



91st Annual General Meeting Report

February 6 & 7, 2020

Kananaskis Mountain Lodge | Kananaskis, Alberta



Alberta Seed Growers Association Board of Directors for 2019

Past President:	Ward Oatway
President:	Renee Hoyme
Vice President:	Tracy Niemela
Provincial Directors:	Richard Hallett Tom Jackson Nick Sekulic Tim Willms
Provincial Advisor:	Dr. Robert Graf
National Directors:	Scott Horner Glenn Logan
National Advisor:	Mark MacNaughton (appointed by the Government of Alberta)
Executive Director:	Kelly Chambers
FarmTech Committee:	Chelsea Tomlinson (current Chair of FarmTech Foundation)

Alberta Seed Growers Business Meeting

Call to Order

President Renee Hoyme called the 91st Annual General Meeting of the Alberta Seed Growers' Association to order at 8:00 a.m. on February 7, 2020 in the Gold Ballroom, Kananaskis Mountain Lodge, Kananaskis, Alberta

- Welcomed all delegates
- Thanked all sponsors

Approval of Agenda

MOTION: That the agenda be approved as presented.

M/S/C

Welcome Address: Doug Sell, Vice President, Alberta Seed Processors

Good Morning, my name is Doug Sell; I am the new vice president of Alberta Seed Processors.... We live about an hour NE of Calgary, halfway between Strathmore and Three Hills. It is where I grew up and where I started farming a year after high school, 40+ years ago, and still call home. I got involved with Alberta Seed Processors a couple of years ago and I serve as regional director for zone 2. As in life, so in farming, there is always something to learn and I am enjoying the challenge of this new venture.

Today I bring greetings on behalf of the 67 farmer-owned cooperative seed and grain processing plants in Alberta and B.C. that make up our organization. The Alberta Seed Processors are a network of seed and grain processing professionals focused on providing Alberta farmers, seed growers and the agriculture

industry with value-added services to support the growth of the local and therefore the global agriculture economy.

Alberta is a large diverse land where the geography and vastness gives conferences like this that broad cross section of boots on the ground real world outlook.... Some of us for the 1st time (me being one of them) have unharvested crop waiting for a better day.... some of you have faced these challenges before and this is almost old hat. Some of you were too dry and harvest was completed before the #harvestfromhell became a catch phrase. Again, it is our vast, diverse province that gives us these opportunities. Our experiences shape our thinking, and it is these kinds of challenges and obstacles that will foster and encourage innovation, out of the box thinking and analysis, to try and objectively draw conclusions that lead to a tomorrow that is not only profitable, but also the overused and misunderstood word “sustainable” I have a pretty simple definition of sustainability.... Under my stewardship is my land better than when I started farming 40 years ago.... Will future generations have land that will be up to the task of feeding that growing world.... My answer is yes. Does that mean I have arrived? Not even close.... To me the value of farm conferences is that there is always something to learn.

With the challenges of this year’s #harvestfromhell, Alberta Seed Processors are processing to the very best standard they can, this varied crop in preparation for a planting season that is not that far away... last year 40M bushels were cleaned for seed, export or for domestic needs of food and feed, and we are on pace to accomplish that again.... the “SeedSmart” program has been very successful in helping make farmers aware of the need and the benefits of putting the very best quality seed available into the ground each year. The ongoing mutual benefit or shall I say “synergy” of our two organizations is that you provide the best possible seed that farmers “want” to grow, and we clean it to the very best standard possible.... Another area of ongoing collaboration between our organizations is The Alberta Seed Guide.... Like most of you I spent some considerable morning java time perusing the latest edition that all us received in the last couple of weeks.... It is a very good resource and I encourage all of our seed plants and seed growers to continue using it to get your message out.... Is there any other farm publication that gets read and reread more than “The Alberta Seed Guide”?

