

MINUTES

CSGA 118th Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, July 6, 2022, 10:00 am ET

Opening Remarks

Joe Rennick, President of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association (CSGA), welcomed 106 participants to the 118th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of CSGA. Quorum was confirmed, meeting sponsors were thanked, and the agenda was reviewed. Caroline Lafontaine, CSGA's Chief Operating Officer, welcomed participants and outlined procedures for a successful virtual AGM.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Glenn Logan moved, and Jonathan Nyborg seconded approval of the following Agenda for this 2022 CSGA Annual General Meeting as presented to members. **CARRIED**

1. Opening Remarks
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Sponsors' Recognition
4. Approval of Minutes from 2021 Annual General Meeting and Special General Meeting
5. President's Report
6. CFIA President, Dr. Siddika Mithani
7. Executive Director's Report
8. Financial Report
9. Approval of Auditor
10. 2021 Resolutions Report
11. Nominations Report and Election of 2022-2023 Board of Directors
12. Adjourn Annual Meeting business session
 - a. Town Hall session
13. CSGA Awards: Robertson Associate and Honorary Life
14. Update from ASCIS Association
15. Update on Seed Regulatory Modernization
16. 2022 Member Resolutions
17. Member to Member session
18. Adjourn Town Hall session

Sponsors' Recognition

President Joe Rennick thanked the following sponsors for their support of the 2022 CSGA Annual General Meeting and introduced a sponsor's video: SeCan, BASF, Canterra Seeds, 20/20 Seed Labs, Syngenta, C&M Seeds, Prograin, and the Crop Development Centre of the University of Saskatchewan.

Approval of Minutes from 2021 AGM and SGM

Motion: Carl Bolton moved, and Dave Wuthrich seconded approval of the Minutes from the April 14, 2021, Annual General Meeting as presented to members. **CARRIED**

Motion: André Lussier moved, and Chelsea Tomlinson seconded approval of the Minutes from the November 24, 2021, Special General Meeting of Members as presented to members. **CARRIED**

President's Report

After recognizing past and honorary presidents and award recipients, President Joe Rennick asked for a moment of silence to remember the seed growers who passed in 2021. Joe then reviewed the steps taken in 2021 towards becoming a stronger Association: introduction of a new management team with almost 30 years of combined CSGA experience, the member-driven development of a CSGA 2.0 business plan, active engagement in Seed Regulatory Modernization activities to revitalize the public-private partnership, and an ongoing focus on core certification business excellence despite pandemic challenges. Retiring as President this year, Joe reflected that CSGA is well-positioned to take on even greater leadership in Canada's seed system.

CFIA President, Dr. Siddika Mithani

Special guest Dr. Siddika Mithani, President of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), addressed the meeting, speaking to the long and productive relationship between CSGA and the CFIA and how it will continue to strengthen under Seed Regulatory Modernization (SRM). Dr. Mithani referred to seed as the starting point of everything and a fundamental part of the CFIA's mandate to protect Canadians, build public trust and support industry. She also recognized farmers' need for innovative varieties and quality seed for a sustainable food supply, saying, "When farmers have access to the latest advances in technology and breeding to bring superior varieties to market, all Canadians benefit."

On Seed Regulatory Modernization, she emphasized the CFIA's commitment to a full-scale review, including the role of government in regulating seed and the potential for incorporation by reference providing a more responsive and flexible system.

Executive Director's Report

Doug Miller, CSGA's Executive Director, spoke to the Association's goals, priorities and deliverables, and Seed Regulatory Modernization on which CSGA has invested substantial resources to preserve a leadership role and influence outcomes. Doug reviewed CSGA's 2021 performance metrics and introduced *CSGA Learn*, the new online seed training platform, as well as the new 2021-2022 Annual Report.

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Financial Report

Doug presented the financial report, highlighting the Association's financial performance for 2021 and reminded the AGM that Audited Financial Statements and the CSGA 2.0 Business Plan are available online, as is [CSGA's 2021-2022 Annual Report](#), which includes the Executive reports presented at this AGM, as well as details of CSGA's 2021 deliverables. Discussion of the financial statements clarified that government subsidies were one-time grants for pandemic expenses.

Approval of Auditors

As advised by the CSGA Audit Committee, the Board recommended appointment of KPMG as auditors for the Association for 2022-2023.

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

2021 Resolutions Report

Jonathan Nyborg, Resolutions Committee chair, outlined the CSGA responses to each of the Resolutions approved by members at the 2021 AGM.

Motion: Ryan Murray moved, and Shannon Bieman seconded approval of the 2021 Resolutions Report as presented to members. **CARRIED**

Nominations Report and Election of 2022-2023 Board of Directors

CSGA By-laws specify that the Association is governed by a Board of Directors of no less than fourteen (14) and no more than twenty-four (24) Directors. [By-law 6.03 \(a\)](#) provides that every seed-producing region of Canada is represented on the Board by a grower director. The Board is also supported by an Academic Advisor and Advisors nominated by their respective Provincial Ministers.

