

# MINUTES OF THE ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2009 AT THE DELTA SOUTH HOTEL, EDMONTON, AB

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## 1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Rich Smith at 9:00 a.m. welcoming delegates and guests to the meeting.

## 2. Special Meeting Election for CCA Director

### (a) Rules of Procedure

Smith explained the Rules of Procedure for the election to the delegates. He noted that nominations had been received for the position of CCA Director.

Smith called three times for further nominations.

Motion by Chomlak/Carey:

**“That nominations cease.”**

Carried

### (b) Election Ballot Counters

Motion by Bowie/Eddleston:

**“That Dave Burdek and Mike Pearson be appointed as Ballot Counters for the 2009 Alberta Beef Producers Semi-Annual Special Election Meeting.”**

Carried

The following were nominated as candidates for Director of the Canadian Cattleman’s Association:

John De Groot  
Ben Schrader

Each candidate spoke for three minutes

John De Groot was elected Director to CCA.

Motion by Fleming/Edge:

**“That the Chief Returning Officer destroy the ballots.”**

Carried

## 3. Board of Directors Report

Chair Rick Burton presented a report to the general assembly on behalf of the ABP Executive and Board of Directors. The report focussed on the major events that had transpired in the past six months and the challenges facing ABP in the future.

## 4. Finance Chair’s Report

Sawyer presented the financial statements for the 2008/2009 fiscal year. With the changes to the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, ABP needs to ensure that there are funds available to operate after the check-off becomes refundable. Sawyer described the steps that would be taken

to ensure there is secure funding for the 2010/2011 fiscal year.

Sawyer presented the proposed new budget for the 2009/2010 fiscal year. The most prudent way for ABP to move forward without putting the organization in jeopardy is to put the revenue from the current year into an operating fund that would cover the expense in the following year. The operating fund for the following year would be the money remaining after all refunds have been paid. In order to begin this process, the Board is recommending that the current budget be reduced by \$1 million and that the allocation of 2008/2009 funds for the Trade Advocacy Reserve Fund also be reduced by \$1 million. These amounts would be added to the \$3 million operating fund that had already been established to give ABP an operating budget of \$5 million for the 2010/2011 fiscal year.

## 5. General Manager’s Report

Smith spoke to the meeting about the ABP and cattle industry successes that had been achieved in the first half of 2009 despite the tremendous expenditure of time, attention, and effort on the check-off challenge and Bill 43.

## 6. Alberta Legislation and ABP Policy Discussion

Smith introduced Joanne Lemke who had agreed to chair the delegate discussion on Bill 43, ABP policy, ABP budgets, and the ABP Plan Regulation. Lemke worked for the Alberta Cattle Commission for 20 years.

The floor was opened to the delegate body for questions and comments about Bill 43 and the ABP strategy for dealing with this legislation. The delegates expressed disappointment with the government over this legislation, talked about the need for a strong voice on behalf of producers, emphasized the importance of delivering a strong message to producers, and focussed on the challenges ahead. CCA Vice-President Travis Toews spoke to the assembly about the effect a refundable check-off will have on the National Agency and the national marketing and research organizations.

## 7. ABP Policy and Plan Regulation Discussion

Lemke opened the afternoon discussion by asking Doug Sawyer, Finance Chair, to address the delegates regarding the 2010/2011 operating budget and the steps the Board is recommending to ensure that there are working funds for next year. The Board had previously put \$3 million into an operating fund for the 2010/2011 year. After careful consideration, the directors proposed reducing the current budget by \$1 million and reducing the allocation of 2008/2009 funds to the Trade Advocacy Reserve Fund by \$1 million. When this money is added to the operating fund, it would give ABP an operating budget of \$5 million for the 2010/2011 fiscal year. There was some concern about

reducing the allocation to the Trade Advocacy Reserve Fund.

