

**Crop Variety Release and Distribution Committee (CVRDC)  
Minutes of the Oct. 30, 2006 meeting  
123 Williams Hall (and 202F Kottman-video link)**

**Attendance:**

Clay Sneller, Ann Dorrance, Erin Bender, Rich Pratt, Pierce Paul, John Armstrong, Jack Debolt, David Francis, and Steve St. Martin (Columbus)

Clay Sneller called the meeting to order. 10:40 AM.

Review of Minutes from Feb. 2006.

A correction to the section on non-exclusive release for branding used for OH708. Eleven voted on the e-mail ballot (9 yes, 1 no, 1 abstain).

Motion to approve the minutes as revised was made (DF) and seconded (AD). A vote was called and unanimous approval.

Clay led a review of CVRDC Membership.

Handout with a table of CVRDC representation and membership.

CVRDC #	Category	Current
1	Breeders from HCS	Francis, Pratt, Sneller, St. Martin
2	OSU Extension Agronomist	Jim Beuerlein
3	Chair, HCS	Bill Randle
4	Associate Chair, HCS	Clay Sneller
5	Two reps from PLP	Anne Dorrance, Pierce Paul
6	Rep from Entomology	Dan Herms, Ron Hammond
7	OSIA	John Armstrong
8	OFS	Jack DeBolt
9	Ohio Agribusiness Association	Bernie Steyer
10	Ohio Dept Agriculture Assistant Director, Ag. Industry, OSU	Bill Gault
11	Ext	?
12	USDA-ARS Crop Breeders, Geneticists	Rouf Mian Ellen Purpus, Erin Bender, Jane
13	OTL Ex-officio	New Steve Slack

Dr. Pratt proposed that a committee be formed to review the composition and charge of the committee. Discussion followed about the goals and make up of the committee, including the suggestion that the make up should be revised to reflect more diversity of crops and more diversity of releases. Dr. St. Martin volunteered, Erin Bender volunteered, Dr. Sneller volunteered as administrative representative, and John Armstrong will represent seed industry. The suggestion was that the Director's office should also be represented. Dr. Sneller will issue an invitation.

The charge of the committee will be: To review the membership of the CVRDC and ensure that the make up is effective at carrying out CVRDC functions in light of changes in agriculture. Assess whether the committee is aligned for maximum effectiveness. The committee will evaluate whether the make up of the CVRDC fulfills the need of the seed industry and the OARDC.

OSIA charter views the committee as a variety review board for the purpose of certifying seed.

#### Updates from OSIA – John Armstrong

Iowa Crop Improvement Association Document “Soybean Commercialization Agreement”. Requires inspection of parent seed production by certification agency. The purpose is to maintain and document genetic purity. This is a new precedence.

2007 Annual directory was passed out. Acreage of Certified Seed is at all time low.

Industry continues to consolidate.

#### Ohio Foundation Seeds, Inc. Jack Debolt

Wheat sales of 7,407 in 2006 are down from 15,722 in 2005. 10,440 acres from 2005 was on contract for variety Tribute in 2005; 3,060 bags of OH 708 were “one-time-only” for Canada in 2006. Trend is toward more custom cleaning rather than Foundation seed. Also reflects a trend toward more branded varieties (only Virginia and Ohio continue to release). JG limited has exclusive marketing rights to Rachel through a “proprietary certified” mechanism.

Soybean certified seed of ten varieties produced on 118.5 acres producing 6,569 bushels and estimated cleaned and bagged seed of 6,600. This volume is approx. the same as 2005.

Extensive discussion about the future of Foundation Seed, the seed industry and the role of University research and development followed.

#### Erin Bender, update on OTL.

New vice president of OTL has put in place changes with the goal of improving service. Progress includes more follow through and accounting oversight.

Suggestion by OSIA and Foundation Seed that a pre-published royalty be included with marketing material at the time of release. Paying attention to these issues would help competitive advantage/ competitive parity with other sellers of crop genetics. Goal should have a release statement or a “marketing” sheet with each release.

During discussion a suggestion that ABIG marketing dollars can be used to develop such information as part of the release process.

### Steve St. Martin - Options for PVP application for Dennison soybean

Dennison is unique because of combination of resistance genes (two Rps genes) and partial resistance to phytophthora root rot in a genetic background with high yield.

**Option A.** Do not require that variety be sold as a class of certified seed.

Pros & Cons: This option removes the requirement that seed be certified. It would allow a truly non-exclusive release in that seed could be produced and sold by anyone, not just by OSIA members. Seed would be available cheaply, because the expense of certification (field and laboratory inspection) would be avoided. But the quality control provided by certification would be lacking, and we might also lose control over the license, because OSIA might be unable or unwilling to serve as OSU's agent in monitoring sales and collecting royalties. This option would also have a negative impact on OSIA's inspection-derived revenues.

**Option B.** Require that the variety be sold as a class of certified seed, with two generations (foundation and certified).

Pros & Cons: The two generation system generally controls genetic impurities better than the three-generation system (Option C), so Option B would provide the best quality control. It would allow control over the license, because only OSIA members would be selling the variety. The cost of certification is reduced by eliminating the registered class of seed. This option would provide revenue to both OSIA and especially OFS, since a relatively large amount of foundation seed would need to be produced and sold each year.

**Option C.** Require that the variety be sold as a class of certified seed, with three generations (foundation, registered, and certified).

Pros & Cons: The three-generation system is what we have traditionally used for soybean varieties. It has the advantages of option B, but involves a higher cost for certification, which must be passed to the customer. The three-generation system was designed in the day when sales volumes were high (e.g., 500,000 units/yr) and varieties remained in production for many years. Today, public soybean varieties have much lower seed volumes and in most cases, shorter life spans.

Discussion about the role of PVP followed. The point was raised that if the OARDC is not prepared to defend PVP that the cost of the process may be taking dollars out of research without any foreseeable benefit derived from PVP. John Armstrong argued that there may be Federal protection and even international protection for signatures of various treaties.

Dr. St. Martin favors option B, the two-generation system. Jack Debolt suggested that growers are being conditioned to the two-generation system although this is different from the traditional three-generation system (option C).

It was decided that pursuing a PVP should be left to the discretion of Dr. St. Martin after he meets with the OSIA board.

DF motioned that we advise Dr. St. Martin to pursue option B. The motion was seconded by RP. Call for the vote: Unanimous.

Petition OSIA board for funds from the research committee to pay or cost-share the PVP application. This will at least serve to find out what membership commitment to title 5 is.

Clay Sneller – Germplasm release of OH904 with resistance to wheat scab.

OH904 combines Freedom (chromosome 2 a) and Ning/Sumai 3 sources of resistance. It is carrying a unique combination of genes for resistance, and has very low concentration of vomitoxin (DON). The line is late, tall, and poor yielding. OH904 is therefore proposed as a release for crossing purposes.

JD moved to release, RP seconded the motion. Discussion followed about associated technology (e.g. linked markers). This information is drawn from multi-state collaborative research and will be “public” information. Call to vote, motion passed unanimously.

Richard Pratt mentioned the Feb. CSREES meeting and requested that we provide him information for OSU poster, etc...

Clay Sneller led a discussion regarding meeting times. This meeting was held a month later than normal. The next meeting may be delayed until early April. The committee expressed a desire to remain flexible.

RP motioned to adjourn, AD second. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned 1:30.