



Sask Wheat-SWCDC Proposed Amalgamation

Background and Consultation Process - As directed by member resolutions at the January 2022 Annual General Meetings (AGMs) of both the Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission (Sask Wheat) and the Saskatchewan Winter Cereals Development Commission (SWCDC), the two commissions engaged in a process of consulting with producers over the last year on the potential amalgamation of the two commissions.

An online consultation survey was available for producers to respond to from January to March 2022. This survey returned largely positive feedback on the perceived impact of amalgamation for both producers and the commissions (for the survey results, please [CLICK HERE](#)). The survey results were presented to producers by a member of the SWCDC Board at the Sask Wheat Semi-Annual Meeting (Regina, June 21, 2022).

Over 95 percent of the survey respondents supported the organizations exploring options for amalgamation. Among the potential benefits of amalgamation respondents identified were: one strong voice representing the Saskatchewan wheat sector; efficiencies in the use of staff and operational resources with only one board; and increased opportunities to collaborate with Alberta Wheat Commission (AWC) and Manitoba Crop Alliance (MCA) in funding winter cereals research. These organizations represent winter cereals producers in their respective provinces, and Sask Wheat has well-established relationships with both organizations through cooperation in the Canadian Wheat Research Coalition (CWRC) and provincial research funding programs.

Concerns raised in the first consultation about a potential amalgamation included the possibility of reduced representation of winter cereals growers in an amalgamated organization and less focus on, and reduced funding for, winter cereals research.

From mid-November to mid-December 2022, a detailed proposal for amalgamation was made available online (see consultation document below) together with a second survey, providing opportunity for producer response to the proposal. The proposal addresses, especially, governance, research, advocacy and market development, and administration. The responses to the survey questions on the consultation document were again very positive (please [CLICK HERE](#)). Over 94 percent of the producers who responded to the survey agreed that the document provides both the necessary framework and adequate support to bring amalgamation resolutions to their respective AGMs in January 2023.

Next Steps - Based on the strong positive support received for amalgamation through consultation with producers over the last year, resolutions supporting amalgamation have been prepared for the SWCDC and Sask Wheat 2023 AGMs and are provided below together with the amalgamation proposal document. Votes on the proposed amalgamation of Saskatchewan Winter Cereals Development Commission (SWCDC) and Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission (Sask Wheat) will be held at their respective AGMs on Monday, January 9, 2023 (10 am Sask Wheat; 11:45 am SWCDC). Your participation as a levy-payer to either or both organizations is important, and we hope that you register and vote. To register, please [CLICK HERE](#).

If these resolutions are passed at the Sask Wheat and SWCDC 2023 AGMs, the two commissions will work with the Agri-Food Council to amend their regulations with a target date of August 1, 2023 for amalgamation into a single commission to be named Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission.



Detailed Sask Wheat – SWCDC Amalgamation Proposal

January 2nd, 2023

Governance

Governance and representation are two important considerations for the Saskatchewan producers who support Saskatchewan Winter Cereals Development Commission (SWCDC) and Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission (Sask Wheat) through their levy dollars. Levy-paying producers want to see a structure that ensures farmer levies are represented and invested to the greatest benefit if an amalgamated organization is approved.

If amalgamation is approved by producers of both organizations in January 2023, SWCDC will continue to operate with its current Board of Directors in place until July 31, 2023, with some administrative wind-up required in subsequent months. On August 1, 2023, an amalgamated organization would commence operations under the name of Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission (Sask Wheat).

In the fall of 2023, Sask Wheat is scheduled to hold elections for three director positions out of a total of seven director positions.¹ At that time, if amalgamation has occurred, any producer who has paid either SWCDC or Sask Wheat levies in at least one of the past two crop years (August 1, 2020, to July 31, 2022) and has not requested a levy refund in the most recent year that levies were paid will be eligible to contest a seat on the board of the amalgamated Sask Wheat. Current SWCDC board members will support the nomination of any of the current SWCDC board members who are interested at that time in running for a Sask Wheat Board position.

Sask Wheat does not have board representation by wheat class. This will continue to be the case for the crop types represented by an amalgamated Sask Wheat. The three new directors elected to the board of an amalgamated organization will each represent the interests of the full spectrum of crop types on which levies are paid to Sask Wheat, including the winter cereals (winter wheat, fall rye, and triticale) on which SWCDC currently collects levies.

Sask Wheat's governance structure allows for the potential inclusion of experts and interested parties from outside of the Board and Sask Wheat's staff, and even the organization itself, in the membership of any committees the Sask Wheat board may form. Committees make recommendations to the Sask Wheat Board for its consideration. An amalgamated Sask Wheat would undertake to explore opportunities for creating a joint small grains committee among the three prairie provinces that could address issues particular to small acreage grains.

¹ A separate resolution to increase the Sask Wheat Board size to eight members from the current seven members also will be voted on at the Sask Wheat 2023 AGM. If adopted, four Board positions will be available for contesting in the Sask Wheat Board elections in the fall of 2023.