Motion by Olson/Ford:

**“That the ABP Board of Directors maintain the Trade Advocacy Fund at \$5 million.”**

Defeated

Motion by Thiessen/Carey:

**“Be it resolved that ABP Board of Directors transfer \$1 million from the current budget to the operating fund for the 2010/2011 budget year.”**

Carried

Motion by Carey/MacLean:

**“Be it resolved that ABP Board of Directors move \$1 million from the 2008/2009 allocation for the Trade Advocacy Fund into the operating fund for the 2010/2011 budget.”**

Carried

Motion by Sawyer/Bowie:

**“That in future years ABP keep the current year net check-off revenue in an operating fund for the following year’s expenses.”**

Carried

With the conclusion of the budget direction from the delegates Lemke opened the floor for any other resolutions that the delegates wished to bring forward.

Motion by Olson/Ford:

**“Be it resolved that any Board member of ALMA must agree to disclose any government payment or benefit that they receive as a condition of their appointment, so that the public can be better able to assess potential conflicts of interest.”**

Carried

Motion by B. Lowe/Olson:

**“Be it resolved that anyone requesting a refund not be eligible to vote or participate in ABP business.”**

Motion by Ford/Cailliou:

**“That the motion be amended to add ‘in the following year’ after ‘ABP business.’**

Carried

**“Be it resolved that anyone requesting a refund not be eligible to vote or participate in ABP business in the following year.”**

Carried

Motion by D. Lowe/Thiessen:

**“Be it resolved that ABP formally request, through the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the name and amount that applicants received from AFRP I and AFRP II, ALMA directed programs and any other support programs.”**

Carried

Motion by B. Lowe/Carey:

**“Be it resolved that anyone requesting a refund be responsible for paying the administration costs associated with issuing the refund”**

Carried

With the conclusion of delegate motions Lemke introduced Adrienne Waller, Legal Counsel, to the assembly. With the passing of Bill 43, the Board has proposed amendments to the Plan Regulation and is looking to the delegates to ratify the changes.

Resolution 1 – Plan vs. By-laws

Whereas Legislative Counsel has advised that the Plan Regulation need only contain the provisions required by the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act and that all other provisions can be moved from the Plan Regulation to ABP by-laws to give ABP greater flexibility in the operation of the Commission – therefore:

Motion by Carey/Somerville:

**“Be it resolved that the Board of Directors work with Legislative Counsel to review the proposed amended Plan Regulation and that, where appropriate, any provision not required by MAPA to be in the Plan Regulation be moved to ABP by-laws, provided the combination of the Plan Regulation and the By-laws reflect:**

- 1. the amendments that were approved by the delegates at the 2008 annual general meeting; and**
- 2. any changes to those amendments approved by the delegates at this 2009 semi-annual meeting.”**

Carried

Note: The initial by-laws will be developed in conjunction with amendments to the Plan Regulation and put into effect for the 2009 fall producer meetings and election. All amendments to the by-laws will require the approval of

the delegates at a semi-annual meeting or an annual general meeting.

Resolution 2 – Ongoing Plan and By-law Review

Whereas the division of governance between the Plan Regulation and ABP By-laws and the change from non-refundable and refundable service charge is new – therefore:

Motion by Bowie/Carey

**“Be it resolved that the amended Plan Regulation and the ABP By-laws put into place for the fall of 2009 be reviewed by the Board of Directors and by the delegates at the 2010 semi-annual meeting and the 2010 annual general meeting.”**

Carried

Resolution 3 – Revisiting 2008 amendments

Whereas the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act has been amended to require ABP to have a refundable service charge – therefore:

Motion by Eckert/Solverson:

**“Be it resolved that ABP re-open discussion on the amendments to the Plan Regulation at this meeting to revisit the amendments approved by the delegates at the 2008 Annual General Meeting in light of the Bill 43 amendments to the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act.”**

Carried

Resolution 4 – Changes to 2008 Amendments

Whereas the proposed amendments to the Plan Regulation were based on continued co-operation and involvement of all sectors of the industry in ABP and a non-refundable service charge and there may be a substantial change in the involvement of all sectors once the service charge becomes refundable – therefore:

