

Western Committee on Plant Diseases – 47th Annual Meeting

October 27, 2022

Holiday Inn and Suites, Conference Centre, Grand Prairie, Alberta



1. **Welcome & Introductions** (WCPD Chair, *Mike Harding*)

Meeting started at 8:07

Mike welcomed everyone and made some comments about the day and the format

2. **Adoption of Agenda**

Motion to Adopt the Agenda by *David Kaminski*, seconded by *Holly Derksen*

3. **Minutes of the 46th Annual Meeting 2021**, Winnipeg

Meeting minutes from 2021 are available on-line.

Motion to adopt the minutes by *Nicole Wydham*, seconded by *Clint Jurke*

4. **Business Arising from the 2021 Minutes** (*Michael Harding*)

Two topics still open from 2021, we will discuss these later in the agenda.

- Field Access
- Data repository

5. **Appointments** (*Michael Harding*)

- Holly Derksen will oversee the Nominations Committee
 - This includes Chapter Chairs and Alternates
- Kelly Turkington will oversee the Resolutions Committee

6. **Invited Speaker Tree Diseases in Alberta - Toso Bozic**, ATTS Incorporated

- Toso spoke on the importance of trees in the ecosystem, emphasized that drought is the most destructive force for trees, commented on tree migration, highlighted tree diseases and talked about factors affecting the health of trees.
- Toso's presentation will be available on the WFPM website

7. **Disease Situation Reports** were presented by the Chapter Chairs

Crop commodity	Chair/Alternate
1. Cereals	Turkington / Kutcher
2. Oilseeds	Akhavan/ Cornelsen

- Kelly Turkington presented for Cereals
- Alireza Akhavan presented for Oilseeds

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8. **Reports from Agri-Business**

- **UPL** – *Holly Derksen* from UPL talked about label expansion.



Rancona Trio – (ipconazole, carbathiin, metalaxyl). Seed treatment.

Target fields have not changed. Added “control” of early season *Aphanomyces* with Intego Solo (pea and lentil) or Belmont (pea only). To get this you need to show 80% or better response.

Still targeting filed with low levels of *Aphanomyces*. Not a silver bullet.

Zolera FX – Added “control” of *Mycosphaerella* blight to the label.

Evita - Added “suppression of early blight”, “control” of late blight and black dot

Mancozeb (manzate) – This product can no longer be used for many crops. On potatoes the number of applications has decreased to 8 and the PHI is now 4 days. On apples the number of applications is now 4.

- **Syngenta** – *Randy Ratzlaff* spoke on new products and label expansions
 - Miravis Ace – fungicide powered by Adepidyn. A label expansion to add barley and oats. Also added suppression of ergot.
 - Miravis Neo – 3 modes of action fungicide. Label expansion to add soybean and cereals
 - Miravis Erg – increase the application rates in Manitoba. Focussing on spring wheat.
 - Miravis Bold – for use on canola
 - Elatus – for use on Anthracnose in lentil. To help combat Group 11 insensitivity.
 - Miravis Prime is a new fungicide product introduced into horticultural crops.
 - Miravis Duo is a new fungicide for speciality crops (ie. ginseng).
- **BASF** – *Lori Yarnell* gave a quick update
 - Sphaerex - fungicide for cereal diseases. Label expansion to suppress ergot
 - Cotegra – fungicide expansion to include additional pulse diseases
 - Revysol – looking to expand the active ingredient into pulses
- **20/20 Seeds** - *Trevor Blois* gave an update on the 2022 Disease statistics.
 - Fusarium Head Blight prevalence was higher this year over 2021 due to drought last year. Levels overall higher on wheat and barley than durum. Durum prevalence is down but severity is high on samples submitted. Oats, as usual, is very low for prevalence.
 - Ascochyta levels higher than last year, about 40% of samples, but still quite low and these numbers will change as the testing season is just ramping up.
 - The lab has new testing for Palmer Amaranth seeds (to distinguish from red root pigweed), Wheat midge and Soybean Cyst Nematode (soil test).

9. Reports on Canadian Pathological Society Publications

- **Canadian Plant Disease Survey**
 - Michael Harding* presented a report submitted by Janice Elmhirst.
 - CPDS is now a special issue in the Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology.
 - The report from Janice can be found in Appendix 2 of the minutes.
- **Diseases of Field Crops in Canada**

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Identifying contributive disease factors using AI – *Liang Zhao*, University of Manitoba –

- Liang gave a presentation on Blackleg, Clubroot, Sclerotinia, Verticillium stripe of canola and spoke about monitoring these diseases through AI modelling to reduce staff training and subjectivity.
- This modelling can also be used to assess insect damage or disease forecasting as well.

