



Apas in Action. (May'10)

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Welcome

Welcome to the sixth edition of the monthly APAS e-newsletter, **APAS IN ACTION**, dedicated to bringing you the latest news on how your general farm organization is working for Saskatchewan farmers. **If you are receiving this as an APAS Member RM Rep, Administrator or Reeve (Member or Non-Member)**, we encourage you to share this information with your council at your next scheduled meeting and with ratepayers in your RM whenever possible. Please feel free to circulate this newsletter to your council, local producers and interested ratepayers. Should you wish to print or mail it out or distribute copies at local meetings, **a printer-friendly version is available by clicking [HERE](#)**.

May 2010

On May 10, 2010, the President and the General Manager of APAS met with the Honourable Bob Bjornerud, Minister of Agriculture, and his Chief of Staff, Tim Highmoor. Topics for discussion included Ecological Goods and Services, APAS' coordination of the International Business Reception at the 2010 Farm Progress Show and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture Roundtable at the Federal-Provincial- Territorial Agriculture Ministers' Meeting to be held in Saskatoon on July 6, 2010.

On May 11, 2010, the APAS Board of Directors conducted their monthly meeting by conference call. In addition to the regular reports from the President and General Manager, the Board discussed APAS positions on trade barriers and the announced amendments to the Provincial Conservation Easements and Wild Life Habitat Protection Acts.

The President and General Manager also participated in an industry briefing and dialogue with the Saskatchewan Ministries of Agriculture and Environment relative to the amendments to the Conservation Easements and Wildlife Habitat Protection Acts. Following the May 11 Board Meeting, APAS issued a news release supporting the amendments and presenting recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of implementation.

This month APAS Directors and staff met with the Councils of the Rural Municipalities of Pangman and Key West and participated in a meeting of the ratepayers of the R.M. of Arlington. APAS welcomes the R.M. of Torch River as a new member.

The President and General Manager met with senior representatives of ACC Farmers Financial to discuss their purpose, history and operations and whether or not there are needs in the province of Saskatchewan that ACC might address. ACC was formed by Ontario farm organizations "to provide a full range of financial services primarily to the agri-food community directly or in partnership or alliance relationships with other industry professionals sharing the same values as ACC Farmers Financial." The President and General Manager of APAS later accompanied ACC to discussions with the Ministry of Agriculture on the same subjects.

The Economic, Trade, & Strategic Growth and Livestock Committees of APAS met during the month to discuss and prioritize key policy issues. Dorothy Weetman of District 3 was elected Chair of the Economic, Trade, and Strategic Growth Committee and the Livestock Committee re-elected Norm Nordgulen of District 2 as Chair.

As an organization, APAS is active in political processes in a non-partisan manner to advance the interests of all APAS members. On May 17, the President and General Manager attended the N.D.P. Leader's Dinner. Later in the month,

the President, General Manager and District 2 Director Norm Nordgulen attended the Premier's Dinner, which was also held in Regina.

And finally we sent out over **10,000** Marks Work Warehouse Discount Cards to nearly 50 Member RMs who requested them for summer tax notice mailers. The cards entitle APAs members to a 10% discount on selected merchandise at all Marks locations in Canada. If you missed the deadline but still wish to receive Mark's Discount cards for your ratepayers, please contact APAS' new Senior Administrative Assistant, Tara Pelle at 306-789-7774 extension 111 or by email at tpelle@apas.ca.

APAS is...

Saskatchewan's general farm organization formed to provide farmers and ranchers with a democratically elected, grassroots, non-partisan, producer organization based on rural municipal boundaries. As the united voice of thousands of agricultural producers in Saskatchewan, we strive to represent the views of a wide variety of agricultural stakeholders in order to form comprehensive policies that can benefit all sectors of society.

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