



## MINUTES

### CSGA 117<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

#### Opening Remarks

CSGA President Joe Rennick welcomed 151 participants, including 92 members, to this virtual 117<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) of CSGA. He confirmed quorum, thanked meeting sponsors, and reviewed the meeting agenda.

Caroline Lafontaine, CSGA's Chief Operating Officer and online meeting moderator outlined how this virtual AGM would work. Guests were welcomed to the meeting, and all participants were invited to use the online 'chat' function to share questions and comments.

#### Approval of the Agenda

**Motion:** Ryan Murray moved, and Dale Connell seconded approval of the following Agenda for this 2021 CSGA Annual General Meeting. **CARRIED**

1. Opening Remarks
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of 2020 Meeting Minutes
4. Presentation of 2020 Annual Report
5. Presentation of 2020 Financial Statements
6. Approval of the Auditors
7. 2020 Resolutions Report
8. Presentation and Election of New Board of Directors
9. Introduction of New Executive Director
10. CSGA 2.0 Business Plan Highlights
11. Questions and Comments
12. *Break*
13. Member-to-Member Session and 2021 Member Resolutions
14. Adjournment

#### Approval of the 2020 Annual General Meeting and Special General Meeting Minutes

**Motion:** Peter Boswall moved, and Dave MacKellar seconded approval of the Minutes from the July 7, 2020 Annual General Meeting as presented to the Membership. **CARRIED**



**Motion:** Peter Boswall moved, and Dave MacKellar seconded approval of the Minutes from the August 27, 2020 Special General Meeting of Members as presented to the Membership. **CARRIED**

### Presentation of 2020-2021 Annual Report

After acknowledging past and honorary presidents, CSGA President Joe Rennick asked members for a moment of silence to remember seed growers who passed in 2020. He then asked outgoing Executive Director, Glyn Chancey, to present the 2020-2021 CSGA Annual Report and Financial Statements.

Glyn reminded the participants that the [Audited Financial Statements](#) and [CSGA's 2020-2021 Annual Report](#), which includes the Executive reports presented at this AGM, are available online.

In addition to an overview of CSGA's financial position over the last five years, Glyn's presentation of the 2020 Annual Report to the AGM featured:

- 2020 Highlights & Deliverables:
  - Certification Services
  - Standards and Policy
  - Technology Services
  - Member Communications
  - Professional Development and Member Services
- Impacts of COVID-19
- Seeds Canada Vote Analysis
- CSGA Member Demographics

Reflecting on his five years as Executive Director, Glyn was impressed with how well the Board and Branches have worked together, with CSGA technology modernization and its dramatic improvement in service to members and progress on professional development programs. He was most proud of the capable CSGA staff and thanked members for their investment in personnel and systems to build a shared vision for the future.

### Presentation of 2020 Financial Statements

Glyn Chancey, outgoing Executive Director, summarized the following 2020-2021 CSGA financial reports and reminded members that [Audited Financial Statements](#) are available online.

- **Statement of Financial Position:** As of January 31, 2021, relative to the previous year, net assets have decreased by \$322,132.
- **Statement of Changes - Net Assets:** The Association's net assets of \$1,961,703 have an operating reserve of 58.20%. This ratio has decreased from a 2019-2020 level of 75.51% but remains healthy.
- **Statement of Operations - Revenue:** Key factors in the lower than forecast revenue include lower than forecast membership fees, client service fees, CFIA assessments and government project funding. This revenue shortfall was offset by higher than forecast acreage fee revenue.

- **Schedule of General and Administrative Expenses:** General and administrative expenses of the Association were higher than the previous year but lower than budgeted. The operating deficit is higher than budgeted due to a shortfall in planned revenue.
- **Statement of Changes – 2016-2021:** Most budget variances in general and administrative expenses were of a transitional nature, related primarily to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Seeds Canada amalgamation process and the CSGA 2.0 initiative. The change in net assets over the last five years is approximately 3 percent.

In summary, the Association appears to be on a solid financial footing moving forward into CSGA 2.0.

### Approval of the Auditors

As advised by the CSGA Audit Committee, the Board recommended the appointment of KPMG as auditors of the Association for the ensuing year.

