



# NAPA

## Association of Nepalese Agricultural Professionals of Americas

### NAPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 7<sup>th</sup> EC Meeting Minutes

Sunday, February 28, 2021; 7:00 - 9:00 PM 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

<b>Executive Committee</b>	Megha N. Parajulee, Pradeep Wagle, Ramjee Ghimire, Dev Paudel, Santosh Dhakal, Gita Koirala Bhandari, Nityananda Khanal, Sushil Thapa, Uma Karki
<b>Informed in absentia</b>	Shyam Kandel
<b>Uninformed in absentia</b>	Aditya Khanal
<b>Invitee</b>	

1. General Secretary Dr. Ramjee Ghimire welcomed EC members and began the meeting.
2. **NAPA Endowment Fund:** President Dr. Megha N. Parajulee welcomed EC members and provided an update about the NAPA Endowment Fund. He informed that as of this meeting, NAPA has received a total pledge of \$57,440.99 (Seed Endowment Fund: \$749; 2020 Conference surplus money separated for endowment: \$5,941.99; Total new pledge: \$50,750) towards this fund. NAPA Endowment Fund Advisory Board is working to develop a detailed outline and promotional materials. EC members are requested to contribute to this fund in whatever amount they could.
3. **Update on Committee Activities:**

**Agri-Connection:** Dr. Sushil Thapa shared that upcoming March 2021 issue of AC is being prepared. This issue will showcase news about NAPA activities including the recently concluded panel discussion on “Scientific Writing and Publication”, Research Mini-Grant programs, recently held and upcoming webinars, NAPA Endowment Fund, news articles, and scientific articles written by the committee members. Dr. Thapa proposed to include commercial advertisement in the upcoming issues of AC so that NAPA could generate some revenues. EC unanimously agreed that this is an excellent idea. The EC will explore its legal aspects and if there are no legal issues to do so. The AC Committee will develop advertisement rates and procedures for discussion and approval from EC and hopefully execute this plan from issue 6(2).



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**Book Marketing:** Vice President Dr. Wagle informed that the books in Nepal have to be bought to the U.S. and requested members to help with this if they know anyone in their circle is coming from Nepal. It is better if we can spread out books across the U.S. in small amounts so that those can be sold locally without necessity of bearing high shipping costs. He also requested to help with book marketing both in Nepal and the U.S.

**Career & Outreach Committee (COC):** COC Chair has been working along with RCBC to implement NAPA RMG program.

**Membership Drive Committee:** Vice President Wagle informed that NAPA membership strength is steadily increasing. Seventeen new members, including 6 life members have joined after the last EC meeting. There are 337 good standing members (life members: 103, student members: 130, associate members: 61) altogether as of this meeting date.

**Policy and Research Brief Committee (PRB):** Vice President Wagle informed that the PRB Editorial Committee is working to publish a next issue of Policy and Research Brief soon; and two groups of authors are working on two PRBs.

**Webinar Committee:** General Secretary Ghimire informed that upcoming webinar is on March 7, 2021 and requested all members to attend it. EC officials are working with the Webinar Committee to recruit potential speakers from NAPA members focusing on research-based topics for future webinars.

**Women in Agricultural and Allied Professions (WAAP):** WAAP Chair Gita Koirala informed that her team has been working to identify program areas for interactions. One of the topics suggested at the meeting is to brainstorm to increase female student members and women's participation in NAPA activities. This has been particularly important since female students are around half of the agricultural students in Nepal and the U.S. and, but their representation in NAPA is around 20% only.

**Student Coordination Committee (SCC):** SCC monthly meeting was held on February 27, 2021. The SCC meeting discussed about few professional development activities, including counseling on immigration (e.g., OPT and Green Card applications), graduate life management (e.g., stress management, time management), and research and career services (e.g., statistical analysis, grant



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writing). EC in coordination with SCC and other NAPA committees continues to organize such events. SCC Advisor Dr. Dhakal will work with NAPA leadership to hold such events.