Resolution 4A – Number of Directors at Large

Motion by Eddleston/Edge:

**“Be it resolved that the number of directors at large elected at the annual general meeting be increased from 3 directors at large to 4 directors at large.”**

Carried

Resolution 4B – Number of Directors

Motion by Eddleston/Carey:

**“Be it resolved that the Board of Directors consist of a maximum of 16 voting directors as follows:**

- a) **9 zone directors - 1 zone director being elected from each of the 9 zones;**
- b) **4 directors at large being elected at the annual general meeting; and**
- c) **up to 3 council directors, as determined by the by-laws.”**

Carried

Note: The participation of the past chair will be set out in the by-laws.

Resolution 4C – Chair of the Commission

Motion by Eckert/Bowie:

**“Be it resolved that the chair of the commission be elected by the Board of Directors.”**

Carried

Resolution 4D – Election of Delegates

Motion by Boyte/Chomlak:

**“Be it resolved that the election of the zone delegates, cattle feeder council delegates and cattle industry council delegates be moved from the Plan Regulation to the by-laws.”**

Carried

Resolution 4E – Number of zone delegates

Motion by Boyte/Carey:

**“Be it resolved that the maximum number of zone delegates elected in each zone be reduced from 7 zone delegates to 5 zone delegates.”**

Carried

Resolution 4F – Establishments of councils and committees

Motion by Thiessen /Panrucker:

**“Be it resolved that the establishment of the Cow Calf Council, the Cattle Feeder Council and the Cattle Industry Council and the Committees, including the Governance Committee and Audit Committee, be moved from the Plan Regulation to the By-laws.”**

Carried

Resolution 4G – Cattle Feeder Council

Motion by Carey/Thiessen:

**“Be it resolved that Cattle Feeder Council have a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 13 cattle feeder council delegates elected as follows:**

- a) **up to one CFC delegate being elected in each of the 9 zones (with a minimum of 5 zones being represented on CFC);**
- b) **up to 7 cattle feeder council delegates at large elected at the annual general meeting from among zone delegates and eligible producers; and**
- c) **one board member appointed to CFC.”**

Carried

Note: The number of cattle feeder council delegates at large elected at the annual general meeting will be determined by the number of cattle feeder council delegates elected from the zones.

Resolution 4H – Cow Calf Council

Motion by Carey/Thiessen:

**“Be it resolved that Cow Calf Council have a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 13 members elected as follows:**

- a) **up to one cow calf council member being elected by each of the 9 zone committees (with a minimum of 5 zones being represented on CCC);**
- b) **up to 7 cow calf council delegates at large elected at the annual general meeting from among zone delegates; and**
- c) **one board member appointed to CCC.”**

Carried

Note: The number of cow calf council members at large elected at the annual general meeting will be determined by the number of cow calf council members elected by the zone committees.

Resolution 4I – Cattle Industry Council

Motion by Thiessen/Carlson:

**“Be it resolved that:**

- a) **the list of associations eligible to join Cattle Industry Council as CIC stakeholders be removed from the Plan Regulation; and**
- b) **the Board of Directors may, in accordance with the criteria established in the by-laws, invite cattle industry stakeholders to appoint members to Cattle Industry Council.”**

Carried

**8. Canadian Cattlemen’s Association Report – Travis Toews**

Vice-President Travis Toews presented the CCA report to the general assembly

**9. Canadian Beef Export Federation Report – Gib Drury**

Gib Drury, CBEF, presented the CBEF report to the general assembly.

**10. Beef Information Centre report – Glenn Brand**

Judy Nelson and Glenn Brand, CEO, presented the BIC report to the general assembly

**11. CanFax Report – Andrea Brocklebank**

Andrea Brocklebank, CCA, presented the CanFax report to the general assembly.

**12. Adjournment**

Smith thanked Joanne Lemke for chairing part of the session.

The Semi-Annual General session was adjourned at 5:20.