

ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
AGENDA FOR THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY JUNE 10, 2015, 8:30 a.m.
AT THE DELTA SOUTH, EDMONTON, ALBERTA

Present: Judy Fenton - *Chair*
John De Groot - *Zone 1*
Chris Israelson - *Zone 3*
Gary Seutter - *Zone 6*
Greg Bowie - *Zone 6*
Les Greir - *Zone 8*

Staff: Rosanne Allen - *Executive Assistant*

Absent: Bob Lowe - *Zone 2*
Ron Wieler - *Zone 9*

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda **8:30 a.m.**

(a) Adoption of Agenda:

Motion by de Groot/Israelson:

“That the agenda be approved with additions.”

Carried

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

(a) Minutes of the October 15, 2015, 2014 meeting:

Motion by Israelson/de Groot:

**“That the minutes of the October 15, 2014
Environment Committee meeting be
approved.”**

Carried

(b) Matters arising:

Greir brought up a concern about over grown shrubs on land adjacent to his. He is concerned about the fire hazard and was asking about any options to getting the land grazed.

3. Financial Report

(a) Financial Statement ending May 31, 2015:

Motion by Greir/de Groot:

**“That the financial statement be accepted for
information purposes only.”**

Carried

4. Decision Items

(a) Terms of Reference:

The Cow Calf Council reviewed their membership options and chose to pull out this section until a clearer definition can be made. R. Smith, Executive Director, will be looking into this issue and bringing it back to the board at their July meeting.

The committee made some minor changes to the Terms of Reference including deleting the membership section from the paper.

(b) ABP Environment Policy:

The members read through the policy definitions for the Environment approved by the board and made a few changes. The updated policy will be sent to the July board meeting for approval.

Motion by de Groot/Seutter:

**“That the Environment Committee approve
the Environmental policy as amended.”**

Carried

(c) ABP Strategy and EC strategy development:

The members looked at the areas of the ABP Plan Objectives and where the committee would be able to enhance the strategies proposed by the board.

The North Saskatchewan was supposed to come to public forum in June but that will not be happening. The resolutions sent to the committee from the board all deal with ecological services. Fawn Jackson, CCA, has been working on the ecological issue.

(d) ESA Fall Awards process & planning:

The members looked at the nomination form after some people commented on the length of the form being used. Some nominees have provided a large amount of information while some just a few pages. The background information is used to develop a scoring sheet for each operation. It gives the judges a better idea on the operation for judging.

It is up to the individual who is nominated or the nominator how much detail they want to put in and staff at the office will assist filling out the information.

The forms are simply guidelines for the nominations and the members felt the forms were fine.

Bowie described the process for the judging and video that is filmed in September. We have begun building a new relationship with a new filming company.

The judging committee will consist of Bowie, Fenton, de Groot, Greir, and Israelson if he is available.

(e) Committee representatives:

AEPA board representative to leave with Rich Smith.

(f) AGM resolutions:

The committee discussed the resolutions and actions that were needed to address them. The second resolution is in limbo until the new government is more settled. The last resolution deals with the Nature Conservancy. The Executive met with four members of the NC to discuss the issue of tax payer's money being used to buy land from agriculture. This resolution is being acted on to some degree both federally and provincially.

5. In Camera

6. Discussion Items

(a) Cash for Wetlands:

Shari Clare, Adjunct Professor from the U of A spoke to the committee creating incentives to restore wetlands that have been drained. The project will target the approximately 488 wetlands in the Nose Creek Watershed. The Watershed is inside Rocky View County and the southern tip is part of the city of Calgary.

(b) North Saskatchewan Regional Plan update:

No update at this time.

(c) Cows and Fish update:

The next meeting is tomorrow.

(d) Alberta Association for Conservation Offsets:

Dave Poulton of Poulton Environmental Strategies spoke to the committee via conference call. Poulton spoke about the problems facing offsets; explained biodiversity offsets; offsetting in federal Alberta law and policy; the implications these will have for landowners; and, issues with offsetting.

(e) Wildlife committee update:

The Wildlife Committee met on June 8th after the board meeting. The meeting was productive.

(f) Alberta Watershed updates:

John de Groot will attend the OWC AGM on Tuesday.

7. General Information

(a) EC 2014 Resolution & Action Items:

8. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events

(a) October 14, 2015, ABP Board Room

9. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned on a motion by Israelson at 2:15 p.m.