

Board Meeting – August 12, 2009

2nd Joint Summer Tour – Was held on July 22nd and well attended by growers and agronomists. The plots at the Morden site were in good condition. There were some concerns on timelines with pod growth; however there's always a risk when setting dates ahead of time. A. Hou spoke on the edible bean plots and was very informative.

Canadian Special Crops Association – Took place on July 13th–16th at the Fairmont in Winnipeg and T. Stewart and N. Friesen attended on behalf of MPGA. They had the highest attendance in the history of the event. It was very well run with interesting speakers. Chris A. came up with a brochure named *Pulse Promotion* (work with Pulse Canada). It emphasizes that targeting brand companies instead of grocery food chains would enable higher promotion of pulses, and stresses on sustainability – pulse marketing. Report is very informative and is available on CSCA website. Pulse Canada provided valuable information on promotional health and wellness potential of pulses (studies currently in process). P. Zharadka – U of M Novel Function of Pulses – study project was explained in great detail (to increase pulses by 10% is reachable which is equal to three cups of pulses per week). Overall, a very valuable meeting for the pulse industry with lots of pulse exposure. Pea and bean committee members to attend in future. Next convention takes place in Saskatoon, SK.

Producer Payment Security – Ian Wishart, KAP president – Changes/Removal of Bonding issue (no risk of payment). There has been some survey work done from commodity groups to discuss other options. There are four options (Bonding, Insurance, Fund Based and Clearing House Concept). KAP put together a group (three commodity groups, general farm organizations, barley/canola growers, etc.). Hired Scott Wolfe management to do analysis. Is a long process, diverse group of interest. Still needs to be more analysis completed – bonding is costly for benefits received (in addition to 90-day stipulation). Has now come up with a summary of pros and cons to alternatives. Eventually issue needs to be addressed. I. Wishart outlined position of other groups involved. Provided insight on all four options available. Would like to implement Phase 2 by fall to have more detailed information readily available in spring. Is asking MPGA for support for additional study of the four alternatives so can get a feel for what premiums might be (from actuaries). Would need a federal actuary, which could take up to two years to acquire. MPGA supports continuing on with study.

Pulse Canada Update – Mark Goodwin – Minor Use Priorities – M. Goodwin summarized eight pages of programming where pesticides are concerned. Provided handout for board members (cost competitive and innovative options outlined). One program highlighted is the GROU program. Outlined 15 products farmers are currently allowed to import and addressed four issues. M. Goodwin outlined procedure to board on how to follow proper instructions for GROU. Second program outlined was NAFTA labeling. Third program touched on was VSAD – when chemical company packaging comes in, they test products (80% control, etc.) – slows transportation in Canada. To speed things up, Pulse Canada outlined alternative. Fourthly, project 914 was discussed (Request products available in US but not currently available in Canada – PMRA seeks registration on behalf of Canada). Last program M. Goodwin touched on was New Generics Program. Structured instead of turning into long negotiations with foreign reps, 240-day clocked negotiation. Generic company comes in, serves notice on old company, 120-day starts, if haven't reached settlement at this time, arbitrator comes in and has further 120-days. If no deal is reached at this time, arbitrator picks one. There are 47 new generic products in program currently, nine of which are glyphosates. Will improve ability to drive crop yields and profitability up (more affordable and use of innovative tools). The 240 days grants an extra year of data. Outlined benefits of this program or board.

Pulse Canada Update – Gordon Bacon – Drafted letter to Minister to push the regulatory changes through. Then could have some of the generic options available by 2010. G. Bacon presented a proposed budget which outlined how a suite of planned projects could be funded with a combination of increased annual funding to Pulse Canada by provincial grower groups and the CSCA. Made board aware of how plan to leverage funding dollars for present and future programs. Asked MPGA if interested in a four-year commitment (contribution is now on a year-to-year basis). 