



NSAC Board Meetings - Summary of Minutes

Board Meeting – January 17, 2011

2011 Budget – The NSAC Board reviewed the 2011 budget as presented and a motion was approved that the 2011 budget be accepted as presented.

MCVET Trials – D. Graham updated the board on the 2010 variety trials outlining errors that occurred in the trials, including bad site selection, weed control and planting issues. The board agreed that for 2011 strict oversight of all protocols will be required and regulated through the agronomist position, ensuring proper site selection, planting, staking and harvest protocols are followed.

MB Sunflower Surveillance Survey – D. Graham outlined the success of the past two years of the MB Sunflower Surveillance Survey. The NSAC achieved the status among industry representatives as the source of knowledge of the sunflower crop throughout the growing season. The 2011 survey will expand to include the use of social networking and text messages to get key messages to producers as well as an online survey through the assistance of DuPont.

Multi-Input Trial – A. Kubinec presented data from the 2010 Sunflower multi-input trial, reviewing results from the site in Melita. The Beausejour location was not seeded due to excess moisture. It was suggested the board consider a second year of funding to collect additional data before it is published to products. A motion was carried that NSAC fund a second year of the Multi-Input trial.

Control of Sclerotinia Head Rot and Rust in Sunflowers - The board agreed the proposal is in line with NSAC's priorities for research funds. Project protocols will be altered to utilize a confection hybrid and include a grading component.

MB Special Crops Production Day – D. Graham reviewed details for the MB Special Crops Production Day to be held March 3rd, 2011 at the Royal Oak Inn and Suites in Brandon. The morning portion will include presentation on the survey, weeds and desiccation update and authority product updates. The afternoon session will feature a planter school with participation from the large equipment dealers including planter demo displays.

Board Meeting – February 10th, 2011

Election of Officers – Kelly Dobson was acclaimed as President, Gregg Fotheringham as Vice-President and Leonard Lepp as 2nd Vice-President. The committees were structured based on knowledge of the Board of Directors and approved.

MASC Annual Meeting – D. Graham updated the board on the agenda items outlined for the annual MASC meeting to be held February 15th, 2011 in Portage la Prairie. MASC added an additional item to the agenda in regards to grade guarantee for non-oil sunflowers. The Board of Directors agreed the NSAC will receive the information from MASC and report back to the board at our next meeting.

Minister Struthers Meeting – D. Graham reported that the Minister confirmed a meeting date with the NSAC for February 16th, 2011 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. The agenda for the Minister will be as follows: Opportunities and challenges of the Sunflower industry of Manitoba, blackbird damage, timelines for producers in a claim position and grade guarantee for confection sunflowers.

Board Meeting – March 3, 2011

Confection Sunflower Grade Guarantee - P. Bonnet discussed that the sunflower insurance program is designed based on four areas: insurable area, probable yield (PY), premium rates and insurable values. Probable yield is the concern that confection sunflowers face in failing the test. If the test is failed, the provincial government will get charged for additional fees and this has yet to happen for any crop under MASC.

MASC laid out three options that could allow confections to pass the Probable Yield test:

- Reduce the quality guarantee to number two. This option would lower quality adjustments for claims and insurable value and reduction in premium rate and would allow confection sunflowers to pass the test.
- Reduce provincial average yields. This option would result in yield guarantees going down by approximately three to four percent and a reduced premium rate but may not suffice for probable yield test.
- Quality adjustment to individual yields for PY and IPI calculations. This option would result in lower probable yields, which apply directly to the producers with low quality. An IPI adjustment would bring others back to the original level. There would be no change in quality adjustment or insurable value but there would be a reduction in premium rate. This option may not suffice for probable yield test.

K. Dobson requested MASC run the two other options to determine if they will pass the test. Following the results, the board of directors will provide feedback to ensure confection sunflower pass the probable yield test.