



## MPGA Board Meetings

### Summary of Minutes

#### Board Meeting – October 26, 2005

**Meeting with Reg Alcock** – The meeting was a great opportunity to meet with a senior minister in western Canada regarding rural/farm topics, which are not typically political winners. Topics of discussion included water management, market access, farm income, research and human resource retention.

**AMM and KAP Meeting** – The purpose of this meeting was to clarify the role of municipalities regarding water management as well as the role of the province. KAP indicated that they will be working with stakeholders to develop a consensus on water management and will involve MPGA.

**MAFRI Value Chain Initiative** – MRAC and MAFRI are working to develop a strategy to foster the development of value-chains in Manitoba. The government recognizes that value-chains may decrease costs of production rather than increase profits and targets 5% of producers being involved in the development of value-chains in province.

**KAP General Council Meeting** – Policy Director, T. Jones, attended the meeting which included a report on water quality management zones. The major concern to the producer is that this proposal could ultimately mean different parts of a field being zoned differently, therefore having different restrictions. Concerns were noted, and all stakeholders were encouraged to be proactive in pursuing changes.

**National Forum on Seed** – T. Jones attended the meeting to discuss a pre-proposal on changes to variety registration, with an actual proposal likely to be available in the next 12 months. Registration will include a tiered system with Tier One requiring merit and Tier Two involving only listing (exemptions will still exist).

**Pulse Canada Update** – J. Froese reported that subcommittee meetings of the Pulse Innovation Project are being conducted and participants are very enthusiastic. Consultants have summarized some previous research but the committees feel more information is needed to identify both positives and negatives of pulses and help to make decisions. Pulse Canada met with Wayne Easter and Minister Mitchell's office to discuss a variety of issues including the upcoming Science and Innovation consultations, the lack of a bean breeder in Ontario and phyto-sanitary issues with India.

**Canadian Soybean Council** – M. Froebe reviewed the press release proclaiming the formation of the Canadian Soybean Council and noted the excellent

media coverage. CSC has intentions to focus on export market development and research and is not looking at working on policy issues. M. Froebe requested an MPGA representative attend the CSC development meeting tentatively scheduled for December 7 & 8.

**CIGI** – M. Froebe reported that during the recent CIGI Asia Soybean Course visit, Manitoba soybean production was profiled including a presentation of soybean production in Manitoba by MPGA and MAFRI, a tour of variety trials and a trade reception hosted by Manitoba Trade and Investment.

**2005 Variety Trial Results** – Due to a late harvest and difficult growing conditions there will be limited data available for publication. The MPGA board recommended that all information that was available be provided and to note data availability in the Pulse Beat and on the website in the future.

#### Board Meeting – November 25, 2005

**AAFC Science and Innovation Consultations** – L. Wolfe, S. McCutcheon and J. Froese attended the meeting to discuss the future of agriculture research and funding. Participants emphasized the need for maintaining agronomic research, the impact of trade issues on agriculture and concerns about researcher retirements and the availability of adequately trained people to fill the positions. The federal government feels that there needs to be a way to relate research back to the consumer so they can see this as an investment in their future.

**FIHAV (Cuba)** – D. Sissons and T. Jones attended the 23rd International Fair in Havana, Cuba and noted opportunities for trade with that country, but also obstacles including increased competition from the US.

**Pulse Canada Market Development** – D. Sissons reported that consultations have taken place for the development of a new 3-Year Strategy for Market Development with Pulse Canada.

**MAFRI WTO Workshop** – D. Sissons attended the meeting chaired by Minister Wowchuk, Carolynn Osbornne (Senior analyst for MAFRI) and Todd Hunter from AAFC. The WTO process has derailed and there are some major concessions that are being proposed that could have significant adverse effects. Questions remain about what fits into Green, Blue and Amber boxes. Crop insurance, CAIS and research funding are all areas of concern based on how they are perceived at WTO level. MPGA will continue to monitor the process and provide input as required.