Lastly a few words about Value Creation.... A few weeks ago at our Seed Processors AGM we were very appreciative of the presentation of Todd Hyra (SeCan) and Lauren Comin (AWC) ... having common ground and viewing the landscape from a larger 30,000-foot vantage point is helpful. It is from an elevated position where we all can more clearly see and appreciate what the other person sees as well.... Are we “THERE” yet? No, but these ongoing discussions are healthy and necessary....

This reminds me a bit of Jordon Petersons book “12 Rules For Life”

.... These principles apply to all of life whether it be in business or personal relationships, and should be applied to politics, but I will not go there.... I will paraphrase Where is “There”? There is where we are simultaneously: 1) stable... 2) exploring... 3) transforming... 4) repairing... 5) cooperating...

1) Feet on the ground



- 2) Out of the box thinking
- 3) Making the necessary changes
- 4) There are hurts along the way and we look out for the other person.
- 5) The acknowledgement that we are all in this together.

I want to thank you all for having me here today, and I wish you all a profitable and successful AGM, and all the best in the year to come.... THANK YOU

President's Address: Renee Hoyme

Good morning everyone. Thank you for being here today at the Alberta Seed Growers' 91st AGM. I hope you are all enjoying our new venue this year at the Kananaskis Mountain Lodge.

I'm Renee Hoyme and I am the President of the Alberta Seed Growers and just entering my second year in this position. This first year has been a busy one. For many of us, 2019 was a year that brought some unexpected challenges and difficulties. But 2019 was also a year packed with collaboration, hard work and innovation.

One of the most urgent issues our organization is facing right now and working hard on is Fusarium. This disease has spread aggressively in 2016 and again this year, making it even more critical to have more options to manage it effectively and quickly. Our board met with the Agriculture and Forestry Minister, the Honorable Devin Dreeshen, a couple times last summer and re-iterated this messaging to him. We don't have a satisfactory solution just yet; we will keep working on this.

One of our other common goals is to produce two editions of the Alberta Seed Guide annually in collaboration with the Alberta Seed Processors. The Fall 2019 Seed Guide came out without a hitch and we were pleased with the content and timeliness of the publication. The 2020 Spring Seed Guide will be improved on once we get a Special Pulse Seed Guide completed. As some of you are already aware the historical variety data was not printed in the current Spring issue. There is a team of researchers, industry and organizations that are making the necessary additions. This Pulse Edition is a one-time publication that will provide the best possible information for your business, your customers and for the industry that supports us.

On another important matter, we have been working on obtaining new crop insurance options for seed growers. We need to develop new products that will allow seed growers to insure for such things as: plant breeder seed cost; separation distances that take land out of production; down-time for stringent cleaning of all seeding and harvest equipment; certification membership, acreage, crop inspection fees; and finally, crop failure or having to sell a seed crop into commercial markets. This is why our board has continued conversations with the insurance industry about developing these new

products for seed growers. We hope to have an update on this later today.

Ensuring farmers can base their management decisions on sound science and that they can assess their financial risk is the primary reason to support research in Alberta. Without regional research we have no way of knowing how changes in management will impact our bottom line. What could be more important than that? For this reason, we hope many farmers in this audience participated in the Alberta Government “Farmer-led Research Engagement” engagement sessions. We expect that the results of this farmer consultation will be reflected in the next provincial budget.

It’s an exciting time for our industry because right now we have the unique opportunity to help design our own future. We know some major changes are needed. For example, our board feels strongly that finding new, innovative ways to support and enhance seed and agronomy research is essential for the future quality and quantity of Alberta crops. We also need reliable, long-term funding for public and private plant breeding programs in the future. Because of this, we have been involved in the Seed Synergy initiative. Yesterday, there was a facilitated session for members on Seed Synergy and what this means to the industry.

