



NAPA

Association of Nepalese Agricultural Professionals of Americas

NAPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

5th EC Meeting Minutes

Saturday, October 31, 2020; 7:30 CST

Executive Committee

President

Dr. Megha N. Parajulee

Vice President

Dr. Pradeep Wagle

General Secretary

Dr. Ramjee Ghimire

Joint Secretary

Dr. Dev Paudel

Treasurer

Dr. Santosh Dhakal

Members

Dr. Aditya Khanal

Ms. Gita Koirala Bhandari

Dr. Nityananda Khanal

Dr. Shyam L. Kandel

Dr. Sushil Thapa

Dr. Uma Karki

Attendance

Executive Committee	Megha N. Parajulee, Pradeep Wagle, Ramjee Ghimire, Dev Paudel, Santosh Dhakal, Aditya Khanal, Gita Koirala Bhandari, Nityananda Khanal, Sushil Thapa, Uma Karki
Informed in absentia	Shyam Kandel
Uninformed in absentia	
Invitee (s)	Lila Karki (Informed Absent)

- i. **Welcome and housekeeping matters:** General Secretary hosted the meeting and welcomed the members.
- ii. **Welcome notes:** President Dr. Megha N. Parajulee congratulated the Conference Organizing Committee (COC) led by Dr. Lila B. Karki for successfully completing the conference. He proposed to felicitate Dr. Karki, Conference Secretary Dr. Santosh Dhakal and the entire COC team for successfully hosting the conference in the difficult pandemic situation. President Parajulee also proposed to move the net revenue generated from the 2nd Biennial Conference to NAPA Endowment Fund. He proposed to create an Endowment Committee to expedite fund collection for endowment and manage Endowment Fund. He also requested to EC to authorize President, Vice President and General Secretary to nominate members for the Endowment Committee. The EC unanimously approved these proposals. EC members are requested to recommend names of suitable candidates for the Endowment Committee to General Secretary for consideration.
- iii. **NAPA 2nd Biennial Conference Report:** 2nd Biennial Conference Secretary Dr. Santosh Dhakal presented a summary of conference along with its major events and accomplishments. Following is the summary including revenue and expenses of the conference:
 - 161 abstracts were submitted; 102 were registered; and 84 were finally presented during the conference.
 - 358 scientific scholars representing 83 different institutions were involved as authors/co-authors.
 - Abstracts were submitted from seven countries (USA, Nepal, Nigeria, Australia, Canada, Benin Republic, and Morocco).
 - There were 19, 25, and 6 competitive presentations in each of Student Oral, Poster, and Rapid-fire Competitions.
 - There were 34 non-competitive oral and poster presentations.



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- 14 essays were submitted for Student Essay Competition.
- 67 poems were received for Agri-poem competition.
- Entrepreneurs roundtable, NAPA strategic roundtable, and Women in Agricultural and Allied Professions (WAAP)'s roundtables were organized successfully.
- 151 participants registered for the conference in total.
- A total of \$6,462.55 donation fund was collected.
- A total of \$2150 prize money was distributed for Student Oral Competition; Student Poster Competition; Student Essay Writing Competition, Student Rapid-fire Competition; Agri-poem Recitation. A total of 21 participants were awarded.
- The actual amount received by NAPA through conference registration and donation, after subtracting the fees by PayPal and Ticket Teller, was \$9,310.86. Conference expenses including awards and IT management was \$3,368.87. The net income to the organization from the conference was \$5941.99.

iv. **Update on Committee Activities:** Committee

Chairs/Coordinators/Advisor provided updates about their committee activities.

- **Women in Agriculture and Allied Professions (WAAP):** Committee Chair Ms. Gita Koirala informed that WAAP successfully hosted an interaction inviting women professionals during the conference. Database of women agricultural professionals is being updated.
- **Membership Drive Committee:** Vice President Dr. Wagle updated that there are 317 good standing members as of October 31.
- **Agri-Connection (AC) Editorial Committee:** AC Chief Editor Dr. Sushil Thapa informed that AC Editorial team is working and planning to have the draft of the next AC issue ready by the end of November and release the final version in December.
- **Student Coordination Committee (SCC):** SCC Advisor Dr. Santosh Dhakal briefly updated few discussion points (e.g., counseling and professional development activities) of SCC meeting held on October 31, 2020.
- **GJAAS:** Vice President Dr. Wagle and President Dr. Parajulee informed that they are working on the next issue of GJAAS, which is scheduled for December 2020 or early January.

- v. **Establish a “Career and Outreach Committee”:** A new committee under the leadership of Dr. Pramod Pokharel, who is also coordinating the task of providing graduate assistantship related information through NAPA website, has been proposed and approved. Member only programs will be the priority for this committee.



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- vi. **Discussion on Research Mini-Grants:** RCBC Chair Dr. Nitya Nanda Khanal proposed the release of call for mini grants effective November 1, 2020. Last date for submission of proposal will be December 31, 2021. Selection will be completed by January 31, 2020 and contract with awardees will be done by February 15, 2021. A website with details including template to submit proposal will be developed and made available on November 1. The EC unanimously approved this proposal.
- vii. **Discussion on the 3rd Biennial Conference:** President Parajulee proposed to host the 3rd Biennial Conference during the memorial weekend of 2022 (May 27 – 30). The EC unanimously approved this motion. Modalities (online, in-person, hybrid) and venue for the conference will be decided later.
- viii. **Celebrating NAPA Day on or around January 6, 2021:** Vice President Wagle has been authorized to develop a program for NAPA Day encompassing kid's talent/kid activities, agri-poem recital, cultural event, etc. and to share it with the EC members. The program will be finalized after receiving comments/input from the EC members.
- ix. **Financial update:** Treasurer Dr. Santosh Dhakal informed that NAPA currently has \$33,825.25 balance in its account in Chase Bank.
- x. **Other matters:** Gita Koirala suggested to use fund collection and transfer method that charges less transaction fees. Vice President Wagle informed that Zelle is the preferred method as it is free for major banks in the USA and NAPA has been informing its members to use Zelle if possible. However, those who do not have access to or are unaware of Zelle are still using other methods (credit card or PayPal) and that is costing NAPA relatively more fee.

Dr. Uma Karki suggested that NAPA should celebrate the World Food Day by organizing an event as in previous years. We missed to organize it in 2020 due to preparation of the conference and agreed to continue observance of this day.
- xi. **Meeting adjourn:** Vice President Wagle provided the summary of the meeting and adjourned the meeting.