**Minutes of the Plant Select® Board of Directors**

**Monday, June 13, 2016**

**CSU Horticulture Center**

**Present:** Jim Klett, Matt Edmundson, Gene Pielin, Brian Vogt, Sarada Krishnan, Ginger Morehouse and Pat Hayward

Jim Klett moved and Sarada seconded approval of minutes from the February 15, 2016 meeting. Motion passed.

The Board of Directors then welcomed Ginger Morehouse as a new member of the board from Colorado State University. Ginger gave a background about herself and previously held a position in CSU Central Development working on industry partnerships. Currently, she is the Development Director for the College of Engineering at Colorado State University.

Pat Hayward then gave a financial report. She reported our income to date is slightly down from projections and membership invoices will be sent out July 1, 2016 for the next fiscal year. It was reported that income from Ball will be less than projected since they will only pay royalties on sales to non-Plant Select® members now. She reported booklet sales are down some mainly due to fact that many utilities still have an inventory on hand. Pat Hayward reported difficulty with her laptop computer and board agreed that she should purchase a new one out of dollars that were allotted to her in the approved 2016 budget.

Jim Klett moved to accept financial report as presented. Motion passed.

Jim Klett then reported to the Board of Directors progress on Plant Select® greenhouse propagation and production proposed research. He stated two graduate students and one research associate have done literature reviews on Plant Select® plants designated by the propagation committee. These are plants that need research so that growers can more successfully produce larger quantities to meet the market demand. A conference call meeting was held on May 17th where Plant Select® growers gave input about their propagation and production procedures about specific, more difficult to propagate Plant Select® plants. Jim stated he is meeting on a regular basis with graduate students and specific experiments have been defined for three Plant Select® plants. These experiments will initiate during the summer of 2016 at the CSU Horticulture Center. Jim Klett also reported that this research was awarded a Colorado Specialty Crop block grant which will start in February 2017 and go for two years in the amount of forty thousand dollars.

Pat Hayward reported she received two applications from nurseries who desire to become members of Plant Select®.

Fort Collins Nursery requested to become a grower member. Since they are located in Colorado, no formal note was required. However, the Board of Directors had no problem with Fort Collins Nursery becoming a grower member. They are already a retail member of Plant Select®.

The second firm desiring to become a grower member is Bron & Sons, Grand Forks, British Columbia, Canada. This nursery primarily grows woody plants. Motion was made and seconded to accept Bron & Sons as a grower member of Plant Select®. Motion passes.

Pat Hayward next gave an update on discussion she has had with Utah State University. She has visited with Richard Anderson and Larry Rupp about their Sego Supreme program in Utah. This program is mainly with herbaceous perennials that are grown from seed. Perennial Favorites in Utah is growing most of these plants. They have introduced three perennials through this program including: Epilobium canum var. garrettii (Wasatch Fire™); Penstemon platyphyllus ‘Uvatung’ and Tetraneuris acaulis var. arizonica – Sol Dancer. Some of these have been trialed in Colorado and have not performed real well. Plant Select® will continue discussions with Utah State University about their introduction program and see if there are mutual benefits for both sides by working together on certain items.

Pat Hayward also stated she has visited with Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden and she stated they have formed an Intellectual Property Committee. They definitely have the goal of making money by introducing certain plants. They are starting some research on breeding ornamental grasses but that is a long term project. They want products from their research to go national. Pat Hayward will continue discussions with them and possibly Plant Select® could have some future activities with them that could be of mutual benefit to Plant Select® and Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden.

The board then started a discussion on what Plant Select® should do about these two potential cooperators and others. The board discussed do we want a franchise model for Plant Select® where we just advise to other plant introduction programs or a corporate model which would be promoting Plant Select® and hopefully would benefit Plant Select® more. Could Plant Select® program expand and could there be a Plant Select® for the Midwest? The question was asked, how do we work with Utah and Des Moines Botanical Garden and let them keep their specific name for their program and also add Plant Select® name to their programs.

The question to the board was what do we have to offer these other programs? Some ideas that we can offer them include: branding, plant material, we could also add their plants to our list of plants. Hopefully Plant Select® can show these other programs how they could benefit by cooperating with Plant Select® on various activities. We could help them due to our experience with legal matters, licensing, registering trademarks and plant patent information. We could help them on building a non-profit and help them build more of a national brand. There is less risk for a newer plant introduction program if they join with more established program like Plant Select®. Plant Select® will need to search for programs that are willing to work with Plant Select® and those that see the benefits of cooperative agreements.

With Utah State University, we can initiate this activity by sharing plant trials of future Plant Select® plants with them and Utah getting some of their trials to Plant Select® for evaluation.

What is the next step for Plant Select®?

A special meeting at DBG will be scheduled with Brian Vogt, Pat Hayward, Gene Pielin, Jim Klett and Ginger Morehouse to think of all the possibilities of expanding Plant Select® and come up with some first steps to present to board for further discussion at next board meeting.

The board next discussed new plant development. The new plan pipeline has potential from Plant Select® sponsored plant explorations to Argentina and from Kazakhstan. Sarada will get list of plants not already in Plant Select® program that are plants at Denver Botanic Gardens and see if any of these plants may merit Plant Select® introductions.

Sarada reported that DBG may send Mike Bone to visit a plant breeder in North Carolina to learn about their plant breeding program.

Pat Hayward stated that in the 2017 brochure, we will be also promoting some of the Plant Select® classics that are also good pollinators.

The dates of the next board meeting are August 22, 2016 at Denver Botanic Gardens at 3:00 p.m. and October 17, 2016 at CSU at 3:00 p.m.

Pat Hayward then went over her Executive Directors report with the board. She stated the June 1, 2016 general meeting with the demonstration garden had 120 attendees from 50 different gardens. We currently have a total of 236 partners.

Matt Edmundson also asked if Gene Pielin would write a short article for the CNGA Looseleaf about research dollars given from Colorado Horticulture Research and Education Foundation to help support Plant Select® research.

Matt Edmundson also asked about potentially having more endorsements of certain woody plants by the Plant Select® program. One possible taxa to consider is Buxus.

With no further business, Matt moved to adjourn and Jim Klett seconded. Motion passed.