So, as many of you already know, we have been working on this project for nearly four years now, together with the Canadian Seed Trade Association, the Canadian Seed Institute, the Commercial Seed Analysts Association of Canada, the Canadian Plant Technology Agency and CropLife Canada. Last year the group published a proposal for how we envision a future Canadian seed system to look. The three main goals of the proposed plan are: to stimulate innovation in the seed industry; to modernize the seed regulatory framework; and to build the next generation seed organization. Some specific highlights of the plan are to:

- Develop a single window online program, which would allow users to quickly and easily access all required forms, fees and regulations in one place. This is something that our members told us specifically that they wanted.
- We also want to drive innovation and investment into seed research and breeding by allowing us to collect royalties on new seed varieties. Our goal is a model that would allow public and private plant breeding programs to flourish and would help farmers produce healthy crops regardless of weather extremes, diseases or pests.
- Finally, a modernized framework would create a unified group made up of all members of the seed industry value chain, including breeders, growers, analysts, industry. This would give us all more input into the future direction of our industry, helping to reduce duplication of our efforts and expenses

Seed Synergy is an important issue for our organization, as we play a key role in providing top quality seed for the best agricultural industry in the world and we feel this initiative will position us to remain



competitive globally and attract investment to the industry well into the future.

In conclusion, I want to thank everyone here for their support for our organization throughout another busy and productive year. This year's AGM has already shown itself to be an informative few days, and today is light on industry updates so we can focus on the issues and with your input to build the best possible National Seed Organization.

I am proud to welcome you all to the 91st Annual Alberta Seed Growers AGM and I look forward to another great year working closely alongside you all to achieve our common goals at this very exciting time for the Canadian seed industry.

MOTION: That the President's Address be adopted as presented, Richard Stamp/Ward Oatway
M/S/C

Adoption of 2018 Annual Report

MOTION: Move for Adoption of the 2018 Annual Report amended with Resolution #4, Seed Synergy
M/S/C

Appointment of Nominations Committee:

President Renee Hoyme appointed Ward Oatway as Chairman of the Nominations Committee.

Positions available include: 3 provincial directors, all 3 at a 2-year team; and 1 National Director for a 2-year term. All members were encouraged to step forward and submit their name, introductions to follow in the afternoon at the member only meeting.

Nominations Chair Ward Oatway appointed Mathew Stamp and Lee Markert to the Nominations Committee.

MOTION: To accept the Nominations Committee. **M/S/C**

Appointment of Resolutions Committee:

President Renee Hoyme appointed Tracy Niemela as Chairman of the Resolutions Committee.

Chairman Tracy appointed Tim Willms as a committee member.

MOTION: To accept the Resolutions Committee. **M/S/C**

Resolutions to be submitted prior to or during the lunch break today.

2019 Auditor's Report Presented

MOTION: That the 2019 Auditor's Report be accepted as presented.

M/S/C

Appointment of Auditor

MOTION: That Alberta Seed Growers employs the services of Daryl Andre, Professional Corporation as Auditor for the 2020 year.

M/S/C

2019 Proposed Budget

MOTION: That the 2020 proposed budget be accepted.

M/S/C

Disposition of Resolutions – 2019:

1. **Value Creation:** Alberta Seed Growers will support further consultation for a value creation model that improves profitability, sustainability, and innovation to benefit the Canadian crop industry.
Further meetings of the Seeds Roundtable determined that the financial assessment of the two proposed VC methods was deemed inadmissible by the nation-wide farmer panel and this proposal was dropped. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (Plant Breeders Rights office) decided no further action would be taken on this confrontational subject at this time.
2. **Transparency:** The Alberta Seed Growers shall approach provincial and federal agriculture departments to account for where direct funding collected through value creation will be invested incrementally directly back to the plant breeding programs that generated the funds.
After discussion, the ASG Board determined that this information was beyond our scope and capabilities, especially in the light of the previously noted Value Creation disposition.
3. **Modernization:** The Canadian Seed Growers Association regardless of the result of Seed Synergy make modernization of the regulatory framework a priority.
The CSGA has indicated that regardless of Seed Synergy both modernization and the regulatory framework will continue to be a priority.
4. **Seed Synergy:** The Alberta Seed Growers support a representative model of governance that allows for seed grower participation in the development of any new seed system. **AND** The Canadian Seed Growers Association have 50% representation and the other Seed Synergy partners have 50% representation in any discussions defining function and form of any new seed systems. **AND** The Alberta Seed Growers support The Canadian Seed Growers Association engagement in consultations to determine the benefits to its members of being involved in a 'one voice' seed production system.

