

Minutes SAGA Executive Meeting
Zoom meeting
Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Prepared by: Raelene Petracek

Attending: Jason Fradette (chair), Irene Ahner, Morley Ayars, Deanne Belisle, Henry deGooijer, John Hauer, Ward Headrick, Eric Johnson, Ewald Lammerding, Raelene Petracek, Jo-Anne Relf-Eckstein, Dylan Stang, Hamish Tulloch,
Regrets: none

1. Call to order by Chairperson Jason Fradette at 7:05 pm
2. Adoption of Agenda
 - **MOTION** to adopt Agenda: W. Headrick. CARRIED.
3. Adoption of minutes from the September 2020 meeting
 - **MOTION** to adopt minutes– I. Ahner. CARRIED
4. Business arising from the Minutes
 - Will be covered in reports
5. Financial Report – M. Ayars
 - Report provided
 - **MOTION:** To adopt the Treasurer’s report as circulated – E. Lammerding - CARRIED
6. Correspondence
 - None
7. Committee Reports

Scholarship – E. Lammerding/H. Tulloch

- Hamish reported that there have been no new donations since March.

ASA – D. Stang

- Drag – They have decided that will not have it as an in-person event as they are not sure that it can be held safely. Instead will have live performances from the featured performers. They will still have T-shirts. The link to the event will be available.
- November – are looking into getting a radio DJ as a commentator for a virtual Shave-Down after Drag and to start Movember (Nov 02). Asked if a SAGA member would be available if they can’t get a radio DJ.
 - Invited SAGA members to join the team for Movember – don’t need to participate in the shaving and moustache growing, can just be part of the team.
 - Still working on other events, one possible event- milk moustache contest
 - Link to the team will be at U of S Agros.

Reunion Report – D. Belisle/J. Fredette

Report provided (D. Belisle)

May – September, 2020 SAGA Vice President/Reunion Report

In the role of Vice-President, it is my privilege to act as the executive contact to the reunion year chairs. In a verbal report at the September SAGA Executive meeting, I described sending the reunion chairs an email in June to a) introduce myself and b) find a mutual date where we could discuss planning for our reunion during COVID 19 pandemic conditions. On June 24, President Jason Fradette, past President Eric Johnson and myself held a teleconference with the 2021 reunion chairs. Jason lead the meeting and described the serious considerations with mass events, for example:

1. Recent communique from the Province Health Officer – does not expect gatherings >250 until June 2021.
2. Agribition, scheduled for November 2020 postponed. <https://www.620ckrm.com/2020/06/17/agribition-2020-cancelled-thanks-to-covid-19/>
3. U of S classes will be offered remotely for the fall session.

Discussion ensued about various options. In conclusion, the Reunion Chairs agreed to explore the following options with their classmates:

1. Postpone the 2021 reunion and hold it concurrently with the 2022 reunion.
2. Hold a summer 2021 event in the vicinity of Saskatoon, which has significance for graduates as the place where we all met each other; and
3. Host a virtual Annual General Meeting event.
 - To conduct regular business and also to award the Honourary Life memberships.
 - To consider adapting the SAGA annual general meeting to a “zoom” format as was done recently with the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists AGM.

As SAGA representatives, we offered to investigate viability of the proposed options. It was also agreed to prepare a COVID-modified questionnaire for 2021 Reunion Chairs to circulate to their colleagues for the purposes of gathering feed back (appended below). Over the next month, the chairs remitted their duly signed confidentiality agreements, sent out the COVID-modified reunion letter, and began to gather input. This was done by phone, email, Facebook and even Survey Monkey!

Meanwhile, I posted a note on the SAGA website to alert SAGA membership at large of our deliberations and Jason offered to receive calls while harvesting from anyone with questions or concerns. Jason also spoke to as many of the Executive as possible about making a Plan A, B and C or perhaps D. Twelve of Eighteen Reunion Chairs sent in their feedback. These results were presented to the Executive at the September 15th meeting. With careful consideration of the feedback from Reunion Chairs and SAGA members, the Executive decided to postpone the reunion to a future date, due to public health restrictions and the ongoing risk involved with large gatherings.