Research

Research is a fundamental priority of both commissions. Ensuring that winter cereals research opportunities remain viable is a key consideration of the amalgamation process. The boards of SWCDC and Sask Wheat believe that amalgamation would provide important opportunities to maximize levy payer value through the leveraging of new, heightened, and streamlined research opportunities, especially through increased alignment with both AWC and MCA, which already have winter wheat in their mandates.

SWCDC has already observed significant Sask Wheat funding into winter cereals research prior to consideration of amalgamation. Sask Wheat has previously invested directly in several winter cereals-related research projects in conjunction with AWC and MCA, recognizing there will be inherent and tangible benefits for all wheat growers. Sask Wheat also provides funding to multi-year Canadian Wheat Research Coalition (CWRC) Core Breeding Agreements with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and some prairie universities, which include support for winter cereals research.

As noted in the previous section, Sask Wheat's governance structure allows for the potential inclusion in its committee membership of experts and interested parties from outside of Sask Wheat board and staff members and the organization itself. SWCDC directors already have been actively involved with Sask Wheat's research committee, providing feedback on their priorities for specific winter cereals research proposals submitted through all the funding streams Sask Wheat considers, including the AAFC AgriScience Wheat Cluster and Integrated Crop Agronomy Cluster, and provincial funding windows through Saskatchewan's Agriculture Development Fund and Alberta's Agriculture Funding Consortium. Recommendations to the Board for funding wheat and winter cereals activities are based on the quality and impact of the research initiatives. SWCDC director involvement with the Sask Wheat research committee would continue throughout the proposed amalgamation process.

Advocacy and Market Development

Many advocacy and market development issues will be of broad interest to all crops represented by an amalgamated Sask Wheat. For those that are specific to winter cereals, it will be the responsibility of the Sask Wheat Board to directly represent those crops as comprehensively as it does the various wheat classes it currently collects levies on when specific issues arise.

An amalgamated Sask Wheat would support Cereals Canada's Winter Wheat Ecolabel Program, which is the winter wheat marketing initiative currently supported by prairie winter wheat producers through SWCDC, AWC and MCA.

Administration (including Levy Collection, Research Funding Allocation)

Amalgamation requires approval by the producer memberships of both SWCDC and Sask Wheat, achieved through approval of amalgamation resolutions by a majority of the registered producers voting at each of the SWCDC and Sask Wheat AGMs, and enactment of any required Agri-Food Council revisions to both Sask Wheat and SWCDC regulations. If this occurs, transfer of levy collection and other administration would proceed as follows:



Levy Collection: Sask Wheat would assume responsibility for the levies collected for winter wheat, fall rye, and winter triticale, effective August 1, 2023. Currently, SWCDC receives its levy collection reported for each of the separate winter cereals and Sask Wheat would continue that process.

Research Funding Allocation: With the mandate for winter cereals, Sask Wheat would continue to fund research into winter cereals. It is expected that much of this funding activity will be in cooperation with other funders in Western Canada and through federal and provincial funding programs. Successful funding of individual proposals would be dependant on the quality and applicability to Saskatchewan and Western Canadian wheat and winter cereals producers and the acceptance of the proposal within the parameters of the funding program being accessed.

Administration: Sask Wheat and SWCDC staff would work together in the months following producer approval at the 2023 AGMs to ensure a smooth transition of administrative duties starting August 1, 2023.

SWCDC would still be responsible for a final audit and annual report for the 2022-23 fiscal year including any required subsequent wind-down of operations activities. Given that SWCDC regulations would be repealed to align with the end of its last fiscal year, there would not be any requirement to hold a dedicated SWCDC AGM in January 2024. However, as Sask Wheat regulations would be amended to include winter cereals, there would be a presentation at the 2024 Sask Wheat AGM on the final SWCDC annual report. This would ensure Sask Wheat is fulfilling its obligation to members, including winter cereals producers, to report on matters pertaining to its mandate, which would include winter cereals at that time.

Next Steps

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Proposed Resolution on next page



Proposed Amalgamation Resolution for Presentation at the 2023 Sask Wheat and SWCDC AGMs

Resolution – Amalgamation of the Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission and the Saskatchewan Winter Cereals Development Commission

WHEREAS the Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission and the Saskatchewan Winter Cereals Development Commission are focussed on maximizing value for levy-payers (i.e. producers of spring wheat, durum and winter cereals in Saskatchewan);

AND WHEREAS levy-payer value would be increased through efficiencies and benefits that would be gained through closer coordination between our organizations;

AND WHEREAS amalgamation will provide the greatest efficiencies and benefits to the levy-payers of the Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission and the Saskatchewan Winter Cereals Development Commission;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission and the Saskatchewan Winter Cereals Development Commission amalgamate under the name Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission, with the amalgamated Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission to assume the mandate of the Saskatchewan Winter Cereals Development Commission for winter wheat, fall rye, and winter triticale, including research, advocacy, market development, grower relations, and communications activities in addition to the current mandate of the Saskatchewan Wheat Development Commission for spring wheat and durum.