

**Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission
Annual General Meeting
3:00 p.m. Monday, January 8, 2018**

**Gallery B, TCU Place
Saskatoon, SK**

ATTENDANCE:

Present: 21 registered producers
68 guests

Chair: Shane Stokke
Secretary: Wayne Thompson

CALL TO ORDER:

Shane Stokke, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Directors and guests were introduced.

The scrutineer, Glenn Payne, was asked if quorum for the meeting was present, yes.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

The agenda was reviewed as circulated.

MOTION: Erwin Hanley, seconded by Nancy Johns, that the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes from the January 10, 2017 annual general meeting were circulated to the attendees.

MOTION: Greg Sundquist, seconded by Jordon Hillier, that the minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting minutes be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING:

There was not any business arising.

CHAIR REPORT:

Shane Stokke reported on the activities of SaskFlax for the past year. Highlights of the report are:

- Board Participation

The Board has been very active in the past year attending several meetings and events to represent the Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission. Greg Sundquist attends the Special Crops Value Chain Roundtable meetings, Jordon Hillier attends the Grains Roundtable meetings, Dave Sefton sits on the Western Grains Research Foundation Board, Erwin Hanley sits on the Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan Board and Flax Council of Canada Board, Nancy Johns attends the Feed Innovation Institute meetings and Prairie Recommending Committee on Oilseeds meeting, and Shane Stokke sits on the Grain Growers of Canada and Flax Council of Canada boards and attends the Prairie Recommending Committee on Oilseeds.

- Growing Season
The growing season for flax was a challenging one because not all areas had sufficient moisture to reach an average yield. However, across the province, on average, the flax crop turned out to be okay with production over 500,000 tonnes across the Prairies.
- Research and Variety Development
SaskFlax continues to work with the Crop Development Centre to keep the flax breeding program sustainable and SaskFlax will work with the Crop Development Centre in 2018.
- Market Development
The Mexican and Chinese markets remain to be of interest as opportunities for growth in flax. Each market is growing as the interest in the health benefits of flax are resonating with the consumer.
- Organization
SaskFlax is growing with the upcoming addition of a flax agronomist in the organization and the move to a new office in November of 2017.
- The Chair thanked the board and staff for their efforts in the past year.

MOTION: Nancy Johns, seconded by Brent Johnson, that the chair's report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Wayne Thompson reported on the activities of SaskFlax for the past year. Highlights of the report are:

- Research
The Board has been very active in the past year attending several meetings and events to represent the Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission. Greg Sundquist attends the Special Crops Value Chain Roundtable meetings, Jordon Hillier attends the Grains Roundtable meetings, Dave Sefton sits on the Western Grains Research

Foundation Board, Erwin Hanley sits on the Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan Board and Flax Council of Canada Board, Nancy Johns attends the Feed Innovation Institute meetings and Prairie Recommending Committee on Oilseeds meeting, and Shane Stokke sits on the Grain Growers of Canada and Flax Council of Canada boards and attends the Prairie Recommending Committee on Oilseeds.

- Market Development

The growing season for flax was a challenging one because not all areas had sufficient moisture to reach an average yield. However, across the province, on average, the flax crop turned out to be okay with production over 500,000 tonnes across the Prairies.

- Advocacy

SaskFlax continues to work with the Crop Development Centre to keep the flax breeding program sustainable and SaskFlax will work with the Crop Development Centre in 2018.

MOTION: Greg Sundquist, seconded by Allan Kuhlman, that the executive director's report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

2017 RESOLUTIONS REPORT

Wayne reported on the activities for the resolutions from the 2017 Annual General Meeting.

Resolution – Water Drainage on Farmland

The Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission participated on a conference call with other producer organizations to discuss the issue raised in the resolution. There was not further action taken on the issue at the time.

Resolution – Continuation of the Maximum Revenue Entitlement (MRE)

The Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission leveraged its membership with the Grain Growers of Canada to ensure the federal government was aware of the concerns of flax producers and the expectation that the Maximum Revenue Entitlement would remain in federal legislation.

