

Board Meeting – March 1, 2010

Re-organizational Meeting – A. Saramaga was elected as new chair, and M. Pedersen as vice-chair. T. Stewart will assume the position of past president. A. Turski was elected as soybean committee chair, K. Friesen was elected as edible bean committee chair, and F. Greig will remain as pea committee chair. MPGA will operate with nine directors for now, and in accordance to the by-laws, can appoint a director at any time if they choose.

Special Crops Symposium – Good feedback overall. Parking was the biggest complaint. A suggestion was made to look into parking lot rentals (a daily lot), and attach parking locations with invites and post on website to increase awareness of options. The wine and cheese is great, and the Convention Centre is a good location. Entertaining out-of-town guests is easy. Dr. Kohl would be great to have as a guest speaker again in a few years.

Crop Insurance – Meeting with them on February 25th. Most important topic discussed was inclusion of soybeans into limited coverage for standing crop left in field after harvest. Their position is amending the way corn is adjusted, and they included soybeans in that change as well. Coverage has been reduced by 15%. We are being lumped in with corn unfairly – their decision to do this is not based on research, they said it's a budget issue. This is a way for them to save money. This change is in effect for 2010. Directors feel this is a policy issue, not a budget issue. We are bringing this issue to the minister on March 2nd. Increasing the grade guarantee of peas from a three to a two was also discussed. There is no reason why they haven't changed the grade guarantee yet. It was suggested that they separate green and yellow. T. Stewart is working with MASC to set up a pilot project on collateral damage of hail.

PGDC (Prairie Grain Development Committee) Report – Lots of entries were supported at meetings last week. Yellow bean represents an opportunity. There's an interest in winter peas and winter lentils. Currently, there are two varieties registered in US. The pea committee should look at conducting trials with three different seeding dates.

Board Meeting – April 6, 2010

Pulse Canada – T. Stewart – Pulse Day on the Hill (March 29th) was a great success. 40 meetings were set up and attendees had the opportunity to meet with several industry people and MPs. Met with Gerry Ritz, and discussed the pea trade in China, update on what's working and what's not with the federal agencies. He will be making an announcement on science cluster funding on Thursday April 8th. Also got the health message out there about the benefit of consuming pulses. Met with Candace Hoepfner and made her aware that MPGA supports the work being done at the Morden Research Station. This event was very informative, very well done and well worth our time. We should be sending more directors to future events like this. Great to see what Pulse Canada does for MPGA. Pulse Canada is one of the most respected groups that go to the Hill to get their point across. They are looking at holding this event every two years.

Summer Tours – We are moving our summer tour date back so that it occurs during pod-set (it was requested by attendees in past years and through industry feedback). Edible Bean tour will be held the morning of Wednesday, August 4th and the Soybean tour the morning of Thursday, August 5th. Pea tour could maybe coincide with Brandon's tour.

WGRF – Research Priorities – WGRF (Western Grains Research Foundation) is giving us the opportunity to submit our research priorities to them. MPGA's research priorities are developing end-use markets for fababeans, disease resistance in peas (to *Mycosphaerella* blight and *Ascochyta* complex), and general breeding and agronomy work.

25th Anniversary Golf Tournament – The July 23rd date is a conflict with some industry people, but it's too late to change the date. MPGA will ask industry for sponsorship and prizes. Maximum numbers are 144 golfers, 225 for dinner. Space is limited so it will be on a first-come first-served basis. R. Roels to send invites to past chairs and other provincial groups. 🌱

Come and celebrate 25 years!



25th Anniversary Golf Tournament & Dinner

In support of
Canadian Diabetes Association

Limited to 144 golfers and 225 for dinner.

**Come for golf,
come for dinner
or come for both!**

Friday, July 23rd Bridges Golf Course

Starbuck, MB

Start – 11:00 a.m. Dinner to follow – 6:00 p.m.

Avoid disappointment and call the office now to reserve your spot! Ph **204 745.6488** – Please be sure to check our website for further updates.

www.manitobapulse.ca

