

## Board Meeting – February 12, 2008

**Pulse Canada Update** – Many research projects came through for Pulse Canada. Three-way split for research projects is Bio Products, Feed Stocks and Cropping Systems. Included in the overall research funding projects are 30 projects, 20 of which are located in Saskatchewan. Bill C-39 was discussed. Gord Kurbis informed board of the substantial increase in percentage of interest for major suppliers going “green” for 2008.

**2008 Budget** – MPGA board discussed committee research proposals and previously allocated funds. To finalize amounts for each commodity/project at next scheduled board meeting.

**KAP AGM Meeting** – N. Friesen reported speech done by Bob Friesen was extremely interesting with much enthusiasm and optimism. Further concerns with regards to Environmental Farm Plan were addressed. New Employee Standards Code regulations were also discussed.

Nathan also attended annual meeting of Canadian Federation of Agriculture in Ottawa at the end of February with main topic being environment. Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz attended CFA conference and gave an address.

**Pulse Days 2008** – Saskatchewan Pulse Growers annual meeting took place early-January. J. Froese reported increases in budget for core funding – Pulse Canada.

Markets were reported strong in the pulse sector with no fear on decrease in acreage. No major issues were noted.

**2008 Pulse Food Symposium** – T. Stewart attended and highlighted the amazing job done by both Peter and Julie with six months of planning for it to come together. Event was also well attended with approximately 190 people. Huge uptake of interest from major food companies. Todd suggested considering some of topics presented at the Pulse Food Symposium for the Canadian Pulse Researcher’s Workshop being held in November 2008 in Winnipeg. The event is being hosted by MPGA.

## Board Meeting – March 19, 2008

**Ag in Classroom AGM Request** – Executive Director of MPGA made board aware of highlights Ag in Classroom provides. AGM to take place April 10th at Winnipeg Winter Club. Provides great pulse awareness with each organization having a food station prepared by a chef (soybean salad). MPGA agreed to donate time and cover food item costs.

**Pulse Canada Update/MOU** – Memorandum of Understanding between Pulse Canada and Saskatchewan Pulse Growers was discussed. Board addressed all questions/concerns with regards to effects will have on MPGA directly. Todd provided feedback to board.

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**Manitoba Special Crops Symposium Feedback –**

Discussed possible keynote speakers for 2009 event as some major speakers seem to book quickly. To possibly not have a banquet next year but have a larger wine and cheese (2 hours). Curtains will be removed at entrance, in order to prevent driving crowd away. Overall very impressive feedback came from board and exhibitors.

**Common Bacterial Blight Project – Mark Goodwin –**

Presented proposal to MPGA board. Has had some amazing results in first years of project, but more time will be needed to gain best results. Extension was granted by board (for 2009), will be contributing funding for three years on condition that yearly reports are submitted. Project is in collaboration with Dr. Peter Pauls and Dr. Robert Conner.

**Canadian Soybean Council Update – Jim Gowland, Chair, and Michelle McMullen, Manager of the Canadian Soybean Council provided presentation to MPGA board.**

Focused on development and history of CSC. Now at point where more formal funding and management structure needs to be implemented. Jim and Michelle discussed drafting of budget and by-laws. Many questions were raised with satisfying answers provided. Board to discuss further on whether Association will be pledging its financial support to CSC.

**Joint Summer Tour – NSAC, MCGA, MPGA –** MPGA board overall were supportive of idea to have a joint summer tour. Possible dates were discussed (July 23rd or 24th). More discussion to take place with a final decision to be made at next Board of Directors meeting.

**Board Meeting – April 17, 2008**

**AAFC Bean Breeder – Dr. Anfu Hou –** Anfu provided extensive background on education, training and expertise. Outlined future goals and plans to work closely with Dr. Robert Conner and many other breeders in Ontario and Lethbridge. Is looking forward to working with MPGA and greatly appreciates all the support. Board extended invitation to Anfu to attend any upcoming board of director meetings to address any issues, ideas or concerns.

**Canadian Soybean Council Update –** A. Saramaga updated board on Soybean Committee discussions in regards to support of CSC. Committee agreed CSC should

be a stand-alone organization (to follow similar funding formula currently used for Pulse Canada). Overall principle of CSC is supported by MPGA, and future financial decisions will be made once budget and by-laws are provided by CSC.

**Ag Clearing House Support – WBGA –** A letter of support was asked for by MPGA on concept. Letter would then be sent to federal government as a way to encourage more funding be given to Western Barley Growers Association to continue researching Ag Clearing House idea. More discussions are to be had at a later date.

**Pulse Canada Update –** T. Stewart provided update on busy trip to Ottawa with Federal Health and Ag Ministers. J. Froese attended in T. Stewart's place. Many trade issues were discussed along with environmentally related project funding and Pulse Innovation Project. MPGA was encouraged to bring forth any/all proposals for consideration.

**2008 Budget –** 2008 Research Funding Projects have been approved and transfer is completed. Approval letters will be sent out after meeting and final list of projects to be submitted in next issue of Pulse Beat.

**Grower Industry Meeting –** Took place April 11th at Carman Active Living Centre. Well attended, with many underlying issues brought forth. Idea was discussed over having a half-day of soybean discussion and half-day of Edible Bean discussion for next year's meeting. Meeting may also change to the fall to address issues in a more timely manner and to submit prices for Crop Insurance earlier.

**Joint Summer Tour – NSAC, MCGA, MPGA –** MPGA board voted in favour of a joint 2008 summer tour. It will take place July 23rd, 2008. Further advertising to take place in the near future once all three organizations finalize details.

**Narrow Row Edible Bean Regional Trials –** More discussion held in regards to running the narrow-row trials. Funds have become available through ARDI since original decision to cut narrow row trials for 2008. All trials would be completed within MAFRI, not Ag Canada. Edible Bean Committee has approved the reinstatement of the narrow trials for 2008. 🌱

Finally I would like to welcome the new additions to the Soybean Committee. You were introduced to Myron Pedersen and Murray Chorney in the last issue of *Pulse Beat* as we featured them in the Producer Profile area. I am very happy to have both

on the committee because they bring a new, fresh perspective to what we are doing. Both have indicated a willingness to get hands on as soon as they can. I can tell you they are both very knowledgeable about the Manitoba soybean industry. I look forward to

working with Myron and Murray over the coming months, and anticipate their eagerness to get involved will pay off in a very positive way for the committee.

Until the fall I wish you good luck this season. 🌱