

**ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
JUNE 12, 2017, 1:00 p.m.
AT THE DELTA SOUTH HOTEL, EDMONTON, AB**

Present: Bob Lowe - *Chair*
Roland Cailliau - *Vice Chair*
Kelly Fraser - *Finance, Zone 5*
Howard Bekkering - *Zone 1*
Fred Lozeman - *Zone 2*
Chris Israelson - *Zone 3*
Tim Smith - *Zone 4*
Tim Sekura - *Zone 6*
Colin Campbell - *Zone 7*
George L'Heureux - *Zone 8*
John MacArthur - *Zone 9*
Brad Osadczuk - *Director at Large*
Garth Porteous - *Director at Large*
Ken Stanley - *Director at Large*
Penny Patton - *CCC Chair*
Bryan Thiessen - *CFC Chair*

Staff: Rich Smith - *Executive Director*
Rosanne Allen - *Office Administrator*
Fred Hays - *Policy Analyst*
Laura Proconier - *Controller*
Karin Schmid - *Beef Production*
Katelyn Laverdure - *Communications*
Jeanette Kennard - *Comm/Marktg Assist*
Brad Dubeau - *Market & Education*

Guests: Rick McKnight - *Zone 7 producer*
Gordon Graves - *Zone 8 delegate*
Cecilie Fleming - *VBP+/ABQSH*

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:55 p.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda

(a) Adoption and approval of agenda:

Additions: 6(j) CBIC update; 6(k) Wildlife Policy update;
8(f) Livestock Assurance;

Motion by Porteous/Lozeman:

“That the agenda be approved with additions.”

Carried

2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

(a) Minutes of the May 4, 2017 meeting:

Motion by Porteous/T. Smith:

“That the minutes of the May 4, 2017 Board of Directors meeting be approved as presented.”

Carried

3. Financial Report

(a) Financial Statement ending May 31, 2017:

We are two months into the new year and have spent 14% of the budget. The statement highlights show the amounts budgeted for the various projects that the Board of Directors have approved. Marketings as of May 31st are at 179,564 down from 184,651 this time last year.

Motion by Fraser/Porteous:

“That the financial statement be accepted as presented.”

Carried

(b) Financial Statements for 2016-2017 year:

The Audit Committee met early Monday morning to discuss the audited financial report. The Auditors from Kingston Ross were very impressed with the financials again this year and commended Laura Proconier, ABP Controller, for the exemplary work she does in preparing them every year.

Motion by Fraser/Israelson:

“That the ABP Board of Directors approve the Audited Financial Statements as presented.”

Carried

4. Policy and Governance Issues

(a) Approval of Governance Committee Chair:

The Committee will be meeting on June 12th and has appointed Cecilie Fleming as the non-delegate member. The directors need to approve the Howard Bekkering as the committee's new chair.

Motion by Thiessen/Stanley:

“That Howard Bekkering be approved as the Governance Committee Chair.”

Carried

(b) Recommendations for Governance Committee Priorities:

The directors were asked if they had any suggestions that the committee should add to tonight's agenda. There was a suggestion to improve training for delegates.

5. Council and Committee Reports

(a) Cow Calf Council:

The last council meeting was a conference call where they discussed the working groups. Talked about the fireguard proposal and topics for the June meeting.

(b) Cattle Feeder Council:

There will be a meeting on Wednesday.

(c) Research Committee:

The deadline for letters of intent for the joint call with the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association was June 1st. The committee will meet after the close of session on June 13th to see if there is any way to make the call more competitive.

6. Decision Items

(a) Industry Funding and ACFA Discussions:

After the last meeting, the Executive developed another plan for funding which they will discuss with the ACFA Executive the next time they meet. ABP should acknowledge that other industry organizations have a place in the industry.

The government has indicated that they will not support a plebiscite without industry collaboration. We need to continue discussion with other organizations to find condition under which they would support a return to a non-refundable service charge. As a democratic representative organization ABP would need to establish conditions for money to be allocated to member organizations.

Once a funding decision is made it would become a part of our regulations which are reviewed every five years.

(b) Review of Semi-AGM Agenda:

There are few outside speakers this year as we will be focusing on the organization.

(c) Canadian Beef Cattle Check-Off Increase:

In 2015 the delegates carried a resolution increasing the national check-off to \$2.50. When R. Smith approached the Marketing council about the increase they asked that ABP have the delegates pass a current resolution agreeing to the increase. The resolution in the package will be presented to the delegates at the general assembly on June 13th for their vote. Marketing Council will be meeting this week and if the resolution is carried again they will be able to agree in principle with the regulations changes. The final version of the regulations will be presented to the delegates at the AGM in December and come into effect April 1, 2018.

(d) Provincial Funders Meeting Report and Selection of Agency Board member and AGM delegates:

There was a meeting of the provincial funders where they discussed the continued separation of the Agency from Canada Beef. A resolution that was tabled last year asking that the Agency board be reflective of producer funders was

returned to the table. The Provinces suggested that the resolution remain tabled. ABP agreed to keep the resolution tabled but expressed ABP's dissatisfaction with the continued lack of separation between the Agency and Canada Beef.

If we can create a durable separation without changing the proclamation we should do that.

ABP and ACFA take turns appointing a member to the Board for a two-year term. It is our turn to appoint someone to the Board. Doug Sawyer has been our representative and is currently the Chair of Agency Committee. He has said that he is willing continue. We also need 10 people to attend the conference as delegates.

Motion by Thiessen/L'Heureux:

“That ABP re-appoint Doug Sawyer to be their representative on the Canadian Beef Check-Off Agency Board.”