14. Disease Situation Reports were presented by the Chapter Chairs

Crop commodity	Chair/Alternate
8. Fruit	Joshi / MacLean
9. Potatoes	Bischt / Bajracharya
10. Vegetables	Sabaratnam / Bisht

- Michael Harding presented for Fruit Trees on behalf of Vippen
- Holly Derksen presented for Potatoes on behalf of Vikram

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- Alirezah Akhavan presented for Vegetable crops on behalf of Siva

15. Special topic – Crop Disease Surveillance Network

- **Prairie Crop Disease Monitoring Network Update 2022** – *Kelly Turkington, AAFC*
Kelly talked about the PCDMN. He highlighted the purpose of the network and the objectives. The Network relies a lot on the AAFC geomatics group in Winnipeg. There has been an app developed called the Quick Disease Reporter Tool (QDRT) to formulate real-time observations.
A larger team is being assembled going forward to strengthen the Network and information associated with it.
- **Canadian Plant Health Council and Canadian Plant Health Information System**
David Feindel, AFRED
David talked about the Council and Information System to coordinate plant health in Canada. The Council is fairly new and focuses on setting priorities, creating relationships and coordinating efforts.
The Council has federal, provincial, industry and academic partners.
- **Pulse Root Rot Network** – *Meagen Reed, Saskatchewan Pulse Growers*
The goal is large. To eradicate the risk of root rots in pulses (peas and lentils right now, others to follow).
This is an initiative to bring breeding, agronomy and pathology together and to get

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more focussed across the country on this disease complex. A significant focus is on coordination and project funding.

A Root rot rodeo was held this past summer and there will be a Rodeo re-ride at the Canadian Pulse Research Workshop in Windsor, Ontario in February 2023.

There is a website set up: <https://rootrot.ca>.

Western Committee on Plant Diseases – 47th Annual Meeting

October 27, 2022

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Business Meeting

1. Reports

- **Treasurer's Report** – presented by *Robyne Davidson*.
The report will be appended to the Minutes (Appendix 1).
There was a discussion on the amount of money in the account and the use of the funds. We decided to keep the status quo for now.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report by *Robyne Davidson*, seconded by *Nicole Wilyman*

- **Website Editor's Report** – presented by Kelly Turkington
No report. Kelly will submit one and it will be posted on-line.
Kelly Turkington has been handling the WFPM website and is happy to continue but if someone wants to take it over, let him know.

Motion to accept Website Editor's report by *Holly Derksen*, seconded by *Gary Peng*.

2. Committee Reports

Nominations Committee

- *Holly Derksen* – Chair the Nominations Committee.
- Vippen Joshi (through an email to Michael Harding) nominated Li Ni for Chapter Chair of Tree Fruits to replace Dustin MacLean who we have had no contact with. Vippen will remain as the alternate. Holly will contact Li to confirm.
- Alirezah Akhavan will take over for Randy Kutcher for the Cereals chapter.
- The 2023 WCPD meeting will be in British Columbia next year. It is looking like Siva Sabaratnam will be the Chair.

Holly Derksen made the motion to accept all nominations as listed. Seconded by *David Kaminski*.

Resolutions Committee

- Kelly Turkington made the following resolution:

Without the contribution of speakers, collaborators, sponsors, organizers and service staff, the WFPM meetings would not be a success. Therefore, be it resolved that the WCPD, WCCP and WFPM thank sponsors, organizers, and hotel staff for making the WFPM 2022 meeting a success. On behalf of the WCPD we thank the WFPM and the local arrangement committee for planning, organizing and executing a great WFPM/WCPD/WCCP 2022 meeting in Grande Prairie in the mighty Peace River region, and also for offering free registration for graduate students and providing a student travel awards for graduate

Western Committee on Plant Diseases – 47th Annual Meeting

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students from the University of Alberta.

Resolution made by *Kelly Turkington*, seconded by *Gary Peng*. *Motion carried.*

3. Other Business

- **Location for next meeting**

- The 2023 meeting will be held in British Columbia.
- Siva Sabaratnam will likely chair the 2023 WCPD meeting, but this is not confirmed.
- This meeting will be held at the end of October.

- **Attendance** was approximately 25-30 participants for the day.

- **Plant Disease Surveys and Field Access** (Lead – *Michael Harding*)

This topic was tabled. The topic is a complex one and is a discussion that should involve the entomologists from the WCCP as well. This applies to all who are surveying fields and should be discussed at the larger meeting of the WFPM.

- **Plant Pathologists increasing or decreasing?**

The number of people involved in disease situations and members within the pathology community appears to be getting smaller. Are there actually fewer? Are we losing people? There are some retirements coming up and we are going to lose more people perhaps.

Another question is “Who qualifies as a pathologist?” It is a very broad area. This can be a large range from industry to specialist. There is a lot of molecular work happening but not as much field work and surveillance. You can do both.

Organizations should stress pathology research and surveillance work before the gap gets too big. There is a risk to the disease management community. There has been a halt to all hiring due to budget cuts and changing priorities within the key organizations such as the universities and AAFC. Stipends for graduate students are prohibitive. Unless the students have a pathology passion and education is important, they tend to find work in the industry.

