

2013 Annual Report
Proceedings of the 85th Annual Meeting
Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association Inc.
Canadian Room, Saskatoon Inn, Saskatoon, Sask.
January 15, 2014

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Laurie Wakefield at 1:05 p.m. Approximately 160 members and guests were in attendance. In his opening remarks, he welcomed the members and several guests, including: CSGA President Jim Baillie of Tatamagouche, NS; Dale Adolphe, Executive Director and Randy Preater, Special Projects Manager from CSGA Ottawa; visiting delegates from Manitoba, Alberta and Ontario Seed Growers Associations, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada personnel; University of Saskatchewan Crop Development Centre personnel; Canadian Seed Institute personnel and representatives from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture.

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion (Allan Altwasser/Donna Edwards) That the agenda of the 85th annual meeting be approved as presented. Carried.

2. Disposal of Minutes

Motion (Bob Rugg/Shawn Fraser) That the minutes of the 84th annual meeting of January 08-09, 2013 be approved. Carried.

3. Appointment of Committees

President Laurie appointed Les Trowell and Shawn Fraser to the Nominations Committee and asked for further nominations from the floor.

Motion (Roy Klym/Allan Altwasser) That nominations for the Nominations Committee cease. Carried.

President Laurie appointed Allen Altwasser and Perry Dangstorp to the Resolutions Committee, and asked for further nominations from the floor.

Motion (Wayne Amos/Bob Rugg) That nominations for the Resolutions Committee cease. Carried.

4. President's Report

Laurie presented the President's Report, highlighting some of the activities, issues and challenges that have faced the Association over the past year. Considerable time was spent working through the proposed changes to the Canadian Variety Registration system review. Members were represented at CSGA's discussions on the changes to the national organization's bylaws and governance; and the organization has been involved in helping members become familiar with the privatization of seed crop field inspections.

The Board continues to represent the members in a number of areas, addressing such issues as Seed Treater Guidelines; the future of Crop Production Week, and improving insurance options for pedigreed seed crops. There is an ongoing effort to raise the awareness of the role of seed growers between research and the end user. The agriculture value chain needs to find a way to share profitability, he said.

He expressed his appreciation to the Board of Directors for their service over the past year, as well as to the advisors who serve with the Board, and the members for their support.

Motion (J. Rennick/Cathy Fedoruk) That the President's Report be accepted as presented. Carried.

5. Executive Director's Report

Dave Akister presented the Executive Director's report, reviewing the operations of the provincial office and the activities of the Board and the Association over the past year. He expanded on the input SSGA has provided on the Variety Registration system review, and the desire by some to remove merit testing. However, the merit of a variety has to be tested by someone at some point in the value chain. He told growers that if the variety developers won't merit test, they would have to; if developers won't pay for it, growers would have to, and if they guess wrong and farmers won't pay for it, growers take the hit.

Alternative Service Delivery and field inspections has also dominated Board time and he reminded growers that the use of email and Internet will be a key to utilizing the revised system. A day-long workshop has been planned for the spring to assist growers.

Over the past year the Board has held regular meetings in January, March, June and November; attended the annual meetings of Seed Growers in Alberta and Manitoba, and at national meetings in Halifax; have held joint sessions with the Seed Grower Boards from other provinces and continue to promote member interests to organizations such as Saskatchewan Advisory Council on Grain Crops; Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame, Saskatchewan Forage Industry, Saskatchewan Variety Performance Group, Agribition, CSI, WGRF, Crop Production Week; Seed Industry Advisory Committee and several others. The executive met with the national board at the CSGA Annual Meeting in July to raise issues that are a priority to Saskatchewan Seed Growers, and met with the Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture for the same reasons.