President, Renee Hoyme and Executive Director, Kelly Chambers participated in all Inter-Branch meetings pertaining to the development of the new seed system. Information gathered from these meetings was shared with the ASG Board for their discussion and feedback. Two special meetings of the Board were held during this past year to ensure members were fully represented by their elected officials on this subject.

Canadian Seed Growers' Association Updates: Jonathan Nyborg, President, CSGA (*The objectives contained in the following text are now being considered by the CSGA Board to develop for an independent, seed grower-based organization.*)

- The SSC organizations have taken substantial steps towards an NSO since February 2016
- In November 2018, the Boards of the six SSC organizations supported the creation of a *Seed Synergy White Paper*, "The Next Generation Seed System in Canada," which highlighted three key challenges facing Canada's seed industry:
 1. **Stimulating Innovation** "Other markets with more predictable regulatory processes are attracting investment, and Canada is missing out."
 2. **Modernizing the Seed Regulatory Framework** "The growth and diversification of the seed industry has outpaced government capacity to respond."
 3. **Building the Next Generation Seed Organization** "The various organizations have overlapping memberships and even directors, creating a significant draw on member time and resources."
- The White Paper identified several potential areas of focus for the NSO and anticipated the benefits of collectively working together through a single organization
- The design principles adopted to create the Target Operating Model are inspired by the White Paper and puts members and clients at the centre of the NSO's business
- We are following a comprehensive process to develop an NSO that operationalizes the White Paper and design principles
- By merging the five seed industry organizations, the NSO will offer over 36 essential services to its members and clients
- The wide range of services offered by each founding seed organization have been consolidated into draft core service categories, or "Functional Groups," for illustrative purposes
- The proposed NSO design is simple and easy for members to access with expert staff to deliver current and future services
- The NSO will have three membership classes:
 1. Seed Industry Business Class (Voting)
 2. Seed Industry Affiliate Class (Non-Voting)
 3. Seed Industry Professional Class (Non-Voting)
- The governance approach for the NSO is focused on balancing regional and value chain representation, policy and regulatory functions, and leading governance practices
- The proposed working draft Board structure will ensure that regional voices are heard and that all segments of the value chain are represented

- The Board's focus is on the NSO's strategy, operational plans, and budgets
- A designated and distinct Seed Certification Committee will provide an essential firewall between the regulatory and advocacy functions of the NSO
- The Seed Certification Committee will be accountable to the Board for matters of budget and scope of mandate, but not policy decisions
- The Public Affairs and Advocacy Committee will be the forum to bring industry members together from across the value chain to build and strengthen the future of the industry
- The NSO by-law will provide CSGA provincial branches with an ability to voluntarily enter into an affiliation arrangement with the NSO
- Under an affiliation arrangement, branches maintain their independence and the NSO will continue to honour collection and remittance of fees
- All existing members of the SSCP organizations will be grandfathered into the NSO
- As the Oversight Committee moves forward, its overarching objective is ensuring member value and designing an NSO that is reflective of the unique value chain of the seed industry

Agriculture Financial Services Corporation: Russell Shuttleworth - Research Analyst

- Change is limited by the relationship with the Federal Government and their Risk programs
- While we have assessed the increased risk and costs associated with seed production there remains limited scope to provide coverage other than by increasing premiums
- AFSC is in the process of reviewing their programs with the Government of Alberta and looking for opportunities to improve crop insurance and remain relevant
- Keeping the conversation going with your representatives is key to finding new and innovative insurance coverage

Alberta Seed Grower Board of Directors Year in Review - facilitated by Shawn Brook, President Issues Ink (This session serves as an informal question and answer period for meeting delegates with the Board of Directors. Highlights from the Board calendar are also shared with meeting delegates.)