September-October Update

President Jason explained the Executive’s decision in a letter to the general membership posted on the website <https://saskaggrads.com/> , plus tweets and Facebook posts. The postponement decision involves all activities associated with the reunion event, including the Friday evening College of Ag & Bioresources social, the hockey tournament, tours and the Saturday banquet and program.

By email, I informed the 2021 Reunion chairs of the Executive’s decision and asked them to circulate the disappointing news to their classmates. I invited them to continue to give us their class preferences so together we could imagine a safe, comfortable and enjoyable future reunion experience for all.

Cheers
Deanne Belisle ‘79

SAGA ALUMNI 2021 REUNION – UPDATED TEMPLATE
86th SAGA Reunion Honour Years for Degree and Diploma:

1946	1951	1956	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011	2016
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Greetings ag grads:

This year marks our **XX** milestone anniversary as graduates from the College of Agriculture and Bioresources! WOW. We are recognized both on- and off-campus for our accomplishments and dedication to supporting the agriculture industry and education. And normally we celebrate our College and each other at a big bash in Saskatoon in January. But COVID-19 happened, affecting us all in unprecedented, unimaginable ways.

If you read the summer edition of the SAGA newsletter (available on-line to all alumni at <https://saskaggrads.com/>), you will see that we are up-in-the-air with planning our Reunion 2021 because of the pandemic restrictions and impacts. Regardless, SAGA has the initial pre-planning well underway, with the venue (TCU Place) and Hotel (Hilton) booked. Online you will find preliminary information.

Reunion chairs met with the SAGA Executive on June 24, 2020. We considered the main criteria necessary to proceed with our event on January 9th, as follows:

- Government restrictions do not impede our activity from proceeding,
- Western CDN Crop Production Show/CropSphere are not cancelled,
- University premises are open;
- Vaccination is available.

To have all these conditions in place by early October (go/no go date) is unlikely, which is why I am reaching out to you to ask your preferred approach for Reunion 2021. We considered many options and have narrowed them to the following :

4. Postpone the 2021 reunion and hold it concurrently with the 2022 reunion,
 - With sufficient advance notice, TCU Place can accommodate us,

OR

5. Hold a summer 2021 event in the vicinity of Saskatoon, which has significance for graduates as the place where we all met each other.
 - Timing a summer event in conjunction with Ag-in-Motion (outdoor farm show event near Langham, Sask) was viewed as a viable alternative to the winter Crop Production Show event,

AND

6. Host a virtual Annual General Meeting event on January 9, 2021.
 - To conduct necessary regular business;
 - Chairs discussed adapting the SAGA annual general meeting to a “zoom” format as was done recently with the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists AGM.

The organizing committee will meet again at the end of summer, so I would be grateful to hear your preference on either postponing to January 2022 OR having our reunion in the summer, 2021. Please get back to me by **XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX**, 2020.

My contact information is

NAME

Reunion Chair, Class of **XXXX**

EMAIL OR **PHONE NUMBER** OF REUNION CHAIR(S)

OPTIONAL TO INCLUDE

If we decide to have our own small event, hotel rooms can be booked now, just indicate you are with the Ag Grads:

Hilton Garden Inn (officially reopened on June 29, 2020)

Local phone: 306-244-2311

Toll free phone: 1-844-363-2311

Email: reservations@hgisaskatoon.com

Lastly, Ag students could use financial support. If this interests you, please read on:

SAGA Undergraduate Award

In 2018, SAGA initiated the SAGA Undergraduate Award to support students in degree or diploma programs at the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. This award will recognize not only academic achievement but will encourage social and community involvement. 100% of all donations go to the award fund and are tax deductible. To give to the SAGA Undergraduate Award, go to <https://donate.usask.ca/online/agbio.php> (Select SAGA Undergraduate Award) or by cheque (payable to University of Saskatchewan and note on memo line "SAGA Undergraduate Award") mailed to College of Agriculture and Bioresources, Development Office 51 Campus Drive Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A8