Dave acknowledged and thanked the Annual Meeting sponsors, including: 20/20 Seed Labs, Alliance Seed Corporation, Bayer CropScience, BioVision Seed Labs, BMO Financial Group, Brett Young Seeds, CANTERRA SEEDS, Cornerstone Credit Union, CropInspect, Discovery Seed Lab, EMW Industrial, Farm Business Consultants, Farrell Agencies Ltd., FP Genetics, Grain Millers Inc., Innovation Credit Union, Lewis M. Carter Manufacturing, Mastin Seeds, Nexeed Inc., Northstar Genetics. Novozymes Biologicals, Proven Seed, Richardson International, SeCan, Seed Depot, Syngenta Crop, Protection, T&L Seeds and Western Producer Publications

He expressed his thanks to President Laurie, the Board of Directors and the members, for their continued support. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

Motion

(Norm Hall/Bob Rugg) That the Executive Director's Report be accepted as presented. Carried.

6. Education and Publicity Report

Cathy Fedoruk presented the Education and Publicity Report, reviewing the past year's activities. She announced the details of a Seed Grower workshop to be held in March. Alternative Service Delivery Providers will be invited to demonstrate their services; CSGA and CFIA will be presenting the procedures to obtain field inspections, and opportunities will be available for networking.

She also updated other projects being undertaken by the E&P committee, including the pilot project for Saskatchewan Crop Insurance on select seed crops; publication of the annual Seed Guide and informed members that it had generated nearly \$20,000 for the Association.

Motion

(Roy Klym/Lyndon Olson) That the Education & Publicity Committee report be approved. Carried.

7. National Directors' Report

Joe Rennick and Bob Rugg gave the National Directors' report, reviewing some of the issues facing the Canadian Seed Growers Association. Two meetings of the CSGA Board have been held over the past year.

A number of Saskatchewan recipients would be recognized at the CSGA annual meeting to be held in Regina this summer. Receiving Robertson Associates awards will be Rodney Altwasser and Glen Laxdal, while Honorary Life Associates will be presented to Ken Stoner, Mike McAvoy and David Gehl.

Joe, a member of the Research and Development Committee, reported on the CSGA research project at the University of Manitoba under the supervision of Dr. Anita Brulé-Babel. The Committee received a request from the Alberta Branch to review the Cereal Breeding Funding Model developed by Stewart Garvin as a national funding model, and will make a recommendation by March 2014. They will also continue monitoring and data analysis of midge tolerant wheat varietal blends.

He also reported on changes to Circular 6, including land use requirements for spring wheat select plots; second inspections have been removed for field bean crops; and assignments of Crop Certificates are now recorded electronically. The official version of Circular 6 is located on the CSGA web site (www.seedgrowers.ca).

Bob reported on activities of the national E&P Committee. They are continuing the partnership with Ag in the Classroom; continuing to offer the seed education modules to Canadian colleges and universities and successfully hosted a 2-Day Seed School in Ottawa last spring. Courses are planned in Winnipeg and Chatham this winter.

Bob also sits on the Appeals Committee. The Committee met in November and of the 20 appeals considered, four were accepted and issued crop certificates; two were accepted with the condition they were for own use only (no crop certificate is issued); and the remaining appeals were declined.

Motion (Bill Hetland/Gerald Girodat) That the National Directors' Report be approved as presented. Carried

8. Financial Report

The Auditor's Report was presented by Executive Director Dave Akister, outlining the Association's financial position for 2013. The report showed total revenues of \$170,701 and expenses of \$159,007, for an operating surplus of \$11,694. The surplus is due primarily to the resurgence of pedigreed seed acreage in Saskatchewan, and increases in sponsorship and Seed Guide revenues.

Current member equity in the Association is \$265,361 compared to \$253,667 reported last year. Highlights of the report included income of \$19,666 from publication of the Seed Guide and \$18,625 in sponsorship. SSGA continues to support the Variety Performance Evaluation trials in the amount of \$5,000.

Motion (Barry Reisner/Norm Hall) That the Financial Report be approved as presented. Carried.

