

## Board Meeting – March 19, 2009

**Re-organization of MPGA 2009 Committees** – MPGA Board Committees for 2009.

**Pulse Canada Update** – Greg Cherewyck – G. Cherewyck provided history of Pulse Canada for new directors on MPGA Board and to sum up the years events. Also provided updates on *Growing Forward* project. T. Stewart ensured that the board is on same page where promotion, health/wellness, environment, and overall direction of Pulse Canada is concerned.

**2009 Research Proposals** – MPGA Board of Directors approved projects and funding amounts put forward by the Pea and Edible Bean Committees for 2009. Letters of approval may now be drafted and sent.

**Manitoba Special Crops Symposium** – C. Sumner outlined adverse weather conditions during this year's event. Although numbers were still approximate, 600 farmers between the two days were in attendance. Feedback from tradeshow participants was extremely positive (best venue thus far). Board discussed possible options where parking is concerned for the 2010 event. Great speaker quality was also reported.

**Leadership at Its Best** – Took place Feb 17th – 19th. C. Sumner reported a fantastic event covering a wide variety of topics. Board operations and government relation modules were top notch.

**PGDC Meeting** – Took place on Feb 24th – 26th in Banff. B. Brolley reported 2010 event to take place in Saskatoon. 13 dry bean lines up for support, all made it. 2 fababeans lines were supported. 7 lentil varieties and 4 pea varieties were supported.

**Canadian Soybean Council Update** – March 11th meeting took place to finalize CSC and documents. Trade missions were also discussed, with domestic markets being of more interest than overseas markets. Will not spend as many funds on trade missions in future. A. Saramaga was appointed as Vice-Chair. 



## Mission Statement

To provide its members with production and marketing support, through focused research, advocacy and linkages with industry partners.

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and selected those to fund based on the return to Manitoba growers, but also to all soybean growers in Canada. First and foremost it's important for MPGA funded research to improve the profitability of farmers in our province, but I feel it's also key to look at things from a national perspective.

MPGA's Soybean Committee will be co-funding a number of projects in 2009 with Ontario Soybean Growers. In fact, some of these projects will include Manitoba based plots, with the data collected provided to the researcher so they can expand their data set beyond Ontario. I feel this will give the project results a more Manitoba "feel." Our ultimate goal, by funding these projects in conjunction with OSG, is Eastern Canada based researchers will begin developing project ideas with Manitoba in mind. Please see the 2009 MPGA supported research projects page in this edition of *Pulse Beat* for more information on the exact projects funded.

With our crops now emerged and well on their way, I would like to remind you of MPGA's Annual Soybean Field Day and Tour Tuesday, July 21st. This year's tour will take place at JRI's Kelburn Research Farm located south of Winnipeg on Highway 75. Representatives from MAFRI and the industry will be on site to answer any questions you may have about soybean production. I would encourage both veteran and rookie soybean growers to join us. Please visit our website, [www.manitobapulse.ca](http://www.manitobapulse.ca), for more information.

To wrap things up, despite a wet start to the year, it appears Manitoba soybean acreage will increase in 2009. During discussions this spring with seed retailers and growers, it became pretty clear to me acres were poised for a significant increase. We won't know for sure until later this summer, but if the weather cooperates, I feel acreage will be up.

With that, I wish you a safe and productive growing season, and I hope to see you at MPGA's Annual Soybean Tour and Field Day. 