



Manitoba Flax Growers Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Minutes

Monday, January 14th, 2013 @ 9:00 a.m. (CST)
Canad Inns, Roadhouse Room
1125 – 18th Street, Brandon, MB.

Attendees:

Eric Fridfinnson (*Chair*)
Hugh Drake
Brad Rasmussen
Chris Raffard
Shawn Zegher
Ernie Wiens
John Dueck
Anastasia Kubinec (*observer*)

Speakers:

Erwin Hanley, SDFC
William Hill, Flax Council of Canada
Anastasia Kubinec, MAFRI
Simon Potter, CIC
Mike Espeseth, WGRF
Dr. Scott Duguid, AAFC
Dr. Santosh Kumar, AAFC
Eric Liu, MAFRI
Todd Hyra, SeCan

Guests:

Denis Magotiaux, SWM Intl.
Doug Chorney, KAP
GF Thomson, GlennMar Farms
Greg Graham, SWM Intl.
John Hardmsn, SWM Intl.
Bob Bartley, R&S Bartley Farms Ltd.
Hank Froese, SWM Intl.
Darin Bouchard, SWM Intl.
Robert Kincaid, Producer
Pearl de Sztain, Western Ribbons
Karen Debroni, YES Winnipeg
David Cantin, MB Cooperator

Present:

Monika Haley, MFGA (recording)
Maureen Jordan, FCC

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

Welcome – Eric Fridfinnson

Over the past few years we have an interesting program. We had a busy year; we contracted the management for the organization to the FCC. Capable staff of the council doing a great job. We are small and this is the way we can contain our overhead costs. Planning session your board's purpose is to improve agronomic research. Quickest way to accomplish this is through research. 2012 contribution to tufgen and cibus lead by FCC. Support Dr. Duguid project. This project is made possible through the ardi for support. Other two projects. Our contribution to the first stage of tufgen is now complete. It's a project that maps the genome. This work is first stage only and gives us a better understanding. Other projects will build on this first stage. Ht flax, technology provided by cibus out of California. First gene resistant to glyphosate. This will allow the development of flax to move more quickly. Smaller crops may use this tool as well. It is exciting to be part of the flax research effort. FCC has developed a research strategy with next stage of cibus. This will require all industry players, mfga, ccorp progtecion, provincial govern, aafc, mfga and FCC. This is our real opportunity to carry flax forward. We really have limited resources unless we channel them we won't accomplish much of value. Vvrc purpose is to identify issue and make recommendations on flax varieties registered in Canada. Participants, will, terry, Linda, Shane stoke, Chad, Brian Johnson, Michelle vandevoorde, dr Scott Duguid, Khalid, Veronique and Paul Dribnenki who is helping fcc construct the research effort for fcc with cibus. We are doing a poor job of communicating our needs to the farm community. Some want fibre content and higher oil content. Some interested in seed colour and bigger seed. Cadmium and glyphosate issues. We were feeding all this information to the breeders and it's not fair to them. Hopefully this industry wide effort will provide better input and better results. We need direction future research needs and our funds should be focused on the flax crop. There are some other issues that are important to the sfdc as well. Participating in growing forward ii. On the larger front, we joined keystone agriculture producers to be involved in policy. We don't have access to policy analyst and we will have a better chance with KAP resources. The issues of changes to the producer payment security are important issues to flax growers. The other issue is the ongoing Triffid issue. We have involved the CDC of Saskatoon to reconstitute their seed. It's important part of cleaning up the triffid issue. AAFC does not have an issue there with their seed. The whole industry has cooperated in trying to rid triffid from the system. SFDC continues to encourage the pedigreed seed to clean up the industry. Encourage producers to test and market existing stocks on farm. Stop testing in the near future. Small price to pay in order to market into the EU again. Good news from Dr. Grant pierce, very interesting work being done with the flax industry in Manitoba.

Get notes from Eric

Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission – Erwin Hanley (see attached)

Mr. Hanley made his presentation to the group.

Flax Council of Canada – William Hill (see attached)

Mr. Hill made his presentation to the group.

Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives – Anastasia Kubinec (see attached)

Ms. Kubinec made her presentation to the group.

Composites Innovation Centre – Simon Potter (see attached)

Mr. Potter made his presentation to the group.

Flax Council of Canada – William Hill (see attached)

Mr. Hill made his presentation to the group.

- Health Claim Submission for ground flax has been submitted to Health Canada.
- This will lead to the ability for marketers to label their produce with health claim.
- Initiative of re-constituted seed working and communicating with growers over the next 2 years to buy new seed.
- Move current seed stocks and segregate new production from old production.
- Dispose of old seed stocks.
- Replenish the seed stock producing a new lower amount of Triffid and close to zero to regain EU market share.
- Thanks to producers that have participated in the Farm Stewardship Program.
- The amount of Triffid was reduced from 14% to 4% and looking to drive that further down to convince regulators in the EU and Japan that testing is no longer necessary.
- Continue testing one more year to ensure what the levels are.
- Get close enough to zero and then stop testing.
- Summer of 2015 to wind up testing.

Cibus Project

- The government supports the project moving forward knowing flax farmers need better weed control.
- The government has been behind the program and has invested a lot.
- Producers are invested as well.
- Western Grains has expressed interest.
- Stakeholders are prepared to step up.
- SFDC have increased their levy.
- FCC has increased their levy.
- The EU crushers contributed \$100,000 last year.

Everyone knows how important it is and the commitment to the industry and farm stewardship all add credibility and more people are realizing the need for an alternate to crop rotation.

Annual Business Meeting

1. Approval of Agenda

The Chair suggested adding "Liability Insurance" under item #6.

MOTION: Hugh/Dueck to approve the agenda as circulated.

Carried

2. Approval of minutes of last AGM – March 15th, 2012 (see attached)

MOTION: Wiens/Rasmussen to approve the minutes as circulated.

Carried

3. Business arising from the minutes

No business arising from the minutes.

4. "Notice to Reader" Financial Statement Year Ending July 31st, 2012 (see attached)

Mr. Rasmussen reported assets are down but the reserve is in good shape. Assets are at \$359,182; liabilities at \$6,115 and net worth at \$359,000 compared to \$418,000 one year ago. Lower production and revenue. Maintaining the funding for budget. The deficiency last year for a poor crop. MFGA is in a good position at \$360,000.

MOTION: rasmussen/Zeghers to approve the Financial Statement as circulated.

Carried

5. Appointment of Auditors

The Chair indicated that MFGA is satisfied with the work being done by Lazer Grant and recommended they be appointed.

MOTION: Drake/Wiens to appoint Lazer Grant as Auditors for the 2013/2014 Fiscal Year.

Carried

SeCan – Todd Hyra (see attached)

Mr. Hyra made his presentation to the group. He pointed out that testing will go beyond the commercial stocks. SeCan is working with FCC to push one year past 2015 through 2016.

Keystone Agricultural Producers – Doug Chorney, President

Mr. Chorney announced that next week is KAP's Annual Meeting, January 25th & 26th, 2013. The Executive is to implement policy within the 6 commodity groups. Developing wheat and barley so it looks like one commodity group to deal with these two. At the Annual Meeting there will be a lot of resolutions. KAP has been successful in getting school tax off the farm property, etc. Meeting with Chief Fire Commissioner to look at compliance issues with farmers. We have a lot of credibility with decision makers. He invited everyone to attend.

Western Grains Research Foundation – Mike Espeseth (see attached)

Mr. Espeseth made his presentation to the group.

The Chair noted that WGRF is an important source of funding. He thanked Mr. Espeseth for his presentation of important information.

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada – Dr. Scott Duguid (see attached)

Dr. Duguid made his presentation to the group.

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada – Dr. Santosh Kumar (see attached)

Dr. Kumar made his presentation to the group.

Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives - Eric Liu (see attached)

Mr. Liu made his presentation to the group.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending. He encouraged everyone to continue the process of ridding the Triffid from the handling system. Purge stocks of flax in commercial production from previous years. Those that decide to grow flax will make some money.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.