



MCCC Board of Directors Teleconference Call Meeting Minutes

A teleconference call meeting of the MCCC Board of Directors was held on Monday, June 29, 2015 - 9:00 am – 10:00 am EDT (8:00 am – 9:00 am CDT).

Call Participants: Eileen Kladviko

**Nathan Johanning
Tom Kaspar
DeAnn Presley
Dean Baas
Scott Wells
Gary Lesoing
David Clay
Matt Ruark
Dave Robison
Barry Fisher
Laurent (Woody) Van Arkel
Ryan Stockwell**

**Absent: Rich Hoormann
Marisol Berti
Jim Hoorman
Anne Verhallen**

The meeting began with a welcome to Board Members by Dean Baas on behalf of the Executive Committee. Appreciation was expressed to Board Members for their willingness to serve and time commitment.

Review of the new MCCC leadership structure – Dean Baas

Dean Baas then reviewed the new leadership structure. The membership, selection and responsibilities of the Executive Committee were discussed. Current Executive Committee members are Dean Baas, Eileen Kladviko, Tom Kaspar, Anne Verhallen and Marisol Berti. Executive Committee selection and responsibilities are detailed under MCCC Executive Committee in the materials provided for the meeting.

The membership, selection and responsibilities of the Board Members was discussed. A current list of Board Members and details of the selection and responsibilities are available under MCCC Board of Directors in the materials provided for the meeting. Board members that are state/province representatives were asked to review your state/province pages on the MCCC website (www.mccc.msu.edu) and provide updated contacts and cover crop information



to Dean Baas at baasdean@anr.msu.edu. A new leadership section is under construction on the MCCC website. We will be including short biographies and photos of the Board Members. If you have not already done so, please send your biography and photo to Dean Baas so we can complete this section.

The Board was informed that the new leadership structure would be communicated to the MCCC membership through the listserv and the MCCC website after this meeting. The document that will be used for this communication is included in the materials provided for the meeting.

Board Member Discussions: Barry Fisher voiced concerns that Board Members might have a conflict of interest or limit MCCC funding opportunities if they work for the potential funding agency such as USDA. The group felt this was not an issue because the MCCC is not a formal entity and as such does not have the capability for fiscal administration and management. Therefore, the MCCC cannot apply for grants. Proposals would be collaborative between MCCC members and submitted by a lead institution. It was also noted that if occasions should arise where Board Members felt their participation would lead to a conflict of interest, that they should remove themselves from the discussion and abstain from any votes on the matter. This will be left to the discretion of the individual.

Business update – Eileen Kladviko, Tom Kaspar and Matt Ruark

Eileen Kladviko discussed the Walton Family Foundation grant that provides funding to Purdue University to establish the MCCC as a program in the Agronomy Department, hire a program manager for the MCCC and evaluate and update the MCCC website and decision tool. This \$104,389, one-year grant was acquired with the assistance of Sarah Carlson of Practical Farmers of Iowa.

The Department Chair has agreed to and supports establishing the MCCC as a program within the Purdue Agronomy Department. This will give the MCCC a “home” to operate from and space has been allocated for the MCCC and program manager. Eileen noted that our most notable obstacle is that we have not yet hired a Program Manager. It has been extremely difficult to find the level of professional person we want, with the right set of skills and experiences, to take a one-year job. We now do have an official offer out, and if they accept, they will start in mid-August. If they do not accept, we have another strong candidate we’ll interview in August. We have already modified the job description such that it is also of interest to Ph.D. candidates. We will consider splitting the job into two part-time jobs with two people in different locations, if we are unsuccessful in this latest round of offers/interviews.

Tom Kaspar then described the purpose of the North Central Coordinating Committee - NCCC-211 and its relationship to the MCCC. NCCC-211 is titled “Cover crops to improve agricultural sustainability and environmental quality in the upper Midwest”. The coordinating committees were established with the goal of fostering collaboration and communication between land-grant university researchers working in similar topic areas to prevent duplication of efforts, share information/products and increase cooperation. NCCC-211 provides funding for its members to travel to one meeting per year to meet this goal. Most NCCC-211 members are also MCCC members. Included in the MCCC annual meeting is an NCCC-211 meeting and the entire meeting supports the efforts of NCCC-211. Because of this interaction, the annually elected NCCC-211 chairperson is an Executive Committee member for their



term. The final report for the first five-year term of NCCC-211 has been submitted and approved in 2015. The proposal for the second five-year term was recently submitted, revised and approved.

Matt Ruark discussed the 2016 MCCC Annual Meeting that will be held in Wisconsin (Please note the agenda contained an error, it should have read 2016, not 2015, MCCC Annual Meeting). Matt solicited input on the meeting from the group. The Board was in agreement the meeting should be held between mid-February and mid-March and timed to avoid other large conferences held around that period such as MOSES, Ohio Conservation Tillage Conference, Commodity Classic, etc. There was discussion around the type of meeting to hold ranging from an MCCC working meeting only similar to the 2014 Warsaw, IN meeting, an MCCC working meeting followed by an MCCC day long open conference with sessions similar to the 2013 London, ON meeting or a combined meeting with another organization similar to the 2015 meeting in West Des Moines, IA. It currently does not look like there is another organization holding a cover crop meeting in Wisconsin that the MCCC meeting could be combined with.

Board Member Discussions: A number of Board Members expressed the need for a broader meeting than an MCCC working meeting including Dave Robison, Woody Van Arkel and Ryan Stockwell. Woody noted that the one day open conference with sessions was critical to the promotion of cover crops and their use.

Considering the input of the Board, Matt will continue to work with the Executive Committee to plan and organize the 2016 MCCC Annual Meeting. Note that Board Members may be asked to serve on the committee to plan the 2016 meeting.

Products update – Eileen Kladviko and Dean Baas

Eileen Kladviko provided an update on the sales of the Midwest Cover Crops Field Guide, 2nd edition. Since its release in September, 2014, the first 20,000 copy printing has sold out. An additional 15,000 print run is currently underway and should be available within six weeks. Minor changes, mainly replacement of photos with better versions, have been made for this print run. There is already back orders for the second printing.

Dean Baas provided an update on the MCCC decision tool. A team from Kansas led by DeAnn Presley is currently working on the Kansas decision tool. Kansas State University provided \$5,000 to the MCCC to support this effort. Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota remain to complete the tool for all the MCCC states/provinces.

Dean also encouraged the Board to consider participating in the development of future products and other MCCC initiatives (i.e. iPad Field Guide, website upgrade, decision tool upgrades) by serving on those subcommittees.

Recent grant proposals and awards – Dean Baas and Group

Tom Kaspar informed the Board of the Iowa Nutrient Research Center being funded by the Iowa Legislature. The center has been funding some cover crop research including examining the effects of cover crops on erosion and phosphorus losses in mini-catchments and the effects of cereal rye cover crops on pathogens of corn and soybean. The legislature has approved funding for an additional year.



Next Board of Directors teleconference call – Dean Baas

Dean will issue a doodle poll to the Board to schedule the next MCCC Board of Directors Teleconference Call sometime in October.

Other business – Group

There was no other business.