybean Breeders Tour would be visiting Arkansas in the fall. He mentioned that the tour organizers are seeking funding for specific stops and meals during the tour to support their activities.

Chairman Freeman asked if there was a specific amount of money that they had requested from the board.

Dr. Slaton indicated that the tour organizers have requested certain funding for certain itemized stops and meals, referencing an attachment that he was given from the tour organizer group.
ATTACHMENT 1

Member Josh Cureton asked how much money they are requesting in total for the project.

Dr. Slaton provided a very brief overview of the various stops and meals that have been itemized on the tour group's attachment.

Member Cureton then asked how many participants attended this tour.

Member Doyle shared his past experience attending the tour, noting that there can be up to 40 people in the tour group. Dr. Slaton mentioned receiving a letter from the tour organizers indicating participation of over 100 professionals, prompting some discussion. **ATTACHMENT 2**

Chairman Freeman asked Dr. Slaton if he had other sponsors prepared to fund these projects. Dr. Slaton confirmed that he does, further adding that any contribution amount from the board provided would be greatly appreciated by the tour organizers. Some discussion ensued.

Member Davis stated that he would be willing to fund the tour anywhere in the \$5,000 to \$10,000 range.

Member Doyle indicated that he would be willing to support this funding range as well. Some discussion ensued.

Member Davis then moved for the board to fund a \$10,000 sponsorship to the Southern Soybean Breeders Tour.

Seconded by Member Doyle.

Some brief discussion followed.

Motion carried.

Chairman Freeman then asked if there were any additional matters that needed to come before the board.

Dr. Slaton informed the board that they need to confirm a date for the board's summer meeting, which will include a tour of a research project funded by the board.

Administrator Bray reminded that the board that it held its summer meeting in early August last year, with the associated research tour taking place in Stuttgart.

Some brief discussion regarding scheduling ensued.

Dr. Tom Barber with the UofA Division of Agriculture mentioned that the Corn Board Field Day is scheduled for July 23rd, 2024, and that the Corn College is scheduled for August 6th & 7th, 2024.

The board decided to aim for scheduling the summer meeting for one of the first two weeks in August.

Dr. Slaton then asked the board members if there was a specific location in the state where they would like to visit and observe soybean research being conducted.

Chairman Freeman mentioned that the board had not visited the Rohwer Research Station in quite some time.

Dr. Slaton indicated that he would work on compiling a list of the soybean research that is happening at Rohwer and follow up with the board.

Chairman Freeman then declared the meeting adjourned.



John Freeman, Chairman

ATTACHMENT 1

Itemized Budget	Estimated Budget	Sponsor
Day 1 - Bus Trip to Visit Nutrien and Sttuggart, AR (9/4)	\$5,600	
Day 1 - Breakfast (9/4)	\$2,260	
Day 1 - Lunch (9/4)	\$2,000	
Day 1 - Social Hour (9/4)	\$2,810	
Day 1 - Dinner (9/4)	\$6,700	United Soybean Board (\$3,350)
Day 2 - Bus Trip to Visit Portageville, MO (9/5)	\$5,600	
Day 2 - Breakfast (9/5)	\$2,260	
Day 2 - Lunch (9/5)	\$2,500	

