



MPGA Board Meetings

Summary of Minutes

Board Meeting – October 21, 2002

Manitoba Crop Insurance Meeting Report

MCIC has proposed to increase the number of bean classes from 4 to 7. The classes proposed for 2003 are pinto, white pea beans, blacks, red Mexicans, kidney, cranberry, and other coloured beans. The soybean map is to be expanded but variety restrictions will still exist.

Manitoba Pulse Crop Production Strategy Paper

MPGA's strategic plan has been printed and will be distributed to key federal and provincial people. Don Sissons and Lincoln Wolfe presented the strategy paper to Gordon Dorrell and Steve Morgan Jones in Ottawa. Several board members attended a meeting with Minister Wowchuk and her staff to present and discuss provincial challenges identified in the document.

Pulse Canada Initiatives

Pulse Canada has contracted the service of Mark Goodwin to promote the industry and take action on pest management and harmonization issues.

KAP Meeting Report

KAP has drafted a discussion paper in response to the Business Risk Management chapter of the Agriculture Policy Framework (APF). They have put forward recommendations related to the NISA program and the Production Insurance Program.

National Edible Bean Committee

Lincoln Wolfe will be MPGA representative on this committee.

Manitoba Government's Mexican Trade Mission in February or March of 2003

MPGA will let Minister Wowchuk know that we are supportive of this trade mission and will be participating. This will provide MPGA an opportunity to promote the concept of a Canadian Bean Congress in Mexico in 2004.

Board Meeting – November 29–30, 2002

Mike Lesiuk gave MPGA Board a presentation on Safety Net Programs as outlined under the APF. The Safety Net Program is moving towards a based-on-need program. A NISA "feedback" forum is available on the Government Web site at *Production Insurance/NISA Linkage*. MPGA is concerned that Manitoba is not committing their share to federal programs. There is concern that producers are not fully aware of the impact of the new APF to their operations.

Report on Meeting with Gordon Dorrell and Steve Morgan Jones in Ottawa

MPGA's strategic plan was presented and open discussions took place. The following needs of Manitoba were discussed: need for

a bean breeder in Morden; need for a pea pathologist position in Morden; increased support to the pea program in Brandon, need for soybean breeding and pathology program in the province.

Pulse Canada

Gord Bacon, CEO of Pulse Canada, presented an overview of Pulse Canada's 3-year plan. This plan will be presented at Pulse Canada's board meeting in December. MPGA raised the following issues: Food Safety, Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs), and NAFTA pesticide harmonization work. In discussion of research funding MPGA's view is that funding must be based on issues that will make a positive change in the industry. A motion was made to increase MPGA funding to Pulse Canada in 2003 to \$50,000.00 based on 10% of levy revenue in 2002. Motion was made to allocate a total of \$200,000.00 to the 2003 research budget. This would be broken down as follows: \$110,000 to bean research, \$35,000 to soybean research, \$35,000 to pea research and \$20,000 to other projects.

Board Meeting – January 15, 2003

Budget 2003 – The finance committee is to meet and set the 2003 budget. With increased involvement by MPGA in a number of issues, the requirement of the Executive Manager is surpassing the capabilities of one person. The budget allocated in 2003 to administration/staff will be increased to allow for the hiring of a policy analyst and additional communication support.

Research Funding

A total of \$177,405 has been approved for 2003. The Soybean, Edible bean and Pea/Lentil committees will meet to finalize approved projects for 2003. A total of \$200,000.00 is available.

Crop Insurance

MPGA will notify MCIC that we would like edible beans under an Individual Coverage program without a hail-adjusted option.

Minor Use Pesticide Registration

Imme Gerke, the Minor Use Advisor with Health Canada informed the board that there is the provision for producers to identify crop protection products not available for use in Manitoba. Manitoba's Minor Use Coordinator is Rhonda Kurtz. Producers and grower groups can contact Rhonda with their concerns or contact the MPGA office that will pass them on.

On-Farm Safety

Canada Grains Council has formed a steering committee chaired by Brent VanKoughnet to developing an on-farm HACCP based food safety pilot project for Canada's grains, oilseeds, pulses and special crop producers. MPGA is concerned growers need input into this issue to ensure the cost of the program is not off-loaded from the industry to the producer. There is also concern that farm audits will be mandatory and risk management programs will be cross-compliant.