



NAPA

Association of Nepalese Agricultural Professionals of Americas

NAPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

12th Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2022, 6 - 8 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

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

1. General Secretary Dr. Ramjee Ghimire called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM CST. President Dr. Megha N. Parajulee welcomed all committee members and provided a brief update about the upcoming 3rd Biennial International Scientific Conference. He expressed concerns over COVID-19 and shared that he has contacted hotel in Atlanta just if in-person conference is not possible due to COVID. We are waiting to hear back from hotel. He also informed that as of today (Jan 22) only 74 abstracts have been submitted for presentation at the conference and this is far lower than we anticipated. Scientific Committee is calling a meeting to encourage and expedite submission. President requested EC members to submit their abstracts, if not done already, and also to request their friends and students to do the same.
2. **Committee Progress/Updates:**
Agri-Connection (AC): The latest (Volume 6 Issue 4) has just been released. The preparation for the upcoming issue (Volume 6, Issue 5) will begin soon. All committee members are encouraged to submit new articles and share suggestions for continued improvement of AC.

RCBC: Responding to the expectations of RMG students, RCBC plans to organize a session on "Introduction to R for Data Analysis" with Dr. Dev Paudel and Dr. Anil Adhikari as the resource persons. Google poll will be sent out to identify a feasible date/time for the



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students. Also, RCBC is planning for a meeting of the NAPA and local advisors who are advising to RMG students to discuss current status of advising and way forward. Because Microsoft Excel also has some good data analysis features, we also plan to provide training to RMG students on Excel.

The committee also agreed to check if RMG students have submitted abstracts for the conference and follow up with those who have not submitted yet.

NAPA Book: Potential institutions in Nepal have been informed of the availability of NAPA book and the order for few books have been received. However, no transaction has been made due to COVID-19. There are about 50 books with Dr. Wagle in Oklahoma. We need to meet soon to strategize and speed up book marketing and distribution.

Webinar Committee: The next webinar by Dr. Yadu Pokharel is scheduled on January 30, 2022. Another webinar is planned for March with NAPA life member Dr. Kapana Khanal.

IT committee: Names of members of various conference subcommittees will be updated soon on the website.

Membership Drive Committee: Data for good standing members in NAPA as of today is as follow:

Member categories	Numbers
Life members	107
General/Regular	26
Student	154
Associate Members	69
Family/Joint	18
Total	374

Endowment Fund: \$20,500 has been invested in Vanguard. EFAB is exploring other such investing opportunities as new funds become available.

President Dr. Parajulee proposed if NAPA should consider NAPA life members as a possible venue for NAPA fund investment. The rationale for this proposal included: a) flexible inhouse investment option, and 2) provide additional member service to life members.



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Members discussed this proposal briefly and raised the following issues: (i) NAPA is a professional organization and such monetary transaction may be a distraction and affect its other regular and priority activities, (ii) Such level of monetary activities may require a dedicated treasurer (or staff) with enough accounting experience for effective management of funds, (iii) If implemented, how and who will follow up with the lenders and defaulters? What and how the defaulters will be handled with? These were the critical issues identified by the discussion that NAPA needed to consider before such proposal is further discussed.

Therefore, the committee agreed to table this proposal until it receives explanation to these concerns and a clear roadmap on the investment plan that EFAB Secretary Dr. Prem B. Bhandari is preparing for further discussion.

Student CC: The December SCC meeting discussed (a) informing all student members of NAPA's upcoming conference and requesting them to submit abstracts, (b) organizing seminars on a job search, and (c) preparation required to apply to the U.S. universities for graduate studies [intended for Nepal-based students] during the conference.

- 3. Formation of Election Commission:** The committee nominated Gopi Upreti (Chair), Kemika Bhandari (Member) and Dhananjaya Dhakal (Member) as the officials for the Election Commission who will conduct the election of the new NAPA Executive Committee during the upcoming conference. President, Vice President and General Secretary are authorized to nominate the officials should these nominees decline the request.
- 4. Financial Report:** Treasurer Dr. Santosh Dhakal presented the financial report as follows.



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Meeting date	1/22/22
Regular accounts	Balance (\$)
PayPal	313.16
Regular Chase Cheking account	2,000.00
Regular Chase Savings account	30385.23
Subtotal	32698.39
Endowment fund accounts	Balance (\$)
EF Chase Checking account	2000
EF Chase Savings account	367.41
Subtotal	2367.41
Vanguard investment	
Investment	20500
Value as of 1/22/22	19,529.61
Total	54,595.41
Key activities	
RMG second installment payment	
KSU overpayment returned (\$1545.2)	
EF plege 2021 received.	
RMG: Dr. Puma Kandel, not received yet.	
Deposits in Nepal.	

5. Other matters:

5.1 Mode of Conference -- Virtual or In-person: The conference committee will meet in the first week of February and assess the COVID situation and plan the conference accordingly.

5.2 Citation of Book or Chapters in the NAPA's Book: A query was shared how we can cite information/contents from the NAPA's maiden book "*Principles and practices of food security: sustainable, sufficient, and safe food for healthy living in Nepal*" so that those citations are recorded and shown in the Google Scholar or other online platforms. The committee agreed to explore further on this matter.



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5.3 Webinar: EC member Dr. Uma Karki noted that NAPA Webinar has been the hallmark of information sharing among members and beyond, but it is time to review the overall value and effectiveness of NAPA webinars. To make webinars more effective and impactful, members suggested to (a) develop a framework/policy and identify thematic areas that future webinars should cover, and (b) write review papers periodically based on the knowledge gained and lessons-learned from the completed webinars. The committee plans to execute these recommendations for increased scope and value of webinars.

5.4 Internal Audit: NAPA plans to nominate three members to conduct internal audit of our current activities including account maintenance, organizational records, and others. Once identified, the names of those members will be shared with EC for approval and specific charge will be assigned to the committee.

5.5 Other: NAPA's financial transactions and institutional activities have been in the rise. NAPA may soon need a person who possesses experience of and can help with financial/accounting matters and another person with legal background to advise on legal matters.

6. Vice President Dr. Pradeep Wagle thanked members for attending the meeting and adjourned the meeting.