	Time	Activity	Speaker	Affiliation	Title
Tuesday September 3, 2024	4:00-7:00PM	Registration			
Wednesday September 4, 2024	7:10 AM	Depart Hotel to Nutrien Ag Solutions			
	7:30-8:45 AM	Nutrien Ag Solutions	Dr. Innan Cervantes	Nutrien Ag Solutions	
	8:45 AM	Depart Nutrien Ag Solutions to Rice Research and Station Center			
	10:45AM	Arrive at Rice Research and Station Center			
	11:00-11:20 AM		Dr. Jeremy Ross	UARK	<i>Mid-south Soybean Production: Prospective from a Southern Soybean Agronomist</i>
	11:20-11:40 AM		Dr. Travis Faske	UARK	<i>Impactful Soybean Diseases and Nematodes of the Mid-Southern US</i>
	11:40-12:00 PM		Dr. Jason Norsworthy	UARK	<i>Weed Management Issues in Midsouth Crops</i>
Catered Rita?	12:00-1:00 PM	Lunch - King Kat			
	1:00-1:30 PM		Dr. Guzman/ Dr. Sha	UARK	<i>Rice Breeding at the University of Arkansas</i>
	1:30-1:50 PM		John Carlin	UARK	<i>Overview of the University of Arkansas Foundation Seed Program</i>
	1:50-2:20 PM		Dr. Caio Vieira	UARK	<i>Soybean Breeding in the mid-South: Challenges and Opportunities</i>
	2:20- 3:00 PM		Dr. Caio Vieira	UARK	<i>Visit the USDA Uniform Trials</i>
	3:00 PM	Leave for Hotel			
	5:00 PM	Arrive at Hotel			
	5:30-6:30 PM	Social hour			
	6:30 - 8:30PM	Dinner			
Thursday September 5, 2024	7:00 AM	Leave Hotel			
	8:45 AM	Arrive at Rone Hall			
	9:00 AM	Load Trialers for Lee Farm Tour			
			Dr. Lin/Dr. Vieira	MU Delta Center	<i>Identification and Confirmation of Natural Tolerance to Off-Target Dicamba Damage in Non-Xtend Soybeans</i>
			Dr. Ravelombola	MU Delta Center	<i>Monitoring Soil Moisture for Drought-Resilient Soybeans</i>
			Dr. Ru Zhang	Danforth Plant Science Center	<i>Accelerating Breeding, Enhancing Resistance, and Increasing Yield of Soybean by Monitoring and Improving Photosynthesis</i>
			Dr. Justin Calhoun	MU Delta Center	<i>Cropping Systems</i>
			Dr. Justin Chlapecka	MU Delta Center	<i>Furrow-Irrigated Rice and its Positive Impact on the Rice/Soybean Rotation</i>
			Dr. Chase Floyd	MU Delta Center	<i>Management of Insect Pests in Soybeans</i>
			Dr. Bradley Wilson	MU Delta Center	<i>Cotton PGR Effects on Late Maturing Cotton Varieties in a Short Season Environment</i>
	11:30 AM	Lunch - catered by Trisha's BBQ and Catering			
	12:30 PM	Presentations at Rone Hall			
			MSMC	MSMC	SOYLEIC
			Dr. Jessica Argenta	MU Delta Center	<i>Assessing Soybean Resistance to Diseases and Nematodes in the FD-REEC Soybean Breeding Program</i>
			Dr. Cheryl Adeva	MU Delta Center	<i>Breeding Strategies for Improvement of Soybean Seed Composition through Conventional and Molecular Breeding</i>
			Harmeet Singh	MU Delta Center	<i>Unlocking Genetic Potential: Exploring Photosynthetic Efficiency Variation and its Impact on Soybean Yield</i>
			Dr. Lin/Dr. Vieira	MU Delta Center/UAR	Closing Remarks
	1:30 PM	Leave for Hotel			
	3:15 PM	Arrive at Hotel			

Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board

Arkansas Department of Agriculture
1 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock, AR, 72205

To the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to personally invite you to attend the 40th Southern Soybean Breeders tour, scheduled to take place on September 4th and 5th, 2024. The Southern Soybean Breeders tour serves as a platform for the exchange of soybean-related knowledge, research findings, and industry insights. This year, we are co-hosting the event with the University of Missouri and anticipate the participation of over 100 professionals from various sectors of the soybean industry, including academia, industry, and government. In Arkansas, the event will be hosted in Stuttgart and will feature a diverse array of speakers covering topics in soybean breeding, agronomy, weed science, and pathology. Please find attached a draft agenda outlining the schedule and topics of discussion.

To support the planned activities, we are seeking sponsorship to offset the costs associated with organizing this event. Therefore, I am reaching out to inquire if the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board would be interested and willing to provide sponsorship for our event. While we are requesting sponsorship for specific items outlined in our budget, we are grateful for any level of support that the board can offer. We are pleased to share that the United Soybean Board has already committed to sponsoring \$3,350 towards our Day 1 dinner.

We are looking forward to seeing a large presence of the board at this event. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me directly and I will gladly provide you with further information.

With best regards,

**Caio Canella Vieira, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor of Soybean Breeding
Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences

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