MANITOBA FLAX GROWERS ASSOCIATION UPDATE:

Eric Fridfinnson, Chair of the Manitoba Flax Growers Association, presented on work the Manitoba Flax Growers Association has done with the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada research funding programs including Growing Actions in Manitoba. The focus of the Manitoba Flax Growers Association is encouraging better agronomy practices for growing flax. The acres in Manitoba were down in 2017. The producer organizations in Manitoba are looking at amalgamation options and currently in the consultation phase.

FLAX COUNCIL OF CANADA UPDATE:

Brian Johnson, Chair of the Flax Council of Canada, presented on the successes of the Flax Council of Canada. These successes included getting a health claim for flax, promotion of flax, and research and support on flax agronomy.

The Flax Council of Canada has had to make a tough decision and close the office as funding of the Council has fallen. There will continue to be efforts made to reorganize the Flax Council of Canada.

FINANCE:

Presentation of 2015/16 Budget

Presentation of 2017/18 Budget

Wayne Thompson presented the budget for the Commission. The deficit budget was noted and the increase in research funding to the Crop Development Centre flax breeding program.

Presentation of the July 31, 2017 audited statements.

Michael Fairbrother of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP presented the audited statements for the 2016/17 fiscal year. No concerns or questions were raised from the floor.

MOTION: Nancy Johns, seconded by Erwin Hanley, that the audited statements for July 31, 2017 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR:

Shane Stokke recommends that PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP be chosen as the auditor for 2017/18.

MOTION: Jordon Hillier, seconded by Greg Sundquist, that PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP be appointed as auditor for 2017/18.

CARRIED

APPOINTMENT OF AUDIT CHAIR FOR SASKFLAX:

MOTION: Dave Sefton, seconded by Erwin Hanley, that Nancy Johns be appointed as Audit Chair for 2017/18.

CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 1 - Director Remuneration

Shane Stokke introduced the resolution for Director Remuneration.

Whereas the Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission is established as a development commission pursuant to section 5 of the Agri-Food Act;

Whereas the Commission consists of a Board of Directors consisting of six registered producers elected in accordance with sections 18 to 20 of the Act;

Whereas the remuneration to be paid to the members of the Commission is to be fixed by the registered producers at the annual meeting, and remuneration for previous fiscal years was \$250.00 (Chair) and \$225.00 (Directors);

Be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission rates of remuneration for its Directors is established at rates of \$250.00 per day (Chair) and \$225.00 per day (Directors) for the fiscal year 2016/2017.

MOTION: Jordon Hillier, seconded by Erwin Hanley, that the rates for remuneration for the Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission be set at \$250 per day for Chair and \$225 per day for Directors for 2017/18.

CARRIED

Resolution 2 – Saskatchewan Provincial PST on Insurance Premiums

SaskFlax received a resolution from Dave Sefton that reads:

Whereas at the Leadership Candidate Panel on January 3, 2018 all the leadership candidates from the Saskatchewan Party committed to reviewing the assessment of Provincial Sales Tax (PST) on Insurance Premiums
and;

Whereas most if not all the candidates committed to exempting Insurance Premiums from PST
and;

Whereas the PST on Insurance Premiums can amount to thousands of dollars if not tens of thousands of new costs to agriculture
and;

Whereas the PST on Insurance Premiums has caused a disproportionate amount of new provincial revenue to come from the agriculture sector.

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission supports the exemption of PST on Insurance Premiums and that the Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission urges the exemption to be implemented in the 2018 Provincial budget.

MOTION: Dave Sefton, seconded by Allan Kuhlman, that Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission support the exemption of PST on Insurance Premium and urges the provincial government to implement the exemption in the 2018 Provincial Budget.

Dave Sefton spoke to the resolution.

The question was called.

CARRIED

Resolution 3 – Railway Costing Review

SaskFlax received a resolution from Allen Kuhlmann that reads:

Whereas CN & CP committed to share the gains to the grain handling and transportation system from centralization as costs were reduced

Therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission urge the Federal government to immediately initiate a costing review to enable CN & CP to meet their commitment.

MOTION: Allen Kuhlmann, seconded by Brent Johnson, that the Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission urge the Federal government hold a costing review of the railways.

Allen Kuhlmann spoke to the resolution.

The question was called.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

Scott Sefton adjourned the Annual General Meeting at 3:50 p.m.