



Agriculture is Everyone's Business

APAS in Action

November/December 2013

Welcome to APAS IN ACTION, bringing you the latest news on how your general farm organization is working on behalf of Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers. If you are receiving this as an APAS Member RM Rep, RM 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.

2013 APAS Annual General Meeting

The 2013 Annual General Meeting of the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) took place December 6-7, 2013 at the Travelodge Inn in Regina. The meeting was an opportunity to share information with - and gain insight from - ranchers and farmers from across the province in order to promote sound agricultural policy.

The 2013 AGM featured a number of topics affecting Saskatchewan producers and Rural Municipalities, such as APAS involvement in the Indian Head Tree Nursery Coalition, challenges facing patrons in the transition of the PFRA Community Pastures, and APAS initiatives around Saskatchewan Crop Insurance “too wet to seed” policy. Expert guests from across Canada were on hand to engage delegates and present on a wide range of topics, including grain movement and transportation delays, crop development research models, and the impact of recent international trade deals, to name just a few. The AGM concluded with a vigorous policy discussion and the adoption of over 25 resolutions, granting APAS a clear mandate to continue to advance innovative farm policy into 2014.

The AGM also featured an exciting new addition to the APAS membership benefits suite with the official launch of the “myRM.ca” iPhone and Android apps. The app can be downloaded for free and provides rural residents in APAS member RMs with instant contact to their RM office as well as local weather conditions and warnings, highway conditions, emergency information, local RM maps, regional news and other information about your community. The myRM app is communications technology truly unique to rural Saskatchewan, and is attracting interest and inquiries province-wide.

The election of the 2014 APAS Board of Directors also took place at the 2013 AGM. Congratulations to returning District 1 Directors, Arlynn Kurtz and James Vogt; returning District 2 Directors Todd Lewis and Bob Rusk; returning District 3 Directors Don Connick and Dorothy Weetman; returning District 4 Director Norm Hall and newly elected District 4 Director Mervin Kryzanowski; returning District 5 Directors Donovan Block and Micky Palfey and returning District 6 Directors Jeff Simpson and Bill Warrington. A special thank you to former District 4 Director, David Spencer, for his dedication and valuable contributions to the APAS Board these past 5 years.



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The 2014 APAS Board of Directors re-elected the 2013 Executive for another term. Norm Hall from the RM of Emerald (No.277) will serve as the 2014 APAS President. Arlynn Kurtz from RM of Fertile Belt (No.183) and Todd Lewis from RM of Lajord (No.128) will serve as the 2014 APAS Vice-Presidents. Congratulations to the re-elected members of the Executive, and thank you for continuing to provide APAS with your valuable leadership in 2014.

Recent Policy Submissions

On December 13, APAS submitted comments to the Saskatchewan Ministry of Economy's public review of surface rights legislation. In order to ensure the representation of broad-based viewpoints, our submission was informed by a series of public meetings we held in conjunction with our fall district meetings in November. The APAS submission urges the Provincial Government to strike a fairer balance between the rights of resource companies and surface landowners, including more equitable compensation rates and a stronger commitment towards environmental oversight and site reclamation.

Saskatchewan Wheat and Barley Commissions

APAS extends congratulations to the Directors who were elected to the newly established Saskatchewan Wheat and Barley Development Commissions. APAS looks forward to working with these commissions to ensure wheat and barley remain profitable and viable crops going forward. The first annual general meeting for these commissions will take place January 13 in Saskatoon. Thank you to APAS President, Norm Hall, and APAS Vice-President, Todd Lewis, who helped get these commissions up and running by representing APAS on the wheat and barley commissions' interim boards.

Upcoming Priorities

As we head into 2014, the need for a Saskatchewan general farm organization is clearer than ever. Please stay tuned in the coming weeks for APAS reports on efforts to address the current strains in our grain transportation and handling system. There will be renewed need in 2014 to open dialogue with other industry stakeholders and consider all options for more effective transportation reform. We have also heard concern from our membership over pending changes to Canada's Plant Breeders' Rights legislation and how these changes could impact production costs for Saskatchewan farmers. We are committed to ensuring that the voice of producers are effectively heard throughout the process and equally committed to ensuring that everyone receives accurate information on the cost/benefits of these changes before they are implemented.