

Report on the Annual Southern Alberta Conservation Association general meeting - for 1991

The first annual meeting of the Southern Alberta Conservation Association was held on January 24th, 1992 at the Medicine Hat Lodge in Medicine Hat. About 145 interested farmers, agriculture personnel and representatives of Alberta Agriculture attended the luncheon and annual meeting. The SACA executive developed a format for the annual meeting, where there would be a luncheon, an information portion which included presentations from other conservation and industry groups, a general meeting, a directors meeting as well as two highlight speakers.

Following the opening and welcoming remarks from SACA president Lloyd Mercer, the audience enjoyed a noon luncheon. Brad Haas, director for the Hilda Conservation 2000 club, then introduced one of our guest speakers, Jack Hazelwood, Program co-ordination, Section Head, C&D Branch of Alberta Agriculture. Mr. Hazelwood explained that conservation farming requires more than production management. The farmer must also consider the other management areas, marketing, financial and personnel in order to develop a successful overall conservation plan.

The Presidents report was the presented by Lloyd Mercer. Lloyd gave an account of the objectives of SACA and reviewed the projects that individual Conservation 2000 Clubs had participated in in 1991. He also mentioned that the general public must be made aware of conservation issues in agriculture. SACA Sec.-

Treas., David Oseen, then presented the Secretary's report, a summary of tours, demonstrations and projects undertaken by Conservation 2000 Clubs in 1991. A MOTION BY DENNIS HERMAN, SECONDED BY VERN MCNEELY TO ACCEPT THE REPORT. CARRIED. The Treasurers report was then presented. BLAIR CLAEYS MOVED THAT THE TREASURERS REPORT BE ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED, SECONDED BY KARL IVARSON. CARRIED.

Reports were then presented by other conservation organizations and agriculture industry representatives. Jim Hahn, Alberta Wheat Pool representative, presented an update on the 2000 Foundation and the numbers of Conservation 2000 Clubs formed and of those in the process of formation. The Dryland Salinity Control Association (DSCA) president, Vern McNeely, then provided the audience with an overview of the objectives of that organization. This organization was formed in 1981 and one of its purposes is to bring about more conservation awareness. Dan Stryker, a director of the Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS), then presented a report on some of the purposes, objectives and activities of this organization. One of the current activities is working with government to develop a policy for safe chemical handling. He also introduced Karl Ivarson, President of the Champion Conservation 2000 Club, whose club won the ACTS (group) conservation award.

Following the presentation of reports, Lloyd Mercer presented a motion (a motion arising from the November 12, SACA directors meeting) to determine if SACA bylaws need to be changed regarding the boundaries of SACA. After presentation and

discussion, BLAIR CLAEYS MADE A MOTION TO RESCIND THE MOTION TO CHANGE BYLAWS. SECONDED BY HOWARD HUTCHINSON. CARRIED.

Blair Claeys, Vice - President of SACA, then introduced the second guest speaker, Don Bousquet, market analyst for Farm Market News. The speaker lead the audience through a humorous lecture on the short and long term market outlook for farm commodities, and explained the reasoning behind this analysis. Lloyd Mercer then adjourned the general meeting at 4:00 p.m. by thanking the audience and speakers for attending, and for showing interest in conservation matters. Lloyd also mentioned that a directors meeting would follow the annual meeting and asked for the club representatives to attend this.

Following the opening and welcoming remarks from SACA president Lloyd Mercer, the audience enjoyed a noon luncheon. Don Bousquet, Director for the Wild Conservation 2000 Club, then introduced one of our guest speakers, Jack MacIvor, Program Co-ordinator, Section Head, CAP branch of Alberta Agriculture. MacIvor explained that conservation farming requires more than production management. The farmer must also consider the other management areas, marketing, financial and personnel in order to develop a successful overall conservation plan.

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