



## MPGA Board Meetings

### Summary of Minutes

#### Board Meeting – July 5, 2005

**Meeting With Minister Wowchuk** – A number of important issues were discussed including the need for disaster assistance due to spring flooding, the need for a long-term water management strategy in Manitoba, the lack of predictability with CAIS, and concerns regarding the reorganization of MAFRI and amalgamation of MCIC and MACC. MPGA thanked the government for the ARDI funding provided to Pulse Canada for the Pulse Innovation Project to help investigate value-added opportunities for Manitoba pulse producers.

**Quality and Utilization Project** – On behalf of Pulse Canada, Marlene Boersch presented a report on a program developed to aid organizations in evaluating the net effect of various research proposals based on potential market share changes, cost of production and other factors.

**Disaster Assistance Strategies** – Danny Penner (former board member) discussed the governments' response to the 1997 "flood of the century" with the creation of the Jobs and Economic Recovery Initiative (JERI) program. Board members agreed to pursue implementation of a similar program given the spring conditions, requesting money not just for farmers but to provide economic aid for all of southern Manitoba. MPGA will discuss this issue with KAP and other producer groups, AMM, and the municipal, provincial and federal levels of government.

**Variety Registration Working Group Meeting** – Policy Director, T. Jones represented MPGA at the meeting. Recommendations from the working group included amalgamation of schedules to streamline the process; recognition that more producers should be involved in the process, indications that pre-registration data and adaptability or post-registration data will be decoupled with more onus on industry and growers to provide that information. It will be very important that producers have strong representation on the proposed Crop Specific Working Groups that would replace current Variety Registration Committees.

**CAIS Meetings** – K. Rothenburger reported on three main topics: advances, crop insurance linkage and deposit requirements. Producer concerns about accessing advance payments due to the potential for over-estimates and the need to repay the funds are being addressed through the establishment of benchmarks. It was emphasized that CAIS was not designed to replace crop insurance but there are important linkages and one suggested change is that if a producer is eligible for a CAIS payment then he/she may get their crop insurance premium back. Several CAIS deposit options were reviewed, but it is unlikely the deposit option will be completely eliminated.

**OSG/CSEA Conference Call** – M. Froebe and B. Brolley reported OSG has taken more proactive approach in market development opportunities and has proposed a national soybean grower organization.

**Pulse Canada Report** – J. Froese announced 2 new staff members have been hired: Peter Watts – Director of Market

Innovation and Julianne Kawa – Manager of Market Innovation; Theresa Le Sliworsky has resigned.

**Beans for Health Alliance** – L. Wolfe will be attending the US Dry Bean Council meetings and will participate in the BHA meetings that are associated with this meeting. MPGA continues to be interested in BHA and will monitor the opportunities as the organization's government funding ends in December of 2005.

**Mexico Market Development** – D. Sissons and T. Stewart have been accepted to the IICA-Canada Farmer Exchange Program. The producer exchange is being scheduled in conjunction with the 2005 Canada-Mexico Bean Congress Dec 7 – 15th.

#### Board Meeting – July 27, 2005

**US Dry Bean Convention** – President L. Wolfe attended this convention in San Diego. The US Dry Bean Council, the American Dry Bean Board and the Beans for Health Alliance are likely to merge to form one association called Bean Alliance USA. Pulse Canada presented information on the Pulse Innovation Project and the value of an international approach to promoting pulses. The Beans for Health Alliance provided an overview of the preliminary results of research projects including heart disease, type-2 diabetes, phenolic content and antioxidant activity of various bean classes, colon health and cholesterol. Early results of one project indicate up to a 12% change to blood cholesterol without any diet change other than adding one-half cup of beans per day. One priority identified to gain global market share is breeding for shorter cooking times based on shortages of time and energy resources.

**Check-off Legislation** – Policy Director, T. Jones, reported KAP has requested support from commodity groups to re-open the provincial check-off legislation. In a motion, the MPGA Board indicated opposition to re-opening the legislation at this time.

**OSG/CSEA** – B. Brolley and T. Jones reported that terms of reference have been developed for the proposed Canadian Soybean Council with membership from Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba grower groups in addition to CSEA and CIGL. MPGA has a funding policy and formula in place for Pulse Canada and would apply the same equation for this organization.

**Pulse Canada Market Development Meeting** – Pulse Canada is in the process of hosting consultations across the country as part of the process to develop a 3-year market development strategy. All MPGA directors were invited to attend to identify priorities.

**Pulse Canada Update** – J. Froese has been re-elected for a one-year term as Chairman of the Pulse Canada Board. Pulse Canada continues to negotiate with AAFC to fulfill the requirements to access \$3.2 million for the Pulse Innovation Project; renovations to house additional staff for the project are underway, as are some of the initial consultations with industry stakeholders to develop the committees for the project.