9. 2014 Budget

SSGA Vice President Roy Klym reviewed the financial affairs of the Association and presented the budget for 2014. He projected revenues of \$153,025 and expenses of \$152,250 for an operating surplus of \$775. Membership revenue is anticipated to be about \$109,150, based on 285,000 acres and 530 members. In comparison to 2013 actual costs, the 2014 budget was presented as follows:

Receipts	Actual 2013	Budget 2014
Accounts Receivable	0	5,000
Growing Forward 2 Grant	0	4,875
Interest	1,552	1,500
Membership Fees	124,429	109,150
Miscellaneous Income	0	0
SaskSeed Communications	19,666	10,000
Proceeds from Meetings	6,429	5,000
Sponsorship	<u>18,625</u>	<u>17,500</u>
	\$170,701	\$153,025
Disbursements		
Advertising & Promotion	\$ 0	\$ 500
Agribition	5,100	500
Annual Meeting	26,872	27,000
Crop Production Week	631	1,000
Educational Programs	9,339	10,000
Grants	2,000	2,000
Interest & Bank Charges	219	225
Membership/Registration	0	2,000
Miscellaneous	533	300
Newsletters/website/promotions	2,412	2,500
Office Contract	30,000	30,000
Office Contract Extension	7,794	7,825
Office Supplies	2,335	2,500
Postage & Mailing	1,345	2,000
Professional Fees	6,054	6,200
Sask Variety Performance Group	5,000	5,000
Telephone & Fax	2,082	2,200

Travel - Board	19,325	18,000
Travel - Out of Province	30,404	25,500
Travel - Staff	<u>7,562</u>	<u>7,000</u>
	\$159,007	\$152,250
Surplus (Deficit):	\$ 11,694	\$ 775

Roy reported that the Accounts Receivable was for an advance paid to CSGA 14 Annual Meeting Committee, which will be repaid after the meeting; the Growing Forward 2 grant was for the planned Growers Workshop in March, and the amounts paid for membership and registration was now becoming significant, and has rated its own line item in the budget.

Motion (Joe Rennick/Donna Edwards) That the 2014 Budget be approved as presented. Carried.

Motion (Norm Hall/Brent McCarthy) That Virtus Group Chartered Accountants of Saskatoon be retained as the Association's auditors for 2014. Carried.

10. The Pedigreed Seed Picture: Quantity, Quality and Questions

Bruce Carriere of Discovery Seed Labs spoke about the quantity and quality of pedigreed seed supplies that could be expected across the province in 2014. He told members that in general, germination rates are above average on nearly every crop, including peas and disease results are below the long term averages. Vigour levels on lentils did not show well, however.

F. graminearum and total fusarium continue to be a huge problem. There have been some high levels of Ascochyta in some field pea samples, with low levels of Botrytis and Sclerotinia on others. Lentils showed low levels of disease infection.

11. Resolutions Committee Report

Resolutions Committee Chair Allen Altwasser reviewed the rules and announced that written resolutions were now being accepted. He reported on the action taken on the 2013 resolutions.

12. Nominations Committee Report

Nominations Committee Chair Les Trowell announced that nominations were being accepted for the positions of President; Vice President, two Directors to serve two-year terms; and one National Director to serve a two-year term.

14. Variety Registration System: Quality Control or Inconvenient Obstruction?

President Laurie called on Elwin Hermanson, Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Grain Commission to moderate the panel discussion: "Variety Registration System: Quality Control or Inconvenient Obstruction". Panellists included: Guliano Toluoso, Innovation and Growth Policy, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; Mike Scheffel, National Manager Seed Section, Canadian Food Inspection Agency; Peter Entz, President Canadian Seed Trade Association; and Dr. Bryan Harvey, University of Saskatchewan Department of Plant Sciences.

Guliano Toluoso opened the discussion by explaining the current Variety Registration (VR) system and its three distinct parts. Part 1 includes registration with performance testing and merit requirements; Part 2 requires trials but no merit assessment; and Part 3, which does not require pre-registration or merit evaluation. The majority of crops fit under Part 1, with safflower under Part 2 and forages and oilseed soybeans in the process of moving to Part 3. Recommending committees set procedures for crop performance trials in Parts 1 and 2, and determine merit criteria for Part 1. They have no involvement in Part 3 registration.

