

Board Meeting – November 23, 2007

Pulse Canada Update – Sr. Abraham Montes, president of the national bean grower group in Mexico, visited Manitoba in early November. J. Froese, D. Sissons, L. Wolfe, S. McCutcheon and T. Stewart all participated in segments of the program, during farm tours, meeting with MASC and at the Morden Research Station. A Mexico meeting is tentatively booked to take place the third week in January.

Scholarship Awards – Director N. Friesen conveyed the appreciation of MPGA's two scholarship recipients, Vanessa Sabourin and Joe Peters. Nathan outlined the importance of these awards and the selection process to identify the most deserving students.

GROU/NAFTA Labels/Generic – M. Goodwin presented three concerns with the GROU program along with positive features including the affordability of the program. He requested input from MPGA in regards to the generic Glyphosate issue. NAFTA labeling was also discussed.

2008 Budget – MPGA board discussed the 2008 draft budget with revenues to start. It was agreed to go with "medium" budget figures. All members were asked to review and be prepared to make final budget arrangements at December's board of directors meeting. A call for proposals will be put out once the 2008 budget is finalized.

MCVET Meeting Report – K. Rothenburger reported a new coordinator has been hired. Sites were also accepted for data as follows: 8 for soybeans, 4 for edibles beans, 5 for peas, and 2 for lentils. All plots had a good turnout for 2007. A meeting is to take place December 6, 2007 to further discuss current status of the three provinces. A new online version of *Seed Manitoba* will be coming out December 12, 2007, MPGA is to post a link on their website in hopes to further advertise the results to a wider range of producers.

Board Meeting – December 14, 2007

Pulse Canada Draft Budget – Pulse Canada draft budgets were reviewed and will be discussed in further detail at a later date. T. Stewart to speak with Lloyd at Pulse Canada with regard to budget discussions and will bring forth any questions/concerns from MPGA board.

Crop Life Pesticide Collection Campaign – Program is in early planning stages. Will be similar to the 2003/2004 program which collected and disposed of more than 90,000 kgs of product from farms throughout the province. This allows agricultural producers to safely dispose of unwanted and obsolete pesticides free to charge. MPGA is to send a letter of support to Crop Life Canada.

2008 Budget – MPGA finalized and approved their 2008 budget. The Edible Bean Committee will not be performing a Call for Proposals as research dollars for this commodity have been previously allocated. Two other committees will meet in near future to discuss previously allocated funds as well to bring forth any potential new projects.

Special Crops Symposium – D. Lange provided summary of 2008 event plans. Sessions will be split, two-day event running February 20–21, 2008 with 8 sessions running on first day and 9 sessions running on second day. Commodities will be mixed throughout the day with agenda to be ready in time for Brandon Ag Days. MCGA, MPGA, and NSAC have confirmed speakers for event. Keynote speaker Dr. Jay Lehr is extremely open on topics to discuss. Kim to provide sister grower associations with all information on event, including hotel bookings.

MCVET Meeting – K. Rothenburger updated board on policy research discussions that were had with achievements of providing input and building knowledge at the previous meeting. Kelvin informed MCVET on how MPGA would like to see them go in the future, noting that MPGA would not be joining the PVT program in the future.

KAP Commodity Group Meeting – FSAM reps came to speak on Environmental Farm Plan with intentions of completing the project in March 2008. It was noted that the EVP should be free for all producers as well as Conservation Districts. 

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