At meeting:

- Jason indicated that communication with the Reunion Chairs is done. A communication piece has been completed and it is on the website and available to use.
- TCU is willing to work with us to set up something appropriate for Jan 2020 and will hold the deposit we placed for Jan 2021 for Jan 2022. A conference call with TCU to discuss options will be held.
 - Possibilities include running two rooms, an earlier and a later option
- Summer reunion was mentioned but consensus was that probably wasn't going to be done.

Banquet/Mixer Report – E. Lammerding

- Have cancelled ribbons/pins etc, WDM has been informed.
- Imagery Photography – has said they will be ready to help with whatever we plan, Ewald will ask for options if we decide to have two groups.
- Question: re AGM plaques – if still presenting them in Jan 2021 they will need to be ordered – when and how to present them is still to be decided.

Friday Mixer Event Report - H. Tulloch

- Nothing to report.

Hockey –

- No report

Newsletter – E. Lammerding/J. Hauer

- Deadline is Nov 15
- Still haven't had responses from some sponsors on whether or not they will be continuing
- Reminders for anyone that is supposed to be providing an article to get it to him.

College of AgBio Alumni and Development Office Report –H. Tulloch

- Vern Racz Memorial Award – this award was set up earlier this year (description in SAGA, June 2020).

- **MOTION** that SAGA donate \$500 to the Vern Racz Memorial Scholarship – R. Petracek – CARRIED
- Deanne noted that the Alumni website has been updated. Address is: alumni.usask.ca

Crop Production Week – J. Relf-Eckstein
Report Provided:

**Update on virtual AGMs for 20201 Crop Production Week
CPW group of organizations and the Crop Sphere commodity groups**

By J. Relf-Eckstein, Oct 13, 2020

Crop Production Week Saskatchewan presently consists of 9 organizations: AgriArm, SAGA, Sask Mustard, Sask Winter Cereals, Sask Canaryseed, Sask Forage Seed Commission, Sask Alfalfa Seed Producers and Leafcutter Bees, Saskatchewan Seed Growers, Crop Sphere (represented by Dallas Carpenter)
Crop Sphere group of 6 organizations: Sask Pulse, Sask Oats, Sask Flax, Sask Canola, Sask Wheat, Sask Barley

1. Messaging: CropSphere notice of virtual AGM

“The difficult decision has been made to cancel the 2021 CropSphere Conference due to the uncertainties regarding COVID-19. The health of our attendees, sponsors, and speakers is our top priority and we want to do our part to ensure everyone remains safe. The annual general meetings (AGMs) for the CropSphere host organizations will be held virtually on January 12, 2021. The day will also include presentations from market analysts on the market outlook for each crop. Details on how to register, vote, and submit resolutions will be available in November. ... We appreciate your understanding and look forward to bringing the timely agronomy, research, and business information back to you when it is safe to do so. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at info@cropsphere.com .”

The AGM schedule for CropSphere group of commodity organizations: Tuesday, January 12, 2021

- 8:30 – 9:30 AM – Market outlook: canola, wheat, and barley
- 9:30 SaskCanola AGM
- 10:30 AM SaskBarley AGM
- 11:15 AM Sask Wheat AGM
- 12:15 PM Lunch Break
- 12:45 – 1:30 PM Market outlook: flax and oats
- 1:30 PM SaskFlax AGM
- 2:15 PM SaskOats AGM
- 3 - 4 PM Market outlook: pulses
- 4 PM Sask Pulse Growers AGM
- 5 PM Finish