The changing role of the government, the removal of single of the single desk for wheat marketing and the move to reducing red tape will create opportunities for further deregulation, innovation in new varieties and private investment. With emphasis on innovation, competitiveness, increased market access, the federal government felt that it was the right time to examine Canada's current variety registration system, he said.

He told members that the process started with a letter from the Agriculture Minister to the Recommending Committees, asking them to streamline their approval process, and several have already initiated that review. Stakeholders and producers are also being consulted as to their views and results of that input is starting to come in, although it's divided as to whether the VR system helped or hindered innovation. However, almost all agree that the variety registration system is a critical component of crop sector innovation.

Going forward, he suggested the government's role may be one of oversight, monitoring and verification, leaving the mechanics of the system (e.g., merit criteria, test data requirements) to industry to determine. Options include maintaining the current system; streamlining the system by placing all crops in Part 3, with potential to stay in Part 1 or 2; put all crops in Part 3 and eliminate Parts 1 and 2, or withdraw from the VR system with no government oversight. CFIA's oversight functions could be transferred to crop-specific organizations for seed industry to manage. Next steps are to review the results of the engagement process and development of a policy proposal.

Mike Scheffel expanded on the role of the Variety Registration office. With two employees, staff is down from the level of past years, and is still a paper-based system, although they're working toward more digitization. They endeavour to have a new variety registered within an eight-week period, and there are 150-200 new varieties registered every year in 10-12 different crop kinds.

A reference sample from each new variety is grown out at a farm near Ottawa and if there are any discrepancies with the plant breeder's description, the office will follow up. In the past seven years, there have been 159 new canola varieties; 130 forage varieties and 139 wheat varieties going through the system.

Peter Entz also reviewed the background of the variety registration system. The first Seeds Act was passed in 1905, but in response to false claims (100 bushel/acre wheat), a new Act passed in 1923 required varieties to be licensed by the Minister in order to be sold. All varieties had to be tested and approved by CSGA Plant Breeders' Committee. In 1937 all vegetables except potatoes were exempted; in 1986 corn was exempted; and the current 3-part system was created in 2009. With 17 Recommending Committees operating regionally across the country, all with different procedures, it can be very challenging to get a new variety registered.

He said that CSTA brings together 128 member companies involved in all aspects of seed, ranging from grower/retailers to multinational companies, organics to biotech and from packet herbs and vegetables to large grain companies. With each member having a vote, building a consensus is very difficult. The organization worked through the issue during 2012 and 2013, finally developing a policy in November that states: *"Canada's Variety Registration System is valued by some as a quality assurance program. However consensus was that it must not impede innovation and the ability of the seed sector to introduce new choices for farmers."*

Ultimately, CSTA supports the position that all crop species, kinds and types should move to Part 3, with no recommending committees; no merit testing and direct application to CFIA, with the provision that if the value chain for a specific crop kind provides solid rationale and demonstrates consensus, alternate systems could be implemented, including keeping crop species, kinds or types in Part 1 or Part 2 – or moving them back to Part 1 or 2. The system should not be an impediment, he said.

Dr. Bryan Harvey said that the purpose of a Variety Registration System is to assure merit, distinguishability and to facilitate pedigreed seed production. Pedigreed seed production ensures that a variety is a variety; that it has an approved denomination; that a variety description is available; and without a variety registration system in place, that information has to be obtained in some other way.

He said distinguishability is essential for a variety registration system; a variety must meet the definition of a variety, facilitates tracking and ensures uniqueness. While a Plant Breeders Rights system can do that, it is much more onerous and expensive.

Testing for merit is equally important, he told members. It assures that minimum criteria are met and that

varieties do not get registered which could be harmful to the industry. A science-based decision can't be made without data. Recommending committees also play an important role. All value chain parties are involved with growers and end users having a say in setting merit criteria. The committees also facilitate collaboration among participants, facilitate germplasm exchange and provide expertise that would be very costly to access otherwise.