## MPGA Board Meetings

### Summary of Minutes (continued)

**KAP Commodity Group Meeting** – Attended by T. Jones, N. Friesen and L. Wolfe, the meeting included an update on the provincial Wildlife Compensation damage program and a Sector council update regarding human resource challenges faced by the agriculture community and how that could be addressed. A review of On-Farm Food Safety Programs indicates that many sectors of livestock production have developed programs while Grains and Oilseeds have relied on IP production to ensure traceability. The issue of Water Management was introduced by MPGA, to build consensus on how to involve federal, provincial and municipal governments and KAP advised that a resolution would be needed at their AGM to provide a mandate.

**Pulse Canada Update** – G. Bacon reported on the national Science and Innovation Consultations that the message is that there needs to be a change in direction for agriculture research. The current funding model is not providing funding to drive the industry forward.

**Pulse Innovation Project** – P. Watts, Director of Market Innovation with Pulse Canada, provided an overview of activities to date that include profiling pulses in an episode of “Taste of Manitoba,” Junior Achievers, and articles in the National Post. There are long-term and short-term communication efforts as well as research efforts that are underway or need to be identified and pursued.

**2006 Budget** – A motion was passed that the MPGA board allocate \$225,000 to fund research projects in 2006. Additionally, the MPGA board identified through a motion that \$76,500 be allocated to support Pulse Canada’s activities.

**2006 Election of Directors** – The nomination committee of K. Rothenburger, L. Wolfe, and D. Lange was appointed and asked to provide three names for nomination at the February 9th AGM. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. Directors whose terms expire are F. Greig, M. Froebe and J. Froese.

### Board Meeting – January 17, 2006

**Grains Industry Symposium** – S. McCutcheon and K. Rothenburger reported on the numerous issues discussed at this event. The Own-Use Import Permit program was an important item of conversation, DOHA round of trade was discussed extensively and the election impacted on who was able to speak on the issues, so there were many more senior staff rather than elected officials. MPGA discussed and tabled the

topic of joining the Grain Growers of Canada until after the Strategic Planning session in March.

**2005 Canada-Mexico Bean Congress** – 22 Canadian participants representing Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario were pleased with the success of the second Congress. Invitations were extended to Mexican counterparts to attend the MPGA Annual Tour and for a producer exchange similar to the IICA exchange that D. Sissons and T. Stewart participated in. Areas of common interest continue to be NAFTA, food and marketing trends, and promotion of the health benefits of pulse crops as well as opportunities for increasing research collaboration.

**NAFTA** – S. McCutcheon attended the NAFTA TWG meeting in Charleston. Both industry and producer groups are working at providing solutions for harmonized registrations and the difficulties being encountered with the Own-Use Import program. Mark Goodwin’s work continues to be extremely valuable in resolving these types of issues.

**Canadian Soybean Council** – Jim Gowland (OSG) chaired the meeting attended by M. Froebe and T. Jones to discuss partnerships between Ontario (OSG), Quebec (FPPCQ) and potentially Atlantic Canada. Communications, Market Development and Research were key areas of discussion. A mission statement was developed for the Council and was endorsed by the MPGA board.

**MPGA Regional Trials** – Parthiba reviewed the 2005 trial results, the coefficient of variation was relatively high in the trials, and preferences are for CV’s of 15% or less. Parthiba noted that the edible bean committee will examine the protocols to attempt to make improvements and that the trial will be limited to 60 or less varieties.

**Staff Update** – Darcelle Mabon has been hired as Business Manager for a one-year term.

**2006 Budget Discussions** – The MPGA Bean, Soybean and Pea committees presented motions on expenditures of their respective research budgets and all motions were carried.

**Strategic Planning Meeting** – MPGA will hold a planning session March 8th and 9th with Mark Goodwin facilitating the meeting. The goal is to identify priorities for the organization, to focus the efforts of the board and staff.

**Variety Release Program** – MPGA directors want to ensure that producers are not paying twice for seed by paying for research and also by paying royalties to the seed seller. MPGA will contact AAFC representatives to discuss this issue further.