2. Logistics of the CropSphere virtual AGMs update October 13th from CropSphere to CPW

- Facilities: Four to six rooms will be booked at TCU and while only one meeting will be happening during a specific time frame, it is more time-efficient to switch rooms rather than wait for a single room to be sanitized between sessions.
 - It is anticipated that maximum room occupancy will remain at 30 AS **OF 5:15 PM, TCU Place has indicated govt has group size gatherings to 15 people**). The in-person meeting size will likely be restricted to staff, some directors and (2-3) facility/AV personnel.
 - Each organization will likely be billed for the room and service costs (e.g. sanitization).
 - TCU Place is reducing standard rental costs by half due to social distancing requirements. The quotes were received at 5:10 PM Oct 13, 2020, based on 6 groups, 08:30 AM to 3:45 PM. The facility rentals would be cost-shared over the # groups,
 - Gallery C + D maximum of 20/room, \$480 +GST.
 - Salon A + B maximum of 27 per room \$925 + GST
 - Sanitization cost \$25.00/hr 2 staff = \$250 +GST
- AGM Voting: Inshtrix has been contracted to develop a software platform that will handle the registration and voting for the CropSphere AGMs. The Inshtrix system will drive how the organizations use EventMobi. The costs of the Inshtrix platform will be shared among the organizations, further details are pending with more information expected later this week or next week.
- AGM Streaming: Audio visual costs will depend on options and services (ie: having a stationary webcam pointed at the stage, using the tech service subcontracted by TCU which is believed to be Inland AV).
 - The CropSphere group will be using EventMobi as the the video streaming service and the commissions are still working out how they will use EventMobi for streaming their AGMs.
 - Each CPW organization will have to set up video streaming service on your own, although sharing a package between all the CPW commissions is an option that will be discussed at the next meeting (tomorrow, Oct 14th).
 - SaskWheat (Dallas Carpenter) will help the CPW groups integrate video stream if they chose to use EventMobi.
 - The other option is for an organization to send a direct link to the video stream (e.g. WebEx, GotoMeeting, Zoom) to members as they register, Dallas Carpenter suggested that this might be simpler and easier to manage than having to log in to EventMobi.

3. **Advertising the Virtual 2021 AGMs during Crop Production Week, Update October 13th** from CropSphere to CPW members organizations.

- Presently, the CropSphere groups plan to put two half-page ads in the Western Producer, one in early December and one in early January.
- Should the CPW organizations decide to advertise at the same time, it is anticipated that these costs will be small to the CPW commissions. A decision on the costs will likely be made at the CropSphere meeting tomorrow and communicated later this week.

- All the AGMs, CropSphere and CPW, could be advertised in the CropSphere group of commissions newsletters, as well as sending emails about the AGMs using the CropSphere account and their commission accounts, and Tweeting out consistent messages from all CropSphere commissions.
- Dallas Carpenter will provide a copy of the messaging for use in your own newsletters, websites, and Twitter accounts when it is ready.
- The plan is to have registrations start on November 30.
- Discussions on the joint advertising will be discussed at the CPW meeting tomorrow. Previously, CPW and CropSphere applied to the Ministry of Agriculture for funding to offset advertising costs, in the past few years, this amounts to \$5,000 for each of the two groups.

4. **Group participation in Virtual AGMs 2021 Crop Production Week**

- Presently, Sask Mustard, Sask Canaryseed, and Sask Winter Cereals will be participating in virtual AGM format and plan to use both Inshtrix and WebMobi being developed by CropSphere.
- Last week, the Sask Forage Seed Commission voted to hold a virtual AGM in conjunction with Crop Sphere group, although directors are wary of costs (cost-sharing Inshtrix, WebMobi, TCU facility rent and services). The decision was not unanimous, and furthermore, some directors are not comfortable travelling to Saskatoon for an in-person AGM. Therefore, the option of a director sharing a desktop to remotely present a report will be explored.
- Sask Seed Growers report they will not be having any type of in-person meeting. Alternatively, they are exploring the option of having pre-recorded reports, with live Q&A after each. SSGA will be looking for ways to coordinate that - as well as the voting. The Executive Director, Laurie Hayes reported today (October 13th), that, "given the events in our industry over the past few months, it is likely we will have larger -- and lively -- resolutions and member-to-member sessions that will require moderating. So, our needs may be a bit different and we are hoping that whoever the service providers will be, that there is some flexibility in the breadth and how the services will be delivered."
- Until a board meeting is held, the Sask Alfalfa Seed Producers Commission and Leafcutter Bees Association remains a 'maybe' for participating in the shared virtual AGM.
- The other CPW member organization, AgriArm will not be requiring use of either WebMobi or the Inshtrix platform.

