



## Western Standards Committee record of discussion and recommendations

**Date:** October 31, 2023

**Time:** 9:00 am to 12:00 pm (CDT)

**Location:** Canadian Grain Commission  
Winnipeg, MB

### Members

### Description

#### **Canadian Grain Commission**

Doug Chorney (Chairperson)  
Derek Bunkowsky  
Esther Salvano

Chief Commissioner  
Chief Grain Inspector for Canada  
Director General, Grain Research Laboratory

#### **Nominated by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada**

Felicitas Katepa-Mupondwa  
Avtar Virk

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
Canadian Food Inspection Agency

#### **Processors of grain**

Caalen Covey  
Kevin Sich

Canadian National Millers Association  
Brewing & Malting Barley Research Institute

#### **Exporters of grain**

Tala Mobayen  
Robert Tkatchuk

Canadian Special Crops Association  
Canadian Grain & Oilseed Exporters Association

#### **Producers of grain**

Justin Bell  
Chad Doerksen  
Steven Donald  
Gregg Fotheringham  
Clayton Harder  
Jean Harrington  
Fiona Jochum  
Sean Stanford  
Shane Stokke  
Shanna Stolhandske-Dale  
Glenn Tait  
Rodney Volk

Alberta producer (Alberta Grains)  
Saskatchewan producer (Saskatchewan Pulse Growers)  
Saskatchewan producer (Canadian Federation of Agriculture)  
Manitoba producer (Manitoba Crop Alliance)  
Manitoba producer (Canadian Canola Growers Association)  
Saskatchewan producer  
Manitoba producer (Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association)  
Alberta producer (Alberta Grains)  
Saskatchewan producer (Flax Council of Canada)  
Saskatchewan producer  
Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission  
Alberta Pulse Growers

**Additional**

Ian Armer  
 Robert Chapman  
 James Dunlop  
 Darren Highfield

Terminal Elevator Association  
 Inland Terminal Association of Canada  
 Canola Council of Canada  
 Country Elevator Association

**Regrets**

Chad Doerksen  
 Ian Armer

Saskatchewan producer (Saskatchewan Pulse Growers)  
 Terminal Elevator Association

**Observers**

Patty Rosher  
 Lonny McKague  
 Gino Castonguay  
 Véronique Barthelet  
 Max Cote  
 Shanell Dupras  
 Blair Goldade  
 Rémi Gosselin  
 Cathy Holstlander  
 Marta Izydorczyk  
 Leah Macdonald  
 Trent Richards  
 Evan Thomas  
 Ning Wang  
 Kris Wonitowy  
 Bin Xiao Fu

Canadian Grain Commission  
 Canadian Grain Commission  
 Canadian Grain Commission  
 Canadian Grain Commission  
 Canadian Grain Commission  
 Canadian Grain Commission  
 Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission  
 Canadian Grain Commission  
 National Farmers Union  
 Canadian Grain Commission  
 Canadian Grain Commission  
 Saskatchewan Pulse Growers  
 Canadian Grain Commission  
 Canadian Grain Commission  
 Canadian Grain Commission  
 Canadian Grain Commission

**Recording Secretary**

Natalie Rioux

Canadian Grain Commission

**Recommendations**

No recommendations were brought forward during this meeting.

**Chairperson’s comments**

**Lead: Doug Chorney**

**Summary**

- Welcome to members.

**Approval of the October 31, 2023 Western Standards Committee agenda**

**Lead: Doug Chorney**

**Action items**

- Meeting agenda was approved.

# Approval of the April 4, 2023 Western Standards Committee meeting minutes

Lead: Doug Chorney

## Action items

- Meeting minutes were approved.

## Business arising

Lead: Doug Chorney

### Summary

- Nothing was discussed.

## Primary and export standards alignment update

Lead: Doug Chorney

### Summary

- The Canadian Grain Commission heard that some farm groups had concerns with the process and approach to align the tolerances for test weight and total foreign material for five western classes of wheat. Given the concerns, the alignment was reversed.
- We intend to review the regulatory change process we use to implement grading changes to ensure it allows for adequate discussion and analysis.
- While we review this process, we will suspend the discussion and potential alignment of wheats of other classes and contrasting classes tolerances.
- There is no defined timeline for revisiting primary and export alignment of test weight, total foreign material, wheats of other classes and contrasting classes.