Carried

Israelson has already registered for the conference and agreed to attend the Agency meeting. Thiessen, L'Heureux, Porteous, Cailliau, Fraser, Stanley, Osadczyk and Lowe have also indicated that they will attend the Agency AGM in August.

(e) ABOSH Funding Update:

Alberta Beef Quality Starts Here (ABQSH) has been funded through Growing Forward 2 (GF2) for the past four years and GF before that. They received notice that funding under GF2 will not be available in this final year. Fleming informed Lowe and R. Smith and they were able to meet with Minister Carlier about the funding and the importance of ABQSH to sustainability. ABP will continue to pursue the potential for government to provide funding.

Once the increase to the national check-off comes through some of the funds will be going to VBP+ and some of the provincial initiatives will flow into the national one.

In Alberta, there are 319 producers that have been verified with over 70,000 head. There are 9600 trained with 2600 online.

BIXs is ready to roll though some people are still not getting carcass data.

(f) Municipal Taxation:

There is a letter in the package from Van Raay Paskal Farms asking for help from ABP to lobby the provincial government to change the tax assessment in Alberta for agricultural land to a 'market value assessment'.

Lethbridge County does not have much if any linear taxation and the bulk of their taxation comes from agriculture. In the past agriculture land was taxed more than CFO's and the county needs an additional \$3 million in taxes each year to update their infrastructure.

ABP has already expressed support for ACFA in opposing the head tax and lobbying the government for a provincial solution to the assessment system.

Motion by Thiessen/Patton:

“That ABP write a letter to the Minister and members of the provincial government about changing the Municipal Government Act to modernize the assessment process for agriculture land and agriculture operations to be fair and balanced among all sectors.”

Carried

(g) Appointment to the Land Agents Advisory Committee:

ABP used to be able to make recommendations to the Minister on appointments to the committee but this is now done by the government. Rob Somerville was appointed in 2014 for a three-year term and is willing to continue.

(h) Appointment of LIS AGM representative:

The Board appointed Lyndon Mansell to the LIS board when Norm Hennigar resigned. At that time, Mansell was appointed to complete Hennigar’s term as well continuing to represent ABP for a further two years. The LIS AGM will be held at the end of June and they need to know if Mansell will represent ABP at the AGM with voting rights or if we wish to send a second person.

Motion by Cailliau/T. Smith:

“That Lyndon Mansell represent ABP at the Livestock Investigation Services Annual General Meeting.”

Carried

(i) Appointment to PNWER:

Lowe said that he will probably be attending but if that changes he will let the directors know so someone else can be appointed.

(j) CBIC update:

Two buses have been reserved for the industry tour taking place during the Canadian Beef Industry Conference. The buses will pick up participants at the Hyatt at 8:00 a.m. and proceed to the University of Calgary where they will tour the UCVM Spyhill Facility. They will then travel to Copithorne-Barnes ranch where Cows and Fish will give a presentation. Lunch will be served at the Jumping Pound Hall and after the tour will stop at Thiessen’s feedlot in Strathmore. The tour will wrap up at the Canadian Beef Centre of Excellence where they will tour the facilities and then have dinner. Any directors who are interested in participating in the tour are asked to let Allen know as soon as possible.

(k) Wildlife Policy update:

Campbell passed around a sheet with a proposal for compensation. The directors discussed his proposal.

Motion by Campbell/MacArthur:

“That the ABP Board of Directors approach the Waterton Biosphere to develop a strategy with an accompanying timeline to advance the Waterton Biosphere proposal recommendations to current provincial compensation programs.”

Carried

Campbell will represent ABP with the Waterton Biosphere.

7. In Camera

8. Discussion Items

(a) CCA Assessment Process:

There is no official update at this time.

(b) AgCoalition and Labour Law Update:

There is a news release in the package with a response from the AgCoalition to Bill 17. The AgCoalition needed time to read the changes before making a recommendation. The Labour Relations code changes will cause problems for our industry. Farm and ranch workers will be allowed to form unions and there is no longer a requirement for secret ballot votes on forming a union. There is also a condition for imposing binding arbitration for a first contract. There is some concern that not all of the Bills working groups have reported before the new changes were enacted.

Motion by Thiessen/Osadcuk:

“That ABP write a letter to the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry expressing our concerns over Bill 17.”

Carried

(c) Satellite Derived Forage Insurance Project:

ABP is involved in a project with the University of Manitoba looking to create better ways to deliver forage insurance. One part of the project is a survey of producers on forage insurance. There is a grad student involved in this survey who will be at the Semi to help anyone who is interested in participating.

The link to the online survey will also be added to our website.

(d) Agency Agreements for review:

The two agreements ABP has with the Agency are in the package for the directors to review. The first agreement deals with the collection of the check-off and the second deals with how the Agency and ABP work together.

Directors will be asked to approve the agreements before the next Board meeting

Adrienne Waller, ABP Legal Counsel, is preparing supplementary agreements to sign with neighbouring provinces regarding federal levy remittance.

(e) Zone reports:

Zone 5: Supplied educational materials and items for 200 Grade 5 students from Innisfail and Penhold participating in farm tours with the Innisfail and District Agriculture Society.

No other Zones had any updates.

(f) Livestock Assurance:

T. Smith brought forward a concern about collected funds accumulating because there has not been a claim in several years.

9. Reading Materials

(a) BOD Resolutions and Action Items:

(b) Beef Supply at a Glance:

10. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events

(a) Board meeting – July 20, 2017 **Tentative**

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Porteous at 4:20 p.m.