



**National Forum on Seed Teleconference
 May 24, 2005 ♦ 1400-1500 EST**

1. Roll Call – Call to Order 215 EDT

Telephone attendance:	Live attendance in Ottawa:
Michael Brophy, CWB Anthony Chapman, PCO (SMART Regulation Project) Sher Bushell, CFIA Dorothy Murell, CSTA Graham Warden, CWB Barry Reisner, CSGA Marvin Shauf, CFA Ernie Doerkesen, GGC Denise Dewar, CropLife Brian Marcello, CGC	Bill Leask, CSTA Brenda Trask, CSTA Dale Adolphe, CSGA Randy Preater, CSGA Grant Watson, CFIA Michael Scheffel, CFIA Monty Doyle, Project Manager Charlene Mader, Secretariat Niels Hansen-Trip, Secretariat

Absent: Tim Welbanks, Mike Price, William VanTassel

2. Update since last meeting(Monty Doyle)

a. Report of 1st meeting of the National Forum on Seed

The Report of meeting distributed to all participants and observers at the NSSRT/Forum April 2005 meeting.

b. Newsletter

A Forum Newsletter distributed to media, general stakeholders list, and MP's, highlighting the membership and outcomes from the inaugural meeting of the National Forum on Seed. Reaction was generally positive with some concern expressed regarding the role of the NFS in "consultation".

c. Status of member confirmations

All member organizations have confirmed participation and representation with the following exceptions:

- Registered Seed Establishment Representative yet to be named.
- CSAAC expressed desire to withdraw from Forum level to focus resources on Working Groups
- Ex officio members from AAFC have not yet confirmed participation
- Provincial Government – West is not named
- NFU: As directed by the NFS, the Secretariat wrote to the NFU to confirm the invitation to be a member organization. The NFU has advised that they are considering this further. They have requested information regarding the governance structure and funding support.

The member representative list is as follows:

Organization	Representative	Alternate
Canadian Federation of Agriculture	Marvin Shauf	
Canadian Wheat Board	Patty Rosher	Michael Brophy and Graham Worden
Canadian Seed Growers Association	Barry Riesner	Neil Shanks
Canadian Seed Trade Association	Dorothy Murrell	Tim Welbanks
CropLife Canada	Denise Dewar	
Grain Growers of Canada	Ernie Doerksen	
Plant Breeder - Private	David Sippell	
Plant Breeder - Public	Jeff Stewart	Doug Brown
Plant Breeder - University	Bryan Harvey	
Provincial Government- East	Mike Price	Claude Caldwell
L'Union les Producteurs Agricoles	William Van Tassel	
Ex-officio Members		
Canadian Food Inspection Agency	Glyn Chancey	
Canadian Grain Commission	Brian Marchylo	
Executive Directors of the ACAA Accountable Organizations	Dale Adolphe (CGSA) Jim McCullagh (CSI) Bill Leask (CSTA) TBA (GGC)	

d. Policy on Funding Support

The Secretariat presented the policy on funding support for all Forum Members for travel expenses to Forum meetings.

Full Reimbursement for:

- Secretariat (Doyle, Mader, reporter)
- Executive Directors of SSA

50% reimbursement up to a maximum of 650\$ for:

- 2 association staff (R. Preater, B. Trask)
- All official members of the Forum.

This policy will also apply to individuals invited to be part of the Core Group (5-6 persons) at the Working Group level. It leaves discretion to the Forum to advise the Management Committee to provide subvention to specific groups whose participation is important but not possible without support. Given that we have about a year to go this policy may change as experience dictates. We may need to tighten it down, or loosen it as time goes on.

e. Discussion with CFIA RE: VRWG II

Since the Forum meeting Dale Adolphe and Monty Doyle met with CFIA officials to shape the approach for the VRWG II. Results will be discussed under item 7.

3. Presentation of proposed approach for the Variety Registration Working Group II (Dale Adolphe)

Dale Adolphe presented the Framework Document outlining the proposed objective, goals, and context for the upcoming VRWG II.

Results of Discussion RE: VRWG II:

- I. Very strong desire to make progress on Variety Registration.
- II. CFIA to come to the meeting with the elements of a straw-man, integrating the outstanding issues raised on page 14 of the summary report of the January VRWG I.
- III. Key areas will be:
 - a. Criteria to place crop kind in specific schedules
 - b. Process for managing change in placement – linkage to “SMART” regulation and the associated change process.
 - c. Default schedules for those currently exempt
 - d. Role of expert committees or some other committee to act as the “crop kind” consultation committee
 - e. How to deal with Heritage Varieties
 - f. Reference to contract registration and recent work organized by the Canadian Grain Commission
- IV. Regarding Invitees
 - a. Core Group Members to be confirmed.
 - b. Add Stephen Jones to the invitation list
 - c. Include invitations to all who were to attend the January working group.
 - d. Extend invitation to others in the general list
 - e. Ensure processors are included in the invitation list
- V. Date, Time, Place

20-21 June, Ottawa – details to go out later this week

4. Initial thoughts re: Innovation Working Group (Bill Leask)

The Forum role is to identify and provide direction on the issue. It was proposed to blend Co-existence and Innovation. Given the resources and uncertainty of taking on a difficult topic at this juncture, this group must only take on a piece that is feasible.

There are many current projects, meetings, and activities exploring elements of this issue – we do not want to duplicate. The primary focus must be a substantive seed problem that is within the scope of the expertise around the table and the mandate of the Forum. The question is whether we need to address these issues ourselves or be represented on other groups or at other tables. An in-depth discussion will be scheduled for the next NFS meeting tentatively planned for July.

5. Date for next meeting of the National Forum on Seed (Monty Doyle)

Secretariat to test July 27 for a 1 day meeting (if possible) or a least a teleconference.

6. Other Business - Election of a Chair (Monty Doyle)

M. Doyle is to prepare and circulate a short piece on the process. It will be discussed at the July Forum meeting if not sooner.

The teleconference adjourned at 1540 EDT.