**Resource and Capacity Building Committee:** RCBC Chair Dr. Nityananda Khanal provided updates on Research Mini-Grant programs, including 16 projects selected for funding. He informed the two upcoming meetings related to RMG, i.e., Introductory Meeting on March 4, 2021 and Orientation on Research Ethics and Integrity on March 11, 2021 and urged all EC members to participate in those meetings. March 4<sup>th</sup> orientation will cover research ethics and integrity along with the protocols to be followed for human as well as animal subject research.

4. **NAPA Nepal Chapter:** President Parajulee informed that as discussed and agreed on the preceding EC meeting held on December 20, 2021, the need for a NAPA Nepal Chapter has been recognized. However, the current NAPA by-laws does not afford such provision. President Parajulee proposed to form a Task Force to study the scope and legal as well other formalities and suggest to EC; EC unanimously approved this proposal. President Parajulee in consultation with Vice President and General Secretary will propose such a Task Force to EC for their discussion and approval electronically before next EC meeting.
5. **NAPA Member Database:** Vice President Wagle informed that he along with Joint Secretary Dr. Dev Paudel, former Joint Secretary and life member Dr. Ananta Acharya, and life member Dr. Pramod Pokhrel are working to synthesize the information members have provided for members' database/profile.
6. **Felicitating Pioneering Agri-professionals and/or Agri-Entrepreneurs:** As agreed on the preceding EC meeting held on December 20, 2021, starting from upcoming Annual General Meeting, NAPA will start felicitating agricultural professionals and/or agricultural entrepreneurs annually who have made exemplary contribution to Nepalese agricultural development. NAPA will also start felicitating its members who have spent significant time volunteering for NAPA. President Parajulee proposed to form a Task Force to develop a working procedure and select such professionals, which EC unanimously approved.
7. **Collaboration with Professional Associations:** EC leadership team is exploring a date to hold meetings with other professional



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organizations in the United States, Nepal, and beyond to hold an interactive meeting for initiating professional collaborations.

8. **Annual General Meeting Date and Time:** EC decided to hold its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting on May 29, 2021 (Saturday). All NAPA members with good standing will be informed of this AGM date and time in advance as stipulated in the by-laws.
9. **By-laws Amendment Committee:** EC approved a by-laws amendment committee comprising Dr. Pradeep Wagle (Chair), Dr. Nitya Nanda Khanal (Member), Dr. Kalpana Khanal (Member), Dr. Surendra Karki (Member) and Dr. Narayan Khadka (Member). The committee will review the current NAPA by-laws and suggest necessary amendments to EC.
10. **Financial Update:** Treasurer Dr. Santosh Dhakal provided financial update. NAPA account balance at the conclusion of the 6<sup>th</sup> EC meeting in December was **\$37,639.93**. Since then, NAPA has received **\$3,473.18** additional money primarily from membership and Research Mini-Grant contributions. The current balance is **\$41,113.11**.
11. **Opening a New Savings Account:** Some amount of balance that NAPA currently has could be invested for better returns. The EC authorized General Secretary Dr. Ramjee Ghimire and Treasurer Dr. Santosh Dhakal to open a savings account for this purpose in a commercial bank. This account will be jointly operated by these two officials.
12. **Opening a NAPA Endowment Account:** To better manage NAPA Endowment Fund, the EC approved opening a separate account in a commercial bank for NAPA Endowment Fund. This account will be jointly operated by NAPA President and NAPA Endowment Fund Advisory Board Member, Dr. Megha Nath Parajulee and NAPA Treasurer Dr. Santosh Dhakal.
13. **Introduction/Welcome Program with Nepalese Ambassador to the U.S. Dr. Yub Raj Khatiwada:** EC is working to hold this event soon.
14. **Adjournment:** Vice President Wagle thanked everyone for active participation and adjourned the meeting.