



**2023 SASKOATS AGM MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, January 11, 9:00 AM**  
**PrairieLand Park & via Zoom**

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**Attendees:** 78 total attendees, including 26 registered voters (Virtual and in-person)

Ambrely Ralph, SaskOats Chair welcomed everyone to the hybrid SaskOats Annual Business Meeting and highlighted the voting instructions for those joining virtually. Ralph then introduced Mike Hall, East Central Research Foundation for the first presentation, and later introduced the second speaker, David MacTaggart from the Northeast Ag Research Foundation.

Ralph called the business portion of the meeting to order at 10:15 am.

**Approval of 2023 AGM Agenda:** no additions were brought forward.

Motion: Jocelyn Velestuk/Alan Butuk to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

Ralph introduced current Board members: Chris Rundel, producer from Foam lake (on-line); Landon Kuschak, producer from Ituna (on-line) and Vice Chair; Elwood White, producer from Pangman and the new SaskOats Audit Chair; Jessica Slowski, producer from Sheho; and Ryan Zuchkan, producer from Foam Lake.

Ralph also introduced the POGA staff – Executive Director Shawna Mathieson; Dawn Popescul working part-time on special projects; and Cyndee Holdnick, POGA part-time Marketing Coordinator (on-line).

**Approval of 2022 AGM Minutes:** Ralph noted the minutes from SaskOats 2022 AGM held January 12, 2022 were posted on the POGA website, and available to those in the room.

Motion: Ryan Zuchkan/Jocelyn Velestuk to approve the 2022 AGM Minutes as presented. Carried.

**Review of 2021-2022 Financial Statements:** Ralph, 2022 SaskOats Audit Chair, reviewed the 2022 audited SaskOats Financial Statements and presented the 2022-2023 SaskOats Budget. Ralph noted that, for the year ending July 31, 2022, SaskOats realized a net loss of just over \$220,000 which was due to the very low oat production in 2021 caused by weather conditions.

Ralph also indicated that in 2021, oat production in Saskatchewan was down by around 40%, and this resulted in a decrease in SaskOats producer check-off revenue of nearly \$290,000, or almost 36% less than the previous year. Ralph also stated that SaskOats has approximately \$1.1 M in GICs and the goal, long term is to be closer to \$850,000, or one year of operating revenue.

The SaskOats proportionate contribution to the Prairie Oat Growers Association, or POGA, was about 54% which is a normal level.

Producer refund requests in 2021-2022 were 6.4% of dollars collected and 4.2% of the total number of producers paying the levy. Ralph noted that this is lower than the 2020-2021 year at 7.9% of dollars collected, and slightly above with the percentage of producers requesting a refund, previously at 3.9%.

Ralph noted SaskOats' involvement in the Prairie Oat Growers Association which includes the provincial oat associations from Alberta and Manitoba. SaskOats does support Saskatchewan projects outside of POGA and Ralph indicated that they are listed in the provided SaskOats Annual Report and at [poga.ca](http://poga.ca)

**Review of the 2022-2023 Budget:** For 2022-23, Ralph stated that producer levy income is forecasted at more average levels of \$765,000 based on Statistics Canada production projections.

Ralph reported on many of the projects SaskOats supported throughout the year including Ag in the Classroom, Farm and Foodcare Saskatchewan and Learn to Lead.

Motion: Bernie McClean/Jessica Slowski to accept the audited 2021-2022 SaskOats Financial Statements and the 2022-2023 Budget as presented. Carried.

Motion: Jessica Slowski /Terry Youzwa to appoint Baker Tilly of Yorkton, SK as SaskOats Auditor for 2022-2023 year. Carried.

**Resolutions:** Ralph noted that no resolutions had been brought forward for discussion as per the 30-day notice deadline of December 11, 2022.

**Project Overview & Slide of Spending Priorities Pie Chart:** Ralph noted the SaskOats priorities for funding: 45% for market development, 35% for research, 10% for communications, 5% for advocacy, and 5% for building partnerships. Ralph noted that the percentages are a bit different than what is shown in the annual report because, just yesterday, the SaskOats board made a motion to focus 5% more dollars on market development and reduce advocacy by the same amount.

Ralph also indicated that SaskOats, independently and through POGA supports over 30 projects with eight different provincial and federal funders, plus industry support. Through these partnerships, POGA, through the three provincial associations, have turned \$3.9 M of levy dollars into \$28.1 M which is less than 15 cents of every dollar paid by producers for this work.

Ralph noted a few highlights from the past year, including continued work on the marketing campaigns in Mexico, Japan, and Canada, the Ottawa mission as well as SaskOats work with SaskCrops, a group of SaskOats and the other larger commissions in Saskatchewan working together to ensure groups have the ear of the government and are involved in decisions that affect oat growers before decisions are made. It was noted that more information on all of the marketing campaigns and missions can be found in recent Oat Scoops, which were mailed to all oat producers, and it is also available on-line at [poga.ca](http://poga.ca).

SaskOats, Ralph noted, along with the commissions in Manitoba and Alberta, continues to support every Western Canadian oat breeder including Dr. Aaron Beattie at the Crop Development Centre, Jim Dyck with Oat Advantage of Saskatoon, and Dr. Kirby Nilsen at the AAFC Brandon program.

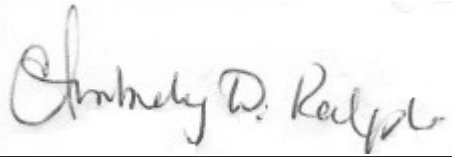
In addition, she said that SaskOats continues to meet with the Minister of Agriculture in Saskatchewan, annually, to discuss oat specific and general agriculture issues.

Despite the reduced oat crop in 2021 and the many challenges in the sector, Ralph stated that the past year has been successful with good progress in areas such as research, influencing provincial and national policy and reaching international target audiences.

As well, consumer demand for oats has increased substantially, and SaskOats is optimistic this will continue. Ralph said it appears oats, oat beverages and other related products are of strong interest to consumers and will continue to be for the foreseeable future.

Motion: Clinton Monchuk to adjourn at 10:35 am.

Ralph thanked everyone for attending, and introduced the next speaker, Marlene Boersch from Mercantile Consulting to present her oat market outlook.



Ambrely Ralph, Chair

March 16, 2023

Date