### Standards committee member comments

- Member mentioned that there was a motion asking for time for an economic analysis.
- Members commented that it would be difficult to perform an economic analysis on this topic. Also added that with the current system there is added risk, which can be passed on to the producer. Said that an efficient system is of primary interest to producers.
- Members expressed that contractually, farmers don't have the upper hand and elevators have the ability to offset with blending that farmers don't.
- Chief Commissioner Chorney stated that the Canadian Grain Commission has heard that test weight would be added as a delivery contract specification which reduces the ability for the Canadian Grain Commission to act as an arbitrator as it would become a contractual agreement.

## Action items

- No action items brought forward.

## Grain standards advisory committee membership update

Lead: Doug Chorney

### Summary

- An update was given on the advisory committee structure, including:
  - o the addition of eastern representation on committees

- each committee will have 14 members and will be balanced between producers, processors, exporters and Canadian Grain Commission representatives
- to clarify that advisory committees are a technical body and are not a decision-making body

#### **Standards committee member comments**

- Member stated they want the advisory committees to reflect the interest of producers and there isn't enough representation currently by producers.
  - Chief Commissioner Chorney clarified there will be a balanced approach with producers when introducing new members. Eastern representation would introduce new producer seats on committees.
- Member commented they do not consider the current makeup of the advisory committees to be technical experts. They asked that the Canadian Grain Commission vet technical expertise when appointing new members.
  - Chief Commissioner Chorney agreed that meaningful participation in advisory committees is important.
- Commissioner McKague clarified that advisory committees can bring in subject matter experts from outside the membership to fill gaps in technical expertise if necessary.
- A member asked what the role of the Chair of the committee is in the event of a tie in votes.
  - Chief Commissioner Chorney clarified that there is no voting in advisory committee meetings. They are not a decision-making body.
- Member asked if members of a standards committee could sit on an advisory committee as well.
  - Chief Commissioner Chorney clarified that a sub-committee would only be comprised of standards committee members, but an advisory committee brings in experts from the entire industry. It's a working committee that's supposed to be made up of technical experts.

#### **Action items**

- No items brought forward.

## **Western crop report**

### **Lead: Kris Wonitowy**

#### **Summary**

- Harvest is virtually complete across the western Prairies.
- Updates on Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba harvest progress were provided.
- We use samples from our Harvest Sample Program to make crop quality data available to marketers to promote the sale of Canadian grain, and to confirm Canada's ability to deliver consistent, high-quality grain from year to year. The Grain Research Laboratory also uses these samples for scientific research.
- So far, the Canadian Grain Commission has received 7125 samples with 65% of samples being cereal crops, 22% being oilseeds and 13% being pulses.

#### **Standards committee member comments**

- Member asked if this data is used for New Crop Missions.

- The Chief Grain Inspector for Canada stated that grading and protein data from the Harvest Sample Program is the Canadian Grain Commission data and Cereals Canada uses their own end use functionality data.
- The Director General of the Grain Research Laboratory promoted the Harvest Sample Program, adding that when crops are good we don't get as many samples in. Encouraged members to go back to their groups to encourage more sample submissions.
- The Head of Communications noted that the Canadian Grain Commission does significant outreach through trade shows and the communications unit to promote and encourage producer participation in the Harvest Sample Program. Noted that the Canadian Grain Commission partners with farm groups to increase awareness.

#### **Action items**

- No items brought forward.

## **Oilseed Advisory Committee report**

**Leads: Evan Thomas and Dr. Véronique Barthet**

#### **Summary**

- The Oilseeds Advisory Committee report was presented and included:
  - an update on the heated canola project where research is ongoing to ensure our tolerances are relevant
  - an update on the early stages of moisture in canola dockage research
  - an update on proposed changes to the decimal precision for domestic mustard seed, flaxseed and soybeans
  - an update on the broken and small canola project
  - an update on the Enlist technology soybeans in Canada after it was noted that there was potential discolouration when they were grown in the US
- The Canadian Grain Commission has met with Corteva Agriscience where they mentioned they do have the ability to breed out the seed coat colour variation in Enlist soybean varieties. This will take time.