Elwin Hermanson moderated a lively question period as the audience also got involved in the discussion. Some felt the system should be an impediment to inferior varieties which drain limited resources to multiply a variety that the market doesn't want. Other points raised included whether other countries' variety registration systems had been studied and how they differed from Canada; grower reputations could be on the line without merit testing; other industries like the auto sector have to meet minimum standards; and with the debate centred on large acre crops, what fate will befall small niche crops.

President Laurie thanked the panel and the members for the excellent, thought-provoking discussion. The meeting recessed at 5:10 pm, to be reconvened the following morning.

Awards Banquet

SSGA Director Cathy Fedoruk presided over the Awards banquet, held in Ballroom B. She introduced Dr. Murray Drew, Associate Dean of the University of Saskatchewan, who announced the recipients of the SSGA Bursaries. Receiving the \$1,000 awards were Kerrie Andreas of Foam Lake and Kevin Seaman of Choceland.

Awards chairman Bob Rugg presented Outstanding Service awards to Don Nakonechney of Ruthilda, Lyndon Olson of Archerwill and Don Schmelling of Regina. Dennis Jeannot of Regina and Dr. Graham Scoles of Saskatoon were presented with Honorary Life Memberships in the Association.

Bob also paid tribute to growers achieving milestones in pedigreed seed production. Receiving 45-year certificates were Rodney Altwasser of Yellow Grass, Leonard Blenkin of Sintaluta, Milt Heavin of Melfort, Harvey Mayell of Assiniboia and William Weighill of Carrot River. Harvey Heavin and Winston South, both of Melfort, were recognized for 50 years of Pedigreed Seed production; while Edward Fraser of Yarbo was recognized for 60 years of Pedigreed Seed production.

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Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association Inc.

Canadian Room, Saskatoon Inn, Saskatoon, Sask.

January 16, 2014

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Laurie Wakefield at 8:00 a.m.

1. CSGA President's Report

CSGA President Jim Baillie of Tatamagouche, NS, brought greetings from the Canadian Seed Growers Association. The Directors and staff have spent considerable time over the past year on the issue of alternative service delivery for seed crop inspection and, more recently, the AAFC consultation on the review of Canada's variety registration system.

CSGA and CFIA staff launched preparatory activities for alternative service delivery in 2013. For example, CFIA trained over 140 new inspectors on Circular 6 Section 2 and Section 3 crop inspections and nearly 30 inspection bodies submitted QMS manuals to CFIA in preparation to be authorized as seed crop inspection service providers. CGA received just over 4,800 applications on-line (27% of the total). In Saskatchewan, about 23% of the applications were submitted on-line.

There have been a number of changes to the CSGA Board of Directors. Dale Connell of Ontario replaced Kathy Hardy who resigned as Director in mid-2013; Kevin Runnalls of Ontario was elected 2nd vice-President on the Executive Committee when Don Zeghers of Manitoba stepped down from the Executive; Richard Stamp of Alberta replaced Ed Lefsrud; Dan MacEachern is the new PEI government representative and Craig Linde is replacing Patti Rothenburger during her maternity leave

2. Report from Canadian Seed Growers Association

CSGA Executive Director Dale Adolphe also expanded on the issues facing the National Board, many of which had been discussed earlier. CSGA supports a predictable, flexible regulatory system that encourages innovation and investment. In this regard, CSGA supports a tiered variety registration system characterized by Crop Specific Consultative Groups through which individual crop kinds, and all the components of the value-chain associated with those crop kinds, can tailor the variety registration system to their needs.

The CSGA policy also supports pre-registration variety performance testing for all crop kinds unless a suitable alternative is in place, and agrees there should be a provision for merit assessment of new varieties being maintained. He suggested that critics of the current variety registration system should focus their attention to the recommending committee procedures. These procedures are developed by crop specific value chains – not the regulatory framework and not government regulators. The crop specific value chain has full control within these procedures to outline what the value chain desires in terms of merit assessment, pre-registration performance data, etc.