This committee will ask CPS to come up with a strategy to continue pushing for pathologist positions in University and Research Institutions. Send a correspondence letter to CPS recommending advocacy for path positions in academia.

A WFPM committee was set up to send a letter to CPS (Gary Peng – President of CPS). The committee consists of Clint Jurke, Alirezah Akhavan, Holly Derksen and Kelly Turkington. We will send this letter to the CPHC and CPHIS as well and they will advocate for us.

Western Committee on Plant Diseases – 47th Annual Meeting

October 27, 2022

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Adjourn at 5:40 pm.

Appendix 1

Treasurer's Report for the WCPD October 27, 2022

Submitted by *Syama Chatterton*

WCPD bank account

The account remains at the CIBC in Morden, MB.

Transactions 2021 / 2022

Balance – October 27, 2021	\$ 2636.65
Dormant Account fee	- \$20.00

Balance October 27, 2022	\$ 2616.65
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Bonus Rate GIC

The non-redeemable, fixed rate GIC was automatically renewed on October 20, 2020 for another 2-year term and will mature on October 24, 2022.

Transactions 2021 / 2022

Balance - October 22, 2020	\$ 3379.55
Interest	\$ 33.97

Balance October 24, 2022	\$ 3413.52
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(Maturity Date is October 24, 2022 and will automatically roll over for another 2 years)



Appendix 2

2022 CANADIAN PLANT DISEASE SURVEY REPORT

Sept. 15, 2022

In 2021-22, 53 papers were submitted for Volume 102 of the CPDS comprising 19 Cereal, 18 Oilseed, nine Diagnostic Lab, three Vegetable, two Fruit and Berry, one Forestry report, and the second survey of crop diseases in Yukon Territory. This issue was published online on **July 15, 2022**. I was happy that the publishers at Taylor and Francis were able to achieve an earlier publication date than October/November and hope this will continue.

Starting with Volume 99 in 2019, the CPS Board of Directors contracted with Taylor & Francis to publish the survey as an annual, online supplement to the Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology (CJPP). This has been successful in raising the profile of the Survey. As of mid-September 2022, the 2019 CPDS has been accessed 5640 times, the 2020 issue almost 5000 times and the 2021 issue almost 3000 times. Already, Volume 102 has been accessed 760 times in the two months since it was published.

For the 2023 edition, Vol. 103, submission deadlines remain the same as in the past:

November 30 to Section Editors, so that I can receive the final reports by the end of January. I realize that all the data may not be available for some reports by the end of November. Please contact me, or your Section Editor, if an extension is needed and we will do our best to accommodate specific requests.

For Volume 103, the **Section Editors** remain the same as last year except for one change: **Diagnostic Labs** Vippen Joshi, **Cereals** Reem Aboukhaddour, **Oilseeds and Pulses** Syama Chatterton, **Fruit Berries Nuts & Ornamentals** Siva Sabaratnam, and **Forestry** Jean Bérubé. **Vegetables** (previously Cheryl Trueman) and **General or Other** reports can be sent to me.

To help keep track of the numerous submissions and avoid lost and missing papers, authors are asked to **please c.c. me, the National Editor**, Janice.elmhirst@shaw.ca when they **first submit** their articles to the Section Editors.

Authors are asked to please pay particular attention to the **T & F reference format** and citations at https://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/authors/style/reference/tf_CSE.pdf. All tables and figures must be mentioned in the text. Tables should have simple lines and no hidden formatting. For examples, please check Vol. 102, 2022 on the CPS website <https://phytopath.ca/publication/cpds/>

After four years, all of us involved in the production of the CPDS are better adapted to the new format. Thank you to our authors, section editors, compiler Deidre Wasilyw and the hard-working technical editors at Taylor and Francis, who help to ensure that the CPDS remains an important and relevant publication for plant disease in Canada.

- Janice Elmhirst, National Editor, Canadian Plant Disease Survey



Appendix 3

DISEASES OF FIELD CROPS IN CANADA, REVISION UPDATE 2022

Oct. 25, 2022

The book *Diseases of Field Crops in Canada, 3rd Edition* is “A comprehensive guide to identifying diseases of cereal, oilseed, pulse, forage and specialty crops.” (<https://phytopath.ca/publications/5479-2/>).

The book had not been update since 2003 so members of the Canadian Phytopathological Society’s Information Products and Marketing Committee undertook a revision in 2019. Complications due to COVID-19 delayed completion of the revision, however nearly all of the text revisions are now complete and updating or adding photographs is now underway.

The group working on the revision is led by Dr. Bruce Gossen, and includes Dr. Syama Chattertong (AAFC-Lethbridge) and Dr. Michael Harding (Alberta Agriculture). The current plan is to finish revisions this winter, and are hopeful that the new Edition will be printed and available for sale in late 2023 or early 2024.

- Michael Harding, Chair, CPS Information Products and Marketing Committee