#### **Standards committee member comments**

- Member asked if discolouration of Enlist soybeans has any effect on end-use functionality.
  - It was mentioned that it does not appear to have an impact on end-use functionality for the crush market but could have an effect on food products like tofu.
- The USDA has done research, but the Grain Research Laboratory would like to perform their own research in Canada using the wet chemistry method instead of the NIR technology used by the USDA.

#### **Action items**

- Motion to accept the Oilseed Advisory Committee report as presented was carried.

## **Pulses Advisory Committee report**

**Leads: Evan Thomas and Dr. Ning Wang**

#### **Summary**

- The Pulses Advisory Committee report was presented and included:
  - o an update on proposed changes to the decimal precision for fababeans and soybeans
  - o an update on insect parts in soybeans to state that there will be no update to how insect parts are assessed
  - o an update on the Enlist technology soybeans in Canada

#### **Standards committee member comments**

- There were no member comments.

#### **Action items**

- Motion to accept the Pulses Advisory Committee report as presented was carried.

## **Barley and Other Cereal Grains Advisory Committee report**

**Leads: Kris Wonitowy and Dr. Marta Izydorczyk**

#### **Summary**

- The Barley and Other Cereal Grains Advisory Committee report was presented and included:
  - o information on variety tolerances for malting and food barley and details on a potential variety designation list for food barley
  - o an update on proposed changes to the degrees of soundness for rye and triticale along with colour characteristics in oats
  - o an update on proposed changes to the decimal precision for oats, mixed grain

#### **Standards committee member comments**

- Member asked what the differences are between breeding for food-grade and malt barley.
  - o A Grain Research Laboratory Program Manager stated breeders are developing food-grade barley that differs from malting barley, in that they are usually hullless varieties and have unique beta-glucan and protein characteristics.

#### **Action items**

- Motion to accept the Barley and Other Cereals Advisory Committee report as presented was carried.

## **Wheat Advisory Committee report**

**Lead: Kris Wonitowy**

#### **Summary**

- The Wheat Advisory Committee report was presented and included:
  - o an update on the sprouted tolerance in CESRW project to examine and improve predictions of visual grading in relation to Falling Number
  - o an update on proposed changes to the degrees of soundness to better align the various classes of wheat which are using the same standard

#### **Standards committee member comments**

- There were no member comments.

#### **Action items**

- Motion to accept the Wheat Advisory Committee report as presented was carried.

## **Variety identification for malt barley update**

**Lead: Dr. Esther Salvano**

#### **Summary**

- An update was provided on the variety identification for malt barley issue that was identified.
- We're working on varietal purity testing and dispute resolution.

#### **Standard committee member comments**

- A member commented that a lot of farmers were taking a hit from this and have mistrust for Metcalfe and Copeland because it passes purity along the entire supply chain until it arrives to the maltster and suddenly doesn't pass. Producers are discounted even though maltsters accept it and make beer with it.
  - o A Grain Research Laboratory Program Manager stated that 95% for variety purity is important because each variety processes differently. We discovered a variant of Copeland that started failing purity tests last year. The studies show the variant can be considered Copeland because it doesn't affect end use.

#### **Action items**

- No action items or recommendations were brought forward.

## **Terms of committee members**

**Lead: Doug Chorney**

#### **Summary**

- No terms are ending.
- Four members will be contacted for renewals.

#### **Action items**

- No action items or recommendations were brought forward.

## **Closing remarks**

**Lead: Doug Chorney**

#### **Summary**

- Thanked members for their participation.

#### **Action items**

- No action items or recommendations were brought forward

## **Adjournment**

**Lead: Doug Chorney**

**Action items**

- Motion was carried to adjourn the meeting.