Summary:

1. At tomorrow's the Crop Production Week Saskatchewan meeting, SAGA will inform the groups that SAGA will be holding a virtual AGM during Crop Production Week; SAGA appreciates the work done by the CropSphere and by the Crop Production Week Saskatchewan organizations in response to meeting restrictions due to Covid-19.
 - Depending on the cost, SAGA may or may not participate in the collective effort of centralizing the virtual AGM arrangements.

2. Depending on the financial commitment and cost-sharing virtual AGM expenses amongst the organizations; SAGA has the following options for the 2021 AGM.

Option 1: SAGA will hold their virtual AGM as part of the Crop Production Week AGMs and use the Inshgtrix platform for AGM **registration and/or voting, live streaming the meeting** from a free account on **Zoom**, and if time permits, organize a speaker **to present recognition award(s)**.

Option 2 SAGA will only **advertise** their virtual AGM as part of the Crop Production Week AGMs with advertising as proposed by CropSphere and similarly, use consistent messaging in the SAGA newsletter and Twitter-SAGA. The AGM meeting time will respect the scheduled meeting times for the CPW and CropSphere organizations.

Option 3: SAGA will hold their virtual AGM **independent of Crop Production Week activities** with registration and advertising on the SAGA website,

Discussion at meeting:

- Costs to use the Inshgtrix platform: \$1334 + 925 (room) + \$250 (cleaning)
- Advantages of being there are that the tech support would be right there (for issues with logging on, microphones not working etc), we could have a speaker (or do presentations)
- It may be more than SAGA needs
- **MOTION** that SAGA ask Jo-Anne to request Option 2 where SAGA collaborate our advertising and will ensure consistent messaging but that we will run our AGM without using their platform- E. Johnson – CARRIED
- **ACTION:** Jo-Anne to explore options for awarding our HLM at some point during Cropsphere or Crop Production Week

Membership– H. de Gooijer

- Have done a few more updates to the mailing list

Website –

- Keith Head has continued to do some updates, Ward has offered to help with the website
- Irene noted that the Executive list needs updating.

Hall of Fame – B. Harvey

- No Report

MAL – I. Ahner, J. Hauer, W. Headrick,

- Irene noted that the grads in their area were very disappointed that they could not have their summer gathering, she is working on an article for the SAGA

Vice President –D. Belisle

- Had a couple of requests for SAGA to forward emails and/or links
 - Were informed that we won't give them our membership list or forward emails but we may put a link on the website

Past President –E. Johnson

- Would like some additional suggestions for the HLM, especially Diploma Grads but also anyone (grad or not) that would be a candidate.

President Report –J. Fredette

- Would like everyone to bring thoughts on what the reunion might look like to the next meeting.
- Reminder- will need the next group of reunion chairs in place – requested assistance for Deanne with that
- Asked us to put some thought into working with the ASA now with remote learning, students not even all in Saskatoon and lack of in-person events.

MOTION: Accept Reports: W. Headrick CARRIED.

8. New / Other business

- Discussion on current Exec remaining in place as is for an additional year
 - Tabled again for future meeting

9. Date of Next Meetings

- TUESDAY November 10th
- TUESDAY December 08th

10. Motion to adjourn J. Hauer at 9:02 PM