“No one link in the chain, including government, should be prescriptive for a crop specific value chain. The challenge is to work collaboratively as crop sector to reach consensus on the requirements best suited for a specific crop kind and then have government responsive to that consensus”, he said.

Dale reported on the membership and acreage picture across the country in 2013. The trend line for the number of members and pedigreed seed acres appears to be moving up after a steady decline in recent years. It seems to have levelled off to about 3,500 seed growers across the country, about 550 of them in Saskatchewan. This province produced 330,000 acres of pedigreed seed in 2013, about a quarter of the 1.2 million acres across the country. About half of the Saskatchewan pedigreed acres were wheat (170,600). Barley is a distant second at 40,200 acres. Pulse crops are third, and forage seed production is fairly strong as well. He told members that Manitoba has passed Quebec in pedigreed soybean acres, and is not far behind Ontario.

Motion

(Joe Rennick/Wayne Amos) That the Canadian Seed Grower Association Report be accepted. Carried

3. Field Inspection: Preparing Seed Growers for Change

Dale Adolphe of CSGA brought members up to date on the progress toward seed field crop inspections, following the Canadian Government's decision in 2012 to transfer seed crop inspections from CFIA to the private sector. CFIA is Canada's seed certifying agency and CSGA is Canada's crop certifying agency.

Dale told members that there are 24 service providers across the country, 11 of them in Saskatchewan. They will be required to notify CSGA by December 31st of each year whether or not they are authorized and planning to perform inspections in the upcoming season. A list of qualified service providers will be posted to the CSGA web site at www.seedgrowers.ca.

The scope of inspector training in 2013 was focussed on Circular 6 Section 2 & 3 crops. These new inspectors can, in 2014, inspect Foundation, Registered and Certified seed fields of Section 2 & 3 crops. However, experienced inspectors previously employed as CFIA casual inspectors can inspect other crop kinds and pedigree generations (e.g. plots), if they are licensed and working for a service provider in 2014. Training of inspectors on higher generations and other crop kinds (other than Section 2 & 3 crop kinds) will likely not take place until 2015 in preparation for the 2016 inspection year.

Online and hard copy crop inspection applications will be accepted by the CSGA in 2014. In all cases, the application will be in a new format conforming to the electronic format and one application will be required for each field. He told members that about 27% of the applications are made on line nationally, but that number drops to about 23% in Saskatchewan.

The service provider has 2 days to accept or reject the application. The inspection report will be completed by inspectors using an electronic, remote data collection system (tablet). Within two days after the inspection, the service provider's senior inspector or quality manager will review the inspection report for completeness and email it to the grower and CSGA. When making application for inspection to CSGA, seed growers will need to designate the service provider they are using for each field to be inspected. This could involve designating different service providers for different fields (due to crop kind or pedigreed class) depending upon the qualifications of the inspectors the service provider has available.

Failure to designate a service provider will result in the application not being processed, a penalty of \$25 per field and CSGA notifying the grower to designate a different service provider. Seed growers will pay fees for the inspection service directly to the service provider. Seed growers will need to submit their field maps and locations to the service provider(s). Once a service provider has accepted an application, it will be their responsibility to obtain the map and location of fields from the seed grower.

Application deadlines are critical for seed growers, he said. A service provider could reject a seed grower's designation if the service provider has already reached its minimum prior to receipt of the inspection application information. If a re-inspection is required, CSGA will notify the seed grower and it will be the seed grower's responsibility to contact the service provider for the re-inspection.

CSGA will continue to collect CSGA, Branch and any applicable CFIA fees but will not collect service provider inspection fees. CSGA will collect CFIA inspection fees for those inspections CFIA performs as a service provider during the transition period. Any unpaid fees due CSGA will continue to result in crop certificates being withheld. A valid email address or fax number must be on file with CSGA, or a \$25 fee per field fee will be assessed to seed grower accounts.

