



**Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies**

**AOSCA Grass Committee**

**Meeting Agenda**

**Wednesday, June 10, 2020 / 10:00 am Central**

**Chair: Rachel Hankins / Vice Chair: Doug Holen**

1) Call to Order By Chairperson Rachel Hankins at 9:04 CST with 12 members present.

2) Approve Agenda – Doc #20\_AM\_GS\_01

Motion made, seconded, and passed to accept the agenda as presented.

3) Approve Minutes of 2019 Meeting – Doc #20\_AM\_GS\_02

Motion made, seconded, and passed to approve the 2019 Grass Committee minutes from 6-25-19, as distributed.

4) Discuss Committee Proposals – Changes to the Grass VRB Application – Auman

Doc #20\_AM\_GS\_03

Dustin Auman: referenced GVRB meeting in San Antonio on March 10, 2020 in which the committee is generally pleased with the recent changes to the Application form but suggested a wording change was needed to Part II. Descriptive information and Part III Primary use and evidence of performance and adaptation.

Dustin Auman made the motion to strike the words “standard check cultivars taken from the PVP list of stands check” and replace with “released” in both sections. Motion seconded and passed.

5) Letter from Turf Breeders Association (TBA), regarding >5% roguing requirement in the rules on the current Grass VRB Part B application – Doc #20\_AM\_GS\_04

Rachel Hankins outlined the history of the rule change. Dustin Auman stated that complaints about Foundation seed not making the grade and still segregating in Foundation fields had caused the change. Change was put in place last year to address Breeder seed stability and committee acceptance. Questioned what is the next step in addressing the letter submitted by Shaun Bushman on behalf of the Turfgrass Breeder’s Association asking for the” less than 5% roguing” wording be removed? Perennial grasses having the most trouble.

Much discussion followed....Suggestions/Comments included:

- Recommendation that a business meeting be held prior to next GVRB meeting to hear/address issues from the industry, not a problem in native grasses, what generated the standard?
- State to them the Federal Seed Act outlines 5% and this is for the good of the industry, we need a response that outlines AOSCA not in position to monitor Breeder seed designations and for variety acceptance they need to follow criteria and Federal Act says <5% allowable

Peggy reminded us Shaun, author of the TBA letter, comes onto the GVRB this year, as a primary representative. Area of discussion is Part I #6 of the standards. No VRB Committee meeting scheduled for 2020 AOSCA Committee Meetings.

Auman – This statement is needed to give the GVRB a reference backbone with decisions to reject applications based on stability. Review board members need black and white references to evaluate applications decisions. In the past when GVRB has taken no action on varieties that may still be segregating Breeders have pushed back saying there was nothing in the application that indicated that requirement.

Terry Hollifield: Trouble with the current wording (not more than 5% off-types removed), felt the system should be: application, review, determination of stability and uniqueness, with a decision to get end products

Doug Boze – not a new topic, 15 year history of this problem and not just grasses.

**RECAP:** AOSCA or GVRB has no standards authority for Breeder seed declaration, it can't be governed or dictated to its condition but can be a deciding factor in acceptance as a variety. While approved last year, this rule change goes into effect 2023. Michael Bouck offered to relay concerns to Shaun in person. No action at this time until Chet has opportunity to review the discussion and weigh in. There was unanimous agreement that AOSCA should respond to the letter from TBA. No motion needed as no change was initiated.

#### 6) Other Business

Auman outlined the GVRB meeting in San Antonio on 3-10-20. 28 applications submitted with 25 moving forward and 3 no actions. 111 name change revisions.

7) Adjourn Motion made, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting at 11:02 CST.

Minutes reviewed by Chair Rachel Hankins and submitted by Vice Chair Doug Holen.