

Board Meeting – November 19, 2009

Science Cluster – R. Roels and M. Goodwin discussed what has been done so far with the science cluster and what still needs to be done. MPGA is involved in two clusters. Soybeans are included in the Eastern Field Crops cluster, and dry beans, peas, fababeans, lentils and chickpeas are part of the Pulse cluster. The science cluster is part of the Growing Forward program, which gives grower groups the opportunity to obtain matching federal funding on our research dollars. The government is contributing up to 75% (i.e. for every \$1 we spend, they put in \$3). Croppportunity teams had been formed to determine research priorities from each provincial organization. The soybean cluster is focused on breeding only. The dry bean, pea, fababean, lentil and chickpea cluster has three areas of research priorities: genetic improvement, agronomy and sustainable production, and processing and utilization. A call for proposals went out to researchers in October, and all projects received have been submitted for peer reviews. A bulk of the projects submitted correspond to projects that MPGA is currently funding. By December 18th, we have to finalize our funding contributions to projects in the cluster. Contributions to the Science Cluster are a 3-year commitment.

Generics Legislation – Mark Goodwin, Pulse Canada – The process for registering generic products has been updated. Under the new legislation, it will only take a couple months to

get generic products registered, once data protection is lifted, making them readily available to farmers at a much quicker pace than in the past. 60 products are currently in the queue.

2010 Minor Use Priorities – Jeanette Gaultier, MAFRI – PMRA is now allowing producers to use unlabelled tank mixes providing they observe the most restrictive label. Liability is on the producer and/or on the agronomist who recommends an unlabelled tank mix. The 2010 Canadian Minor Use Pesticide Priority Setting Workshop is on March 23–25, 2010 in Ottawa. MPGA needs to develop their wish list.

Comprehensive Shrinkage – R. Roels outlined the licensing and regulatory issues that CGC is looking to address. The CGC wants to ensure that all elevators and grain dealers are issued the proper class of license. Currently, licensed primary and terminal elevators have a maximum shrinkage level of zero, and there are no regulations pertaining to licensed transfer or process elevators. The CGC proposes to extend the shrinkage allowance of zero to licensed transfer and processed elevators. Stakeholders were invited to communicate their positions to the CGC. Upon discussion, the board decided that zero shrinkage is good for the farmer.

Board Meeting – December 4, 2009

Agri-Marketing Programs for 2010 – Carl Potts and Tracy Thompson, Pulse Canada – 2010 plans for market development and market access cover two main areas of

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focus – Canada Brand projects (8) and Market Access initiatives (4). Canada Brand focuses on branding of Canadian projects on an international level in three different areas – international buyers, overall communication and promotion, and industry capacity building. Market Access initiatives are a top priority for trade in terms of problems accessing markets and creating a competitive market. Market access projects around zero tolerance, GMO, etc. are important to growers. As an example, Turkey just introduced in November a low level presence policy for a GMO event. This is the type of policy that Pulse Canada is trying to encourage. It would prevent another country from cutting off supply from Canada. A broad risk assessment needs to be completed, and then they will know where to focus their efforts on.

Grain Commission Sub-committee – K. Rothenburger – CGC was disappointed by lack of grain samples in on October 14 for their harvest survey. This was, of course, due to a late harvest. The wrinkling factor of lentils was discussed, but this is not a concern in Manitoba. There was never a tolerance set on deer excrement before, but a tolerance is set now, same as other crops. Ex. Peas are 0.01%.

Western Grains Research Foundation (WGRF) – APG, SPG and MPGA take turns naming a rep to sit on this committee. It is MPGA's turn to select someone to represent pulse growers in Western Canada. This person would also sit on the endowment fund, which reviews research proposals. It is

a four-year term and they meet two times per year. F. Greig is the new WGRF rep.

Board Meeting – January 14, 2010

Call for Research Proposals – Submission deadline for soybean research proposals is Feb./Mar. (in conjunction with Ontario). A. Hou informed the board that the next ARDI intake deadline is Feb. 5. To accommodate this, submission deadline for edible beans, peas and other research proposals is Jan. 29. R. Roels reviewed the research priorities set in 2009 by crop, and the research priorities will remain the same for 2010.

Special Crops Symposium – The agenda has been set. Emcees are needed for each speaker. Canadian Soybean Council would like the opportunity to meet with the board to discuss priorities and future direction for the coming years. Annual General Meeting is taking place on the first day of the symposium. T. Stewart reviewed the process for new staff members. As well, terms are up for T. Stewart, L. Wolfe, N. Friesen and S. McCutcheon. T. Stewart will be staying on as past president. S. McCutcheon will let his name stand for one more term. The board would like to ensure that growers from all regions are well represented and discussed possible growers to elect.

Creating MPGA Policy Manual – Discussed the need to create a policy manual for MPGA. New staff requested a list of guidelines (best practices) to follow for the day-to-day operation of the organization. 🌱

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