

**Saskatchewan Pulse Growers (SPG)  
Annual General Meeting (AGM) Minutes  
Via Zoom Online Platform  
Tuesday, January 12, 2021**

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The meeting was called to order at 4:09 P.M. Brad Blackwell chaired the meeting, Lori Chapman recorded the minutes.

Quorum was achieved.

Number of Attendees (Registered Producers): 65

- Brad Blackwell advised that Resolutions can be brought forward by any voting member by clicking the 'raise hand' button at the bottom of the zoom screen.
  - Resolutions are an opportunity for pulse growers to provide direction to the Board.
  - Resolutions are non-binding.
  - Any resolutions received will require a two-thirds majority for consideration.

**1. Adoption of the 2021 Annual General Meeting Agenda:**

**AGM AGENDA**

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes from Last Annual General Meeting (January 13, 2020)
3. Introduction of the Board and Staff
4. Declaration of Election Results
5. Business Arising from the Minutes
6. Report from the Organization
  - Chair's Report
  - Executive Director's Report
7. Presentation of the Audited Financial Statements
8. Appointment of Auditor for 2020/21
9. Resolutions
10. Adjourn

**Additions:** None

**Deletions:** None

**MOTION:** By Blair Goldade, seconded by Gerrid Gust to adopt the agenda as presented.

**Carried**

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**2. Approval of Minutes from Last Annual General Meeting**

- Errors or omissions: None

**MOTION:** By Jason Hennes, seconded by Shaun Dyrland to adopt the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of January 13, 2020.

**Carried**

**3. Introduction of the Board**

- Brad Blackwell introduced the SPG Board members for 2020:
  - Shaun Dyrland, Kyle, Vice-Chair
  - John Bumbac, Assiniboia
  - Chad Doerksen, Dalmeny
  - Jason Hennes, Eatonia
  - Corey Loessin, Radisson
  - Trent Richards, Assiniboia
- Brad also welcomed Terry Youzwa from Nipawin and Winston van Staveren from Creelman, to the 2021 Board.
- Brad also welcomed guests from other provincial and national pulse and soybean organizations who joined virtually.

**4. Declaration of Election Results**

- SPG received six nominations for three open seats.
- The election results for the 2020 election are as follows:
  - Corey Loessin – 856 votes
  - Winston van Staveren – 704 votes
  - Terry Youzwa – 657 votes
  - Norm Hall – 476 votes
  - Bruce Elke – 406 votes
  - Ryan Neubauer – 170 votes

**MOTION:** By Dave Marzolf, seconded by Larry Hundebly to accept the election results as presented.

**Carried**

**5. Business Arising from the Minutes**

- Three resolutions were received at last year's meeting.
  1. Carbon tax:
    - SPG has lobbied on this topic mainly by partnering with other groups:

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- ❖ Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association – a lead on the carbon issue for many years.
- ❖ Grain Growers of Canada – very active in the last year on carbon tax and specifically to have producers reimbursed for carbon tax paid on grain drying.

2. SPG Seed Company:

- SPG has been transitioning from the previous breeding agreement with the Crop Development Centre (CDC) to a new breeding environment with additional potential partners. SPG has exclusive rights to the varieties developed under the agreement with the CDC and these varieties will remain royalty-free for Saskatchewan producers.
- SPG has also maintained access to the material in the breeding program that was under development at the time the breeding agreement came to an end.
- A licensing agreement with the CDC has been negotiated that allows the CDC to use the material developed for further research and variety development in the future so that they can continue to develop new crop varieties for producers.
- Growers will pay royalties for new pulse crop varieties they choose to grow like other crops. Saskatchewan producers will continue to have the ability to grow the existing CDC pulse varieties released by SPG royalty-free.
- SPG has examined options for involvement in breeding pulses in the future and is exploring a range of opportunities including acting as an investor in or partner/owner of breeding, trait development and seed organizations focused on root disease resistance and additional herbicide tolerances in lentils.

3. Board size:

- SPG requested the change to the regulations that would allow for up to nine Board members elected by registered producers. The changes were approved by the Government of Saskatchewan in August. An election was held including two additional positions, SPG will now have nine directors on the Board.