**Motion:** André Lussier moved, and Roy Klym seconded the appointment of KPMG as auditors of the Association for 2021-2022 at the remuneration set by the Board of Directors. **CARRIED**

### 2020 Resolutions Report

CSGA responses to each of the five Resolutions approved by members at the 2020 AGM were presented by Resolutions Committee chair Jonathan Nyborg.

**Motion:** Scott Horner moved, and Dave Wuthrich seconded approval of the 2020 Resolutions Report as presented to members. **CARRIED**

### Presentation and Election of New Board of Directors

As outlined in CSGA By-laws, the Association is governed by a Board of Directors of no less than 14 and no more than 24 Directors. [By-law 6.03 \(a\)](#) provides that every seed-producing region of Canada is represented on the Board by a Seed Grower Director, while [By-law 6.03 \(c\)](#) explains that the Board may also appoint additional Directors from Regular Members who hold office until after the next AGM. The Board is also supported by an Academic Advisor and Advisors nominated from provincial agriculture Ministries.

Nominations Committee chair, Jonathan Nyborg, thanked previous CSGA presidents and outgoing Directors Jim Baillie, Peter Boswall, Dave MacKellar, Eric McLean, Mitchell Japp, Mark MacNaughton, and Martin Provencher. He then presented the Committee's report as follows.

The following nominees from Branches for election to the CSGA Board:

- British Columbia: David Wuthrich
- Alberta: Glenn Logan and Chelsea Tomlinson
- Saskatchewan: Roy Klym and Laurie Wakefield
- Manitoba: Andrew Ayre and Ryan Murray

- Ontario: Shannon Bieman and Dale Connell
- Québec: Roxanne Asselin and Richard Brault
- Maritimes: Jonathan Nyborg

**Motion** Jim Baillie moved, and Ryan Murray seconded the election of the Directors nominated by Branches to the CSGA Board of Directors.

**CARRIED**

The following nominees by Provincial Ministers as Advisors to the CSGA Board:

- British Columbia: Lori Vickers
- Alberta: to be confirmed
- Saskatchewan: Doug Pchajek
- Manitoba: Chami Amarasinghe
- Ontario: Joanna Follings
- Quebec: to be confirmed
- New Brunswick: Peter Scott
- Nova Scotia: Steven Tattrie
- Prince Edward Island: Steven Hamill

The following appointments to the CSGA Board for 2021-2022:

- Joe Rennick
- Carl Bolton
- André Lussier
- Scott Horner
- The continuation of Dr. Bryan Harvey as Academic Advisor to the Board for 2021-22

The following CSGA Executive Committee for 2021-22, pending Board approval:

- President: Joe Rennick
- Vice President: Dale Connell
- Second Vice President: Glenn Logan
- Past President: Jonathan Nyborg
- Provincial Ministry Representative: Peter Scott

**DISCUSSION:** Responding to questions on Board appointments for 2020-21, the outgoing Executive Director explained that these were recommended by the Executive Committee and staff to address the high number of experienced retiring directors and the types of experience required to continue launching the CSGA 2.0 Business Plan.

### Introduction of New Executive Director

CSGA President Joe Rennick introduced Doug Miller, the Association's new Executive Director, formerly CSGA's Managing Director, Certification and Technology Services, who has been at the forefront of seed

[www.seedgrowers.ca](http://www.seedgrowers.ca)

Tel/Tél 613-236-0497  
 Fax/Télé 613-563-7855  
 Email/Courriel [seeds@seedgrowers.ca](mailto:seeds@seedgrowers.ca)

Mailing Address/Par la poste  
 P.O. Box/Case postale 8455  
 Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3T1

Courier Address/Par messagerie  
 202-240, rue Catherine Street  
 Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K2P 2G8



certification system modernization and digital transformation. Joe explained that with Doug's experience, education, and focus on the future, the Board is confident that he will help CSGA strengthen its core service offerings and effectively lead the CSGA 2.0 renewal.