As Nominations Committee chair, Jonathan Nyborg reported the following were nominated by the members of their respective Branches for election as Directors to the CSGA Board:

- Alberta-British Columbia: Glenn Logan and Chelsea Tomlinson
- Saskatchewan: Roy Klym and Laurie Wakefield
- Manitoba: Andrew Ayre and Ryan Murray
- Ontario: Shannon Bieman and Carl Bolton
- Quebec: Roxanne Asselin and Richard Brault
- Maritimes: Jonathan Nyborg

Motion: Tracy Niemela moved, and Mike Shewchuk seconded, to elect the Directors nominated to the CSGA Board of Directors as presented to members. **CARRIED**

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The following were nominated for appointment as Advisors to the CSGA Board by their respective Provincial Ministers:

- British Columbia: Brenna Schilds
- Alberta: Marcia Hewitt
- Saskatchewan: Sara Tetland
- Manitoba: Dennis Lange
- Ontario: Joanna Follings
- Quebec: Damien Chaput
- New Brunswick: Peter Scott
- Nova Scotia: Amy Sangster
- Prince Edward Island: Steven Hamill

The following were appointed by the Board to the CSGA Board of Directors for 2022-2023:

- Dr. Bryan Harvey will continue in his role as Academic Advisor
- Dale Connell is appointed to the role of President.

The following will represent the CSGA Executive Committee for 2022-2023:

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

Jonathan thanked Bob Rugg of Saskatchewan for service as CSGA Honorary President 2019 - 2022.

Motion: Laurie Wakefield moved, and Dale Connell seconded the nomination of André Lussier as CSGA Honorary President for the term of 2022 to 2025. **CARRIED**

Outgoing President Joe Rennick passed the gavel to incoming President Dale Connell, and each spoke of their pride in the CSGA, the strength of its membership and the importance of collaboration.

Adjourn Annual Meeting Business Session

Motion: Ryan Murray moved, and Jonathan Nyborg seconded, to adjourn the business session of the 2022 Annual General Meeting at 11:00h ET.

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Town Hall Session

With the business session of the AGM adjourned, a Town Hall meeting was held after a break, where meeting sponsors were highlighted.

CSGA Awards: Robertson Associate and Honorary Life

Awards Committee chair, Jonathan Nyborg, announced the recipients of the Robertson Associate Award, the Honorary Life Award, and the Clark-Newman-Clayton Award.

The Robertson Associate Award is awarded to members who, with utmost fidelity and success, have fulfilled their obligation to the Association and have contributed to the betterment of the seed sector and Canadian agriculture. The 2021 recipients are [Kevin Runnalls](#), [Joe Hickson](#), and [Peter Szentimrey](#).

The Honorary Life Award is presented to persons who, by distinguished services to the Association, have contributed to the betterment of the seed sector and Canadian agriculture. The 2021 recipients are [Cathy Breadner](#), [Dr. Helen Booker](#), [Dr. Istvan Rajcan](#) and [Doug Stirling](#).

The Clark-Newman-Clayton Award is presented to a person who has made an exceptional contribution to pedigreed seed production in Canada and Canadian agriculture through research, plant breeding or administration. CSGA is proud to honour the late [Dr. Alireza \(Ali\) Navabi](#) with the Clark-Newman-Clayton Award.

Update from ASCIS Association

Lynell Pomedli, President of the Authorized Seed Crop Inspection Service (ASCIS) Association, presented a video update on their work in 2021, including the In-Field Training pilot with the CFIA for Licensed Seed Crop Inspectors. Through enhanced communications and monthly winter meetings with the CFIA and CSGA, the ASCIS Association is helping improve the effectiveness and efficiency of seed crop inspections.

Update on Seed Regulatory Modernization

Doug Miller, CSGA's Executive Director, summarized the CSGA 2.0 vision for a strong, national seed certification system that encourages innovation, provides a digital single window for seed certification services, and is supported by strong governance and partnerships.

2022 Member Resolutions

Resolutions Committee chair, Jonathan Nyborg, explained that members were invited to submit resolutions before the AGM and the following were submitted:

Resolution 1 moved by Mike Shewchuk and seconded by Kurt Printz.

WHEREAS, over the course of this growing season it has become apparent that some canola hybrids lacked vigorous performance;

WHEREAS transparency is fundamental in upholding the value of Certified Seed;

WHEREAS seed vigour testing is not yet standardized in Canada;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the CSGA work in part with Seeds Canada and other seed industry

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partners to expedite the process to make seed vigour testing standardized across Canada. And be it further resolved that a minimum standard for vigour be developed for major crop kinds.

CARRIED

Resolution 2 was moved by Jonathan Nyborg and seconded by Glenn Logan.

WHEREAS a lot of effort went into making the 2022 virtual CSGA Annual Meeting a success; and **WHEREAS** numerous organizations provided funds to assist with the financing of the Annual Meeting;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that CSGA extend thanks to all the speakers, sponsors, organizers, and staff for their efforts and contributions to the 2022 virtual CSGA Annual Meeting.

CARRIED

Before the member-to-member session, outgoing President Joe Rennick invited all to attend CSGA’s 2023 Annual General Meeting, an in-person meeting in St. John’s, Newfoundland, from July 8 to 10, 2023.

Member to Member Session

At 12:00h ET, the meeting convened a member-to-member session.

Adjourn Town Hall Session

At 12:25h ET, the Town Hall session of CSGA’s 2022 Annual General Meeting was adjourned.