- No business arose from the floor

**6. Report from the Organization**

• **Chair's Report**

- In response to the motion made at last year's AGM, SPG's Board has been increased to nine directors, Terry Youzwa and Winston van Staveren were welcomed as new directors, and Corey Loessin was re-elected to serve a third term.
- The COVID19 pandemic has created significant changes, but as difficult as the time has been, the market for pulse crops has opened up and boosted prices for many of the crops.
- The breeding agreement with the Crop Development Centre ended in the fall. It was a valuable partnership but the CDC decided to make changes and work with multiple funders. It was noted that all current varieties release and going to be released in 2021 and 2022 will be royalty free. As well, SPG will have access to all genetic material that we

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have paid for and will be able to use it for future breeding agreements either with the CDC or outside breeders.

- The Research and Development strategy has been refined to focus on the things that are the highest priority for producers. Long term objectives include root disease, herbicide tolerance in lentils and agronomic practices that improve end use quality of pulses.
- In the future, it is expected that producers will pay for access to new varieties through royalties. SPG will continue to stay involved in future breeding and partner with private and public organizations to develop the best possible genetics for Saskatchewan producers. The Board has developed two key principles to guide investments and partnerships:
  1. There must be a return on investment. If SPG invests grower levy dollars upfront, and growers pay a royalty on new varieties, then a portion of those royalties will need to flow back to SPG for re-investment.
  2. There has to be value sharing with growers in the pricing of any new varieties that SPG is involved in funding.
- Pulse crop acres have increased significantly over the past twenty-five years. New technology and breeding approaches have opened up new possibilities for breeders. There is opportunity to attract new breeders and breeding investment for varieties that perform well in Saskatchewan. Increased competition and collaboration can help to overcome our greatest constraints to pulse production in Saskatchewan.
- SPG is funding work on pulse breeding with other breeding organizations such as J4 Agri-Science, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the CDC focusing on priorities such as lentils and herbicide tolerance, root disease resistance and increased protein content. Additional partnerships are also being developed.
- SPG has committed funding in support of pea, chickpea and dry bean breeding at the CDC for the next three years, along with Western Grains Research Foundation, Alberta Pulse Growers and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture.

- **Executive Director's Report**

- A year like no other impacted by COVID 19 pandemic. We adapted to the situation and continued to perform our work for the growers of Saskatchewan.
- Levy revenue experienced a significant and sustained downturn starting in 2017. SPG reduced expenses and weathered the downturn. The situation has improved over the last year and we can now make new research commitments.
- We have a revised reserve policy:
  - \$3.1M strategic investment for opportunities outside the regular budget.
  - \$13.8M for revenue variability – to cover unexpected and sustained reductions in revenue.
  - \$670K invested in capital assets (mainly land).
  - \$1.6M for organizational closure should SPG be wound down.

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- 2020-21 budget:
  - Revenue: \$13.9M. \$12.7M comes from levy. Other sources are: \$505K Variety Commercialization, \$20K Sponsorship, \$7K Government Funding, \$200K Interest & Dividends, \$255K Expense Reimbursements, \$297K Other.
  - Expenditures \$9.6M. \$4M Research and Development, \$1.8M Market Development, \$775K Market Access, \$1.5M Leadership and Management, \$792K Communications, \$625K Variety Commercialization
- Highlights for 2020 included podcasts, biweekly newsletter, fact sheets, research summaries videos and seminars available on our website. Research and Development revised the strategy, and we made progress in increasing demand for pulses.
- A question arose from the floor regarding the hundreds of millions of dollars invested in Protein Industries Canada (PIC) and domestic demand. SPG feels that what PIC is doing aligns very well with SPG strategy – increasing demand, health nutrition and sustainability. PIC is working to build the capacity in Canada to have pulses processed here for higher value products. They are going in the right direction to build domestically.

