

American Dahlia Society
Minutes – Executive Committee Meeting
January 5, 2025

Present: Mark Oldenkamp, Linda Holmes-Cook, Alli Richards, Charles Miehm, Terry Schroeder, Bra Freeman, Harry Rissetto, Jerry Landerholm and Ron Miner. Guests present were Dr. Alex Harkess, Kristine Albrecht and Jeff Miner.

The meeting was opened at 1:01 pm PST.

Genome Project

Mark Oldenkamp explained this meeting was to gather information regarding intellectual properties related to the genome project

Dr. Harkess explained the data that has been collected in the Hudson-Alpha Lab to date.

- Building a family tree of all dahlia species through DNA sequencing data
- Reference of one genome assembly
- Collection of 600 leaf tissues and photos of the blooms at the 2021 national show
- Developmental series – mutations that control how dahlias function

Dr. Harkess feels there could be information that would be valuable to breeding companies, such as Ball Seed. There is currently no intellectual properties.

It is felt the ADS could raise money for a post-doctorate person to pursue determination of traits that could be sold to seed/horticultural companies. This would take a minimum of \$330,000. Another alternative would be to partner with another company or government agency to accomplish this. Dr. Harkess suggested that a government agency could be USDA SCRI (US Department of Agriculture, Specialty Crop Research Initiative). Brad Freeman stated Dr. Pappu has applied for some USDA grants for virus research and been unsuccessful. Dr. Harkess agreed they are very difficult to attain.

Dr. Harkess made it clear that all the information belongs to his lab. Once Zach Meharg publishes information, that information will be public. Dr. Harkess said Zach plans to publish four papers.

- Dahlia Genome
- Dahlia Breeding?
- Trait Mapping
- Developmental Series

Dr. Harkess feels genomic prediction, predicting the properties of a cross of two dahlias, could be something that would interest someone.

Mark Oldenkamp brought up the legal needs. It is very expensive to hire an attorney to deal with the legal needs. It is important to make sure there is a market for the information.

If the ADS decides it wants to go farther with the genome project, there are companies that fund sponsored research and that may be a way to get some of the funds needed. The ADS should also set up a research agreement for any further research.

Kristine Albrecht brought up that Zach Meharg needs an additional 6 months to complete his work. This will cost an additional \$20,000. She also requested that none of the money that has been raised be used for anything other than for Zach's work with the genome project.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm PST.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Schroeder, Secretary

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