



2024 MOGA AGM MINUTES
Wednesday, February 14, 2024
Victoria Inn & Conference Centre, Winnipeg

Present: 49 attendees including 31 growers

Chair Yves Lapointe called the meeting to order at 12:29pm, and welcomed everyone to the Manitoba Oat Growers Association's (MOGA) AGM. Lapointe noted that the AGM materials are posted on the POGA website at www.poga.ca, and also are available at the registration table.

Motion: Jenneth Johanson/ Lorne Boundy to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

Motion: Bob Lepischak/Ray Mazinke to approve the minutes from February 15, 2023, Manitoba Oat Growers Association 2022 AGM. Carried.

Introductions and Elections: Lapointe introduced the MOGA Board of Directors: Ray Mazinke from Morris, MB, and also the Vice-Chair; Bob Lepischak, from Rossmore/Neepawa and the Audit Chair; Jenneth Johanson, from Lac du Bonnet; Brittany Vinck, from Virden; and Edgar Scheurer, from Dugald.

Lapointe shared that Jenneth Johanson from Lac du Bonnet and Brittany Vinck from Virden are both stepping down this year. Brittany has been on the board for four years and sat on the committee to review varieties to go forward for PGDC. Jenneth has been on the board for 8 years, was the POGA President from 2019-April of 2023 and did an incredible amount of work for the organization throughout her term. Lapointe shared an appreciation gift with Johanson and Vinck.

MOGA held an election this year. There were three positions up for election and three people put their name forward and one additional expressed interest. Lapointe acclaimed Bob Lepischak from Neepawa, Griffin Smith from Oak Bank and Emily Laudin from Grosse Isle. In addition, Lapointe announced a new board member-at-large, John Bergen from Carman.

Lapointe introduced the POGA staff – Executive Director Shawna Mathieson, now in her 13th year, Pam Yule working part-time on special projects, and Kaitlyn Kitzan POGA part-time Marketing Coordinator.

Lapointe thanked his fellow directors and staff for being there and thanked them for their time and dedication in supporting the good work of the Manitoba Oat Growers Association.

Resolutions: No resolutions were brought forward for this meeting.

Motions:

Lapointe noted that on the agenda, the website, Twitter, in the Manitoba Cooperator and through a direct mail out that MOGA, along with the other Western Canadian Oat Commissions, is asking for an increase in the oat levy to \$0.75 per tonne, up from \$0.50 per tonne. Lapointe shared that the increase would mean that MOGA would be able to do more research projects that have merit that are currently not feasible, look at additional markets to expand to, assist the oat breeders more as federal funds continue to erode. In addition, Lapointe added, the levy has not been increased since the levy came into force in Saskatchewan in 2006 or Manitoba in 2008. Obviously, there's a lot of cost increases in that 18-

year timeframe. Oats currently has the lowest check off of any crop in Western Canada and this increase would put oats closer to par, but still a little less on average, than other crops like wheat and barley per acre. With only 1.5 staff spread between 4 organizations there's no cost cutting that can be done there. Lapointe shared that the following motions have been brought forward from the board of directors for consideration:

Motion: Bob Anderson/Brad Myskiw To increase the Manitoba Oat Growers Association (MOGA) service charge/levy from \$0.50 per tonne to \$0.75 per tonne effective August 1, 2024, or later (when the regulation comes into force). Carried.

Lapointe noted that the second motion was discussed by the board more than a year ago as MOGA has the lowest director per diem of any commission in Western Canada and the board wants to make sure that's not a deterrent to attract new directors, and that there is more adequate compensation for director's time. Lapointe shared considering the board's request to increase the oat levy the board has decided not to make this motion themselves. Lapointe noted that a producer did make the motion in Saskatchewan and Alberta a few weeks ago and it was unanimously approved.

Motion: Lorne Boundy/ Reid Mazinke to increase the Manitoba Oat Growers Association (MOGA) director remuneration to \$300 per day and for the chairman to \$350 per day effective March 1, 2024. Carried.

Review of 2022-2023 Financial Statements: Mathieson reviewed the 2022-2023 income and expenses, stating that MOGA realized a net gain of just over \$100,000 for the year, which was due to an increase of check off dollars. Mathieson noted that Canadian oat acres were down significantly, or nearly 50% versus last year according to the last Statistics Canada report, this will impact the MOGA budget next year in terms of revenue from producer levies. For 2023-2024 a deficit of just over \$97,000 is projected.

Mathieson shared that producer levy income is forecasted at just under \$300,000 based on Statistics Canada projections. This is a large drop in income compared to last's year revenue of \$459,000 but this is expected due to the drop in oat acres last year. Mathieson shared that one thing that the board did this year, that has not been done in the past for the budget, was to include the oats estimated in carry out. The reason for this change was because the carry out number is so large this year, expected to be about \$50,000 in revenue, that to not include it would make our budget unrealistic and this number was even larger in Saskatchewan, so for consistency it was added in for all three prairie provinces. MOGA has the reserves to cover this loss but will continue monitoring expenses closely and will be reviewing this again regularly.

POGA projects are focused to benefit all oat growers, and a Western Canadian voice and representation allows for more access to government funding and industry partnerships, as opposed to each province on their own. As such, the bulk of Manitoba's spend is to POGA, as nearly every project is funded by POGA and all staffing, outreach work, policy work, etc. is shared with POGA. Over 30 projects are underway at this time.

Mathieson highlighted MOGA's priorities for funding, noting that the allocation is 45% for market development, 35% for research, 10% for communications, 15% for advocacy, and 5% for building partnerships.

Mathieson noted a few highlights from the past year, including continued work on the marketing campaigns in Mexico, Japan, and Canada. POGA also started a small Latin American project with Peru being the initial main target. 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.

MOGA, Mathieson noted, along with the commissions in Saskatchewan 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.

Motion: Kevin Frieson/Lorne Boundy to accept the 2022-2023 Manitoba Oat Growers Association Financial Reports as presented. Carried.

Motion: Bob Lepischak/Jenneth Johanson to appoint Baker Tilly of Yorkton, SK as accountant for the Manitoba Oat Growers Association for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Carried.

Dean Harder asked MOGA about royalties from oat breeding. Mathieson answered that POGA does receive royalties from AAFC funded varieties but not from either CDC or Oat Advantage. Harder also asked about new payments from producers for saving seed. Mathieson stated that she has had no calls/comments on this but POGA/MOGA will hear a seed modernization presentation at the March POGA board meeting where she will ask more information on this.

Chair, Yves Lapointe thanked everyone for attending, and asked for a motion to adjourn the business portion of the 2024 MOGA AGM at 12:33 pm. Edgar Scheurer made that motion. Lapointe welcomed the guest speaker Donalee Jones, Senior Producer, Great Tastes of Manitoba.