**Land and Equipment Resources Committee**

Minutes of Oct 21, 2022 Meeting

Recorded by Martin Entz

Committee Members Present

Martin Entz (Chair), Justice Zhanda, Curt McCartney, Yvonne Lawley, Mary Meleshko

Meeting activities

1. Business arising from minutes
   1. Rototiller was purchased for the point
   2. Some of the requests for Carman were accomplished in 2022
      1. Gravel for roads
      2. Picnic tables
   3. Some of the requests for Carman were not accomplished in 2022
      1. New swather
      2. New sprayer with GPS
      3. Overhead door for building #8
      4. Replacement of station van
      5. Replacement of station truck #11
      6. 15 HP tractor (though JD 1630 moved from Glenlea to Carman)
2. Point report (Mary and Curt)
   1. The wheat program is considering moving the FHB nursery from Carman to the Point for economic and logistical reasons. A small trial FHB nursery is planned for the point in 2023. This trial will require ¼ of a block.
   2. We established that the land base at the Point is sufficient to accommodate the FHB program.
   3. One limitation of having the FHB nursery at the Point is the lack of predictability on when seeding can take place – as three separate seeding dates are required. Martin shared past experiences on “crowning” the ranges to allow them to shed water better (this was last done over 20 years ago). Also tile drainage could be installed, though this is a much more expensive option.
3. Carman, Ian N Morrison Research Farm, report (Justice)
   1. In 2022, 91 acres of land were used for research; 210 acres were used for commercial production. In 2022, there were another 35 acres which could have been used for research, but there was no need. This suggests that for the time being, we appear to have sufficient landbase at Carman for our work.
   2. We discussed the idea of removing grass alleyways to increase land available annual crop production and research plots. Justice indicated that a significant portion of the alleyways serve as drainage pathways. However, it would be possible to remove several of these alleys.
   3. Francis Zvomuya, Soil Science, is taking over the lysimeters, which were installed on the McGregor Farm by the Soil Science dept about 10 years ago.
   4. Eastern side of the research farm suffers from wet soils making small plot research challenging.
   5. Martin Entz has given up two ranges which have been managed organically since 2003. Justice suggested growing oats without inputs on a portion of this land so that we keep our organic options open in future. Joanne Thiessen Martens, Soil Science, is considering doing some organic agricultural work at Carman. But she will likely not use two full ranges.
   6. Justice indicated it would be good to grow a greater diversity of commercial rotation crops at Carman. One challenge is that new equipment infrastructure would be required.
   7. Justice has two equipment requests
      1. New swather
      2. New sprayer with GPS
      3. Add a fertilizer attachment to Great Plains drill to save time and field passes during spring seeding.
4. Equipment maintenance
   1. Concern was raised by Martin over state of equipment repair at Carman. One factor in the significant number of equipment breakdowns (both research and farm equipment) is the age of the equipment. The new WGRF/WD infrastructure grant equipment will alleviate some of this problem, though more human resources to maintain equipment at Carman are required.