**7. Presentation of the Audited Financial Statements**

*A link to the annual report which includes the financial statements for 2019-20 was included in the email to attendees prior to the meeting.*

- John Bumbac, Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee, presented the highlights from the audited financial statements for the 2019-20 fiscal year.
- SPG is required to have a number of audit opinions:
  - Opinion on the audit of financial statements
  - Opinion on SPG's compliance with the Agri-Food Act and the Pulse Crop Development Plan Regulations
  - Opinion on the controls of the organization, to safeguard resources, prepare reliable financial reports and to conduct activities in accordance with laws, regulations and policies developed.
  - Opinion on the proper use of crown monies.
  - According to the auditors, all were clean opinions

**MOTION:** By Lee Moats, seconded by Blair Goldade to accept the 2019/20 audited financial statements as presented.

**Carried**

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**8. Appointment of Auditor for 2020/21**

**MOTION:** By John Bumbac, seconded by Rob Stone to appoint Lingard & Dreger (formerly Twigg & Company) as auditors for the fiscal year 2020/21.

**Carried**

**9. Resolutions**

- No resolutions were received in advance of the meeting
- Three resolutions were put forward from the floor.

1. Grain Sales Reporting

**Whereas**, there is a need for improving price discovery in pulse crops and other crops.

**Whereas**, Canada currently does not have mandatory export sales data reporting the greater portion of Saskatchewan pulse crops are exported.

**Therefore, be it resolved** that SPG work with other commissions and organizations to advocate for the establishment of an Export Sales Reporting Program, where all sales over the set minimum volume for pulse crops and other crops must be reported daily, otherwise be compiled weekly and released in a timely manner. This will assist in the marketing of growers' production.

**MOTION:** Terry Youzwa moved the resolution, Corey Loessin seconded.

**Carried**

- Intent is to improve transparency so that farmers have more information when making marketing decisions, make better utilization of information.
- Pulse crops not are traded on the futures market, therefore transparency and reporting in a timely matter is all that more important for growers.

2. Carbon

**Whereas**, long term studies initiated and supported by Saskatchewan growers and endorsed by Agriculture Canada soil scientists prove that continuous cropping and reduced or zero till prove effective in sequestering CO<sub>2</sub> in Saskatchewan agriculture soils.

**And whereas**, this removal and storage will be an essential contribution to this and other nations net zero targets.

**And whereas**, the federal government has put a value on emissions.

**Therefore, if be resolved** that the commissions and associations lobby to have Saskatchewan farmers paid recognized and rewarded for these removals that correlates

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to the price of pollution set by governments.

**MOTION:** Dave Marzolf moved the resolution, Vicki Dutton seconded.

**Carried**

- This is an opportunity to embrace the challenge and have growers receive recognition and compensation for the carbon they sequester.
- Saskatchewan is well set up to have representation at the table through the various crop commissions. Growers need to have voice in the discussions and get value for the carbon sink produced annually

3. Mandatory Reporting

**Whereas**, producers hear on radio and in print daily of future sales of U.S. commodities.  
**And whereas**, mandatory sales reporting was implemented back in the early 1970s and in the U.S.,

**And whereas**, Canada has not implemented this to date.

**And whereas**, this is common practice in the U.S. for a variety of reasons...most importantly a requirement of an open market so all market participants (including farmers, speculators, government, grain companies, and investors) are made aware of sales.

**Be it resolved**, a mechanism be put in place that domestic and export commodity sales past, present, and future be reported in a timely fashion to a regulator.

**And therefore, be it resolved** that regulator reports those sales in a timely fashion so that producers can plan and act accordingly for their business.

**MOTION:** Dave Marzolf moved the resolution, Vicki Dutton seconded.

**Carried**

- This resolution is similar to the grain sales reporting resolution, but to include domestic sales as well.
- Going forward going we expect to see more domestic demand, more transparency is needed so that growers make marketing plans on the upcoming crop year.
- As long as the reporting does not muddy the waters and detract from the unifications of the other reporting.
- It was noted that Pulse Canada has some data on domestic usage however the reporting is delayed.

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**MOTION:** By John Bumbac second by Corey Loessin to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 P.M.

THIS IS AN OFFICIAL COPY OF THE MINUTES OF AN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SASKATCHEWAN PULSE GROWERS HELD ON JANUARY 12, 2021 AND AS REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE MEMBERS AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON JANUARY , 2022.

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Date

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Chair, Saskatchewan Pulse Growers