Alberta Seed Growers – Members-Only Session

Election of Directors:

National Director

Ward Oatway as the Nomination Committee Chairman presented the following name for national director: Glenn Logan

After three calls there were no further nominations from the floor.

MOTION: That nominations cease.

M/S/C



Provincial Directors

Ward Oatway, Nominations Committee Chairman presented the following names for three Provincial Directors (2-year term):

- Renee Hoyme
- Tom Jackson
- Tim Willms
- Brian Ellis

After three calls there were no further nominations from the floor.

MOTION: Move that nominations cease.

M/S/C

Vote held by secret ballot resulted in the following names of Directors for 2020-22:

- Renee Hoyme
- Tim Willms
- Brian Ellis

MOTION: To accept the names for Directors as read.

M/S/C

Open Forum Discussion: None, members wished to move to resolutions.

Resolutions:

Resolution 1 - Recognition

WHERE AS: The Canadian Seed Growers Association has had an extraordinary effort in the past year forwarding the development of an NSO

WHERE AS: The Alberta Seed Growers has had an inordinate increase in the workload due to Seed Synergy and Seed industry initiatives

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Alberta Seed Growers recognize all staff at CSGA for their above and beyond effort in supporting the CSGA board and the Branches and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: The Alberta Seed Growers recognize ED Kelly Chambers of ASG for her dedication in supporting the Board and the membership as the organization evolves.

Moved by: Richard Hallett

Seconded by: Tim Willms

PASSED

Resolution 2 – Seed Synergy

WHERE AS: The overarching goals of the Seed Synergy project include:

- Update delivery novel product regulations for plant breeding innovation
- Streamline Seed Regulations requirements and modernize the regulatory framework
- Define a new industry delivery model for the seed certification program
- Create a “single window” for all seed regulatory and member services
- Create a more efficient and effective industry organizational model

WHERE AS: The Alberta Seed Growers serves as the official voice of its members

WHERE AS: The only way to have impact on the outcome of these goals is to remain engaged in the current Seed Synergy process

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Alberta Seed Growers board continue to engage in the Seed Synergy conversation and act as a partner with the other Regional Chapters for the benefit of the Grassroots Seed Grower producers.

Moved By: Ward Oatway

Seconded By: Richard Hallett

PASSED

Resolution 3 – Membership

WHERE AS: The Alberta Seed Growers support and lobby for a strong, vital seed industry in Alberta for the benefit of its members.

WHERE AS: The proposed governance model includes representation to the NSO board provided by the various Regional Chapters.

WHERE AS: The membership structure may need to be revised to allow for a voluntary and inclusive model of membership

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Alberta Seed Growers review their bylaws and explore how to open existing membership to allow seed industry and value chain representatives to become members of the association.

Moved By: Richard Hallett

Seconded By: Nick Sekulic

PASSED

Resolution 4 - Analysis

WHERE AS: The proposed National Seed Organization [NSO] structure and bylaws have not been reasonably and concisely explained to Alberta Seed Growers in a manner that has financial comparisons with the present CSGA system: in a transparent manner, that is easily understood, and;

WHERE AS: Alberta Seed Growers would appreciate a specific analysis of the specific issues contained in the following resolutions, to make an informed decision, and;

WHERE AS: Alberta Seed Growers need an in-depth comparative analysis between the present existing CSGA system, Versus the proposed NSO umbrella organization: their costs, competitive natures [Regional, National and International], and effective transparent democratic structures, and;

WHERE AS: Verification of the value to all Alberta and Canadian seed growers of the NSO is important, as the NSO will charge Canadian Seed Growers many Millions of dollars in future acreage charges and Crop Certificate user fees;