4. Midge Tolerance Stewardship more Critical than Ever

Todd Hyra of SeCan updated members on the stewardship program to maintain the efficacy of midge tolerant wheat blends. Resistant varieties are blended with a compatible susceptible variety to ensure that the single gene that provides the resistance maintains its effectiveness for a longer period of time. The process allows farmers to save seed, but those buying midge tolerant wheat are required to sign a Stewardship Agreement that limits the use of farm-saved seed to one generation past certified seed.

He told growers that this limitation is critical to ensure the refuge remains at the desired level of 10% of the plant population, as the refuge in farm-saved seed may change substantially over multiple generations. For example, under an extremely heavy midge infestation, the susceptible refuge variety could sustain up

to 50% yield loss. It took researchers more than 15 years to move this single gene into spring wheat varieties and no other known source of midge tolerance has been identified.

However, surveys conducted over the past few years show that the ideal blend of 90% resistant to 10% susceptible has been changing. There is no stewardship program in the US, and he urged growers not to sell seed there. The stability of refuge is still uncertain and non-compliance by a minority of farmers could lose the trait for all. With new CPS and durum varieties using the same technology, it's even more critical.

The technology saves millions per year in pesticide applications; makes millions per year in saved yield and grades (\$36 per acre based on \$6.00 wheat); and has had excellent uptake (0-32%) in 3 years. He urged growers to continue the education of their customers, and for farmers to maintain the stewardship. Use positive message and peer pressure. Enforcement would be the last resort. There is no Plan B.

5. New Cereal Variety Development Model and Where it's at

Stuart Garven of Garven and Associates brought members to up date on the progress of a new Cereal Variety Development funding model being proposed by a committee of stakeholders in the seed industry. He is the consultant leading the efforts to create an "Investment and Innovation" model for cereals in Canada that will allow for breeders and the cereal value chain to transition from the current situation to a new model that makes the whole industry stronger.

After studying systems all around the world, a conceptual model has been developed for industry input and discussion. An end point levy is considered to be the best approach because it is the least intrusive, is performance based, and takes the pressure off the seed system as being the primary source to collect revenue for future variety development.

The organizational structure, modelled after the system uses in Australia, is known as the Grain Investment Corporation. It would be established / owned by Canadian producers and open for investment from others; be a Not for Profit (NFP) business; have a board governance structure made up of producers and industry experts and the primary focus is to ensure the continued flow of new and improved AAFC genetics to producers and the cereal value chain.

Growers raised questions about the cost to the system for varieties that don't succeed; where the newly developed cereal commissions fit in; an end point royalty could reduce the amount of checkoffs that other organizations receive; and why a for profit model wasn't considered.

They were told that there is a risk of some varieties not making in any funding effort; that the commissions would be well established before this model would be functional; and that a non-profit system would be a better transition from primarily public plant breeding to an industry-controlled entity. Profit would also be taxable, reducing the funding available for future investment.

6. CSGA 2014 Annual Meeting: Solving the Partnership Puzzle

CSGA Director Joe Rennick and Event Co-ordinator Shannon McArton gave members a preview of what to expect when the Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association hosts the industry at the CSGA annual meeting to be held in Regina this summer. Solving the Partnership Puzzle is the theme as delegates gather July 9-12. Speakers will include Greg Johnson, "The Tornado Hunter"; Hon. Bill Boyd, Saskatchewan Minister of the Economy; the latest information on federal legislation affecting the seed industry; a tailgate party, tours of local attractions, and more.

7. Nominations/Election of Officers

Nominations Committee Chair Les Trowell presented the committee's slate of officers for 2014 and asked for further nominations from the floor. Presented as candidates for the consideration of the members were:

- a) President - Laurie Wakefield
- b) Vice President - Roy Klym
- c) Saskatchewan Directors - Perry Dangstorp, Brennan Wiens
- d) CSGA Director nominee - Bob Rugg

Motion

(Barry Reisner/Jason Gizen) That Nominations for positions on the Board of Directors cease. Carried.