### CSGA 2.0 Business Plan Highlights

Doug Miller, CSGA's new Executive Director, outlined how since the amalgamation vote last summer, CSGA directors, Branch boards and staff have put together a CSGA 2.0 Business Plan that tells everyone where we want to go and what we want to achieve with our partners and stakeholders. From January through March, six working groups with members from throughout the seed sector looked at various aspects of the system to develop the CSGA 2.0 Business Plan, which involves three central ideas:

1. **CSGA Authority for the Seed Certification System:** CSGA leadership in delivering a comprehensive seed varietal certification program in partnership with the CFIA for the benefit of Canadian agriculture.
2. **Digitalization:** transforming the business of pedigreed seed production, marketing, and sales through transparent, digitally enabled, enhanced traceability and other services that reduce administrative burden, provide additional data, and add value.
3. **Governance and Partnerships:** an inclusive and service-oriented approach, ensuring that members and stakeholders are engaged, and building partnerships to expand CSGA influence in support of the seed system.

Doug then reviewed the seven major areas of the CSGA 2.0 Business Plan:

1. Seed Policy
2. Digital Business Model
3. Professional Development
4. Governance
5. Partnerships and Government/Stakeholder Relations
6. National-Branch Coordination
7. Promoting the Value of Certified Seed

The Business Plan charts the course in each of these areas, defining the CSGA vision of where the Association wants to go and what we want to achieve with its partners and stakeholders. Each priority area is at a different level of development; some already the subject of intense work, and others just now taking shape. For a more detailed look, see the complete [CSGA 2.0 Business Plan](#) online.

### Questions and Comments

President Joe Rennick moderated an online session of members' questions and comments. Topics included the role of advisors to the Board, Branch nomination of Board Directors and how CSGA plans to interface with Seeds Canada.

[www.seedgrowers.ca](http://www.seedgrowers.ca)

Tel/Tél 613-236-0497  
 Fax/Télé 613-563-7855  
 Email/Courriel [seeds@seedgrowers.ca](mailto:seeds@seedgrowers.ca)

Mailing Address/Par la poste  
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## 2021 Resolutions

Resolutions Committee chair, Jonathan Nyborg, explained that members were invited to submit resolutions to CSGA by Thursday, April 8, 2021. Resolutions allow members to express their views on concerns of the Association. Members submitted the following resolutions.

### **Resolution 1: Investigate Including Licensed Seed Crop Inspectors (LSCI) into CSGA Analysis**

Be it resolved that CSGA explore options for including LSCI in its governance structure to enhance the communication, collaboration, and execution of seed certification regulations in Canada.

Moved by Darrell Holmstrom, seconded by Sarah Weigum.

**CARRIED**

DISCUSSION: Since most LSCI report to Authorized Seed Crop Inspection Services (ASCIS), many recommended including ASCIS in the response to this resolution.

### **Resolution 2: CSGA Action in Health Canada Consultations**

Be it resolved that CSGA notify Health Canada that it supports the use of new and innovative plant breeding methods which support the resiliency of Canada's Agri-food sector, provided that the end-product is deemed safe to consumers as determined by a science-based approach.

Moved by Mike Shewchuk (SSGA), seconded by Tracy Niemela (ASG).

**CARRIED**

DISCUSSION: CSGA was asked to provide Branches with a template letter with its policy position direction to help Branches participate in the Health Canada consultations.

### **Resolution 3: CSGA to Remain an Independent Organization**

Be it resolved that CSGA will remain an independent organization that is willing to collaborate with any seed industry partner to make a positive contribution to the CSGA membership and the Canadian agriculture industry.

Moved by Blair Rempel, seconded by Heather Kershbaumer.

**CARRIED**

DISCUSSION: Several recommended that CSGA continue close collaboration with Seeds Canada.

### **Resolution 4: Courtesy Resolution**

Be it resolved that CSGA extend thanks to all the speakers, sponsors, organizers, and staff for their efforts and contributions to the 2021 virtual CSGA Annual Meeting.

Moved by Roy Klym, seconded by Andrew Ayre.

**CARRIED**

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### Adjournment

CSGA President Joe Rennick thanked Glyn Chancey for his determined dedication to and leadership of the Association and thanked meeting organizers, sponsors and especially those who participated in this 117<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of CSGA.

**Motion:** Dale Connell moved, and Jonathan Nyborg seconded, adjournment of the CSGA 2021 Annual General Meeting.

**CARRIED**

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