WHERE AS: it is reasonable for Alberta Seed Growers to have access to detailed concise information and the by-laws that will constitute the proposed NSO; to be able to make an informed transparent decision on whether to terminate the CSGA in favour of the proposed NSO;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Alberta Seed Growers Branch of the CSGA; Have the CSGA National Directors implement the Dr. Larry Martin and Associates [DLM] in depth opinion/3rd party analysis/study; of the proposed: 'NSO Seed Synergy' project, of the Strategy Corporation CSGA proposed changes to create the 'Umbrella' National Seed Organization [NSO] Seed Synergy structure including the following Five issues to analyze and report back to Canadian Seed Grower Members;

- 1) DLM independently analyzing/study, then reporting to Seed Growers, what the NSO complete Seed Grower cost structure over the next 5 years generally; and specifically budgets of income and revenues over the next 3 years, financially costed;
- 2) DLM independently analyze and report to Seed Growers, how the proposed NSO will increase [or conversely decrease] structural efficiencies that are important to maintain and improve Pedigreed Seed Quality, and how these specific cost savings [or conversely extra costs] will effect the NSO by reduction [or conversely increasing] redundant red tape/paperwork;
- 3) DLM independently analyze and report to Seed Growers, effects the proposed NSO has on seed growers privacy [both business and personal] concerns; verses present CSGA structure;
- 4) DLM independently analyze the proposed NSO for: competitive attributes, cost, efficiency impacts, and possible trade implications that the new US-Canada-Mexico Trade Agreement, as well as recent EU/TransPacific trade agreements; may have on Seed Growers in Canada with the "SeedSynergy NSO", Verses, the present independent Co-operative operations of aligned: CSGA, CSI, and CSTA structures primarily and report the findings to Seed Growers; and



- 5) DLM independently analyze the full operational NSO SeedSynergy Bylaws, BOD and Committee structures, for: democratic attributes and or deficiencies for Canadian Seed Grower Member dissemination and discussion with comparison to the present CSGA as operated;

Moved By: Tom Jackson

Seconded By: Glenn Logan

PASSED

Resolution 6 – “Track Two”

WHERE AS: The CSGA has insufficient time to communicate transparently the NSO operational by-laws and complete financial comparative to the CSGA presently as operated;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Alberta Seed Growers Branch of the CSGA: ask the CSGA National Board of Directors to use the 'Track Two' Time line for the termination vote of the CSGA; which is to delay the vote to dissolve the CSGA until December 2020 at a special CSGA meeting in an easily accessible location to the majority of CSGA Members.

Moved By: Tom Jackson

Seconded By: Heather Kerschbaumer

PASSED

Resolution 7 – Interim NSO Board Electronic Vote

WHERE AS: Alberta Seed Growers believe in the principles of direct representative democracy

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That if more than three candidates come forward for the interim NSO Board, then an electronic vote be held to determine the 3 candidates put forward to the committee oversight.

Moved by: Sarah Weigum

Seconded by: Chelsea Tomlinson

PASSED

Resolution 8 – Communicate NSO board eligibility requirements

WHERE AS: Alberta Seed Growers believe there should be open and transparent election of directors to the proposed NSO.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That specific quantifiable eligibility requirements for future Board members be listed in a NSO ratification package.

Moved by: Sarah Weigum

Seconded by: Chelsea Tomlinson

PASSED

Adjournment: Ward Oatway adjourned the meeting.

Thank you to the sponsors of the 2020 AGM!

BASF
Lewis M. Carter Mfg. (Canada) Ltd.
Meridian Manufacturing Inc.
ATB Financial
Bayer SeedGrowth
Nutrien Ag Solutions Inc.
Canterra Seeds
Center Field Inspections Ltd.
FP Genetics
MMI
SeCan
SeedNet
Alliance Seed Corporation
FarmChem
Kenobie Inc.
Nexeed
Seedcheck Technologies Inc.
SGS BioVision Seed Research Ltd.
Can-Seed Equipment Ltd.