With no further nominations, Les declared Laurie Wakefield of Maidstone elected as President for the next one year term; Roy Klym of Regina as Vice Present for the next one-year term; Perry Dangstorp of Redvers and Brennan Wiens of Herschel as Directors for two-year terms, and Bob Rugg of Elstow as SSGA's nominee for a two-year term to the CSGA Board of Directors.

5. New Varieties Update

Dr. Pierre Hucl of the University of Saskatchewan's Crop Development Centre outlined a number of promising varieties that are under development, and/or are moving forward for possible registration in 2014. Plant breeders contributing to the development of new varieties were: Aaron Beattie (barley & oat); Kirstin Bett (dry bean), Helen Booker (flax), Brian Fowler (winter wheat), Pierre Hucl (spring wheat and canary seed), Curtis Pozniak (durum wheat), Bunyamin Tar'an (chickpea), Bert Vandenberg (lentil and faba bean) and Tom Warkentin (pea). Of note was a very solid stemmed durum variety; a high-yielding pinto dry bean; a high-yielding winter wheat and spring wheats with improved disease packages.

David Gehl, Head of the Seed Increase Unit at the Indian Head Research Station, reported on the new Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada varieties that are in development, including 12 wheat varieties; a high-yielding oat variety with high higher beta glucan and total dietary fibre than the checks; and a flax variety that out yields CDC Bethune in the longer growing season areas of western Canada.

Dave also reported that as part of the CSGA 2014 annual meeting, he will be hosting a tour of the Indian Head Seed Increase unit, and will have demonstration plots of more than 300 varieties that have been multiplied at that facility over the past 100 years. With Dave's pending retirement this fall, this marks his 26th and final presentation to the annual meeting, and he expressed his appreciation to seed growers and their association over his career.

9. Resolutions

The Resolutions Committee Chair Allen Altwasser presented one resolution to the members for consideration:

RESOLUTION #1

WHEREAS: The Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association would like to officially recognize the contributions of those individuals and organizations that have assisted in this Association's annual meeting;

BE IT RESOLVED: That Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association extend its sincere appreciation to:

- 1) the Guest Speakers and program participants for their enlightening presentations, including: Mr. Bruce Carriere, Mr. Peter Entz, Mr. Jim Baillie, Mr. Stuart Garven, Mr. Giuliano Tulusso, Dr. Bryan Harvey, Mr. Dale Adolphe, Mr. David Gehl, Mr. Michael Scheffel, Mr. Elwin Hermanson, Mr Todd Hyra and Dr. Pierre Hucl;
- 2) the Sponsors for their generous support of this annual meeting, including: 20/20 Seed Labs, Alliance Seed Corporation, Bayer CropScience, BioVision Seed Labs, BMO Financial Group, Brett Young Seeds, CANTERRA SEEDS, Cornerstone Credit Union, CPS Proven Seed, CropInspect, Discovery Seed Lab, EMW Industrial, Farm Business Consultants, Farrell Agencies, FP Genetics, Grain Millers, Innovation Credit Union, Lewis M. Carter Manufacturing, Mastin Seeds, Nexeed, Northstar Genetics, Novozymes Biologicals, Richardson International, SeCan, Seed, Depot, Syngenta Crop Protection, T&L Seeds and Western Producer Publications;
- 3) and to any others who have contributed to the success of this meeting.

Moved by Allen Altwasser

Seconded by Perry Dangstorp

Carried Unanimously

With no other business, President Laurie expressed his appreciation to the speakers, guests and the members for their participation at the annual meeting and for their support of the Association.. He called Allen Altwasser forward and presented him with a plaque in recognition of his service to the Board of Directors from 2012-2014, and to a standing ovation, he presented a plaque to David Gehl for his 25 years of service to seed growers, the Board of Directors and the SSGA.

Motion

(Wayne Amos/Roy Klym) That the 85th Annual Meeting of the Saskatchewan Seed Growers Association be adjourned. Carried.