

DRAFT
ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES FOR THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL
TUESDAY MARCH 14, 2017, 3:00 p.m.

Present: Kevin Stopanski - CCC
Fred Lozeman - Zone 2
Heinz Lemmer - Zone 3
Dick Wymenga - Zone 5
Ralph Buhler - Zone 6
Danny Hozack - Zone 8

Staff: Karin Schmid - *Beef Prod Specialist*

Absent: Darren Bevans - *Chair, Zone 2*
Stuart Somerville - *Zone 5*
Howard Bekkering - *CFC*

Schmid and Bergen had previously analyzed the letters of intent that were moving forward to the full proposal stage as part of the BCRC Science Cluster call, and prepared a list of Canadian Beef Research and Technology Transfer Strategy outcomes that were undersubscribed in that call. Schmid summarized those outcomes for the committee and opened the floor for discussion.

The following priorities were identified as targets for the joint call:

- Investigate management practices or technologies to mitigate the adverse animal health and welfare effects of mycotoxin infected feed
- Determine the impact of cow-calf management practices & epigenetic interactions on feed intake, efficiency and performance of feedlot calves
- Quantify the economic and agronomic benefits of integrated annual crop, forage and beef production systems, including mixtures of conventional and non-conventional annual forages
- Develop feedlot manure best management practices to reduce the risk of phosphorus overload on soils

In the absence of the Research Committee Chair, it was agreed that Schmid would chair the meeting.

Chair called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda

(a) Adoption of Agenda:

Motion by Hozack/Stopanski:

“That the agenda be approved.”

Carried

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Schmid summarized the minutes from the last meeting

(a) Minutes of the February 8, 2017 conference call:

Motion by Lozeman/Wymenga:

“That the minutes of the February 8, 2017 conference call be approved as presented”

Carried

3. Financial Report

(a) Financial Statement report:

Motion by Stopanski/Hozack:

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

Carried

4. Decision Items

(a) ABP/SCA Joint Call Priorities:

DIRECTION: Schmid to send this priority list to SCA to compare with their research committee’s potential research priorities. Schmid to work with Marianne Possberg in order to identify one or two priorities that are a high priority for both organizations.

(b) Elastrator Project:

At the November 2016 meeting, ABP was approached to lead a project that would create elastrator bands infused with pain medication. As the initial screening application was circulated to the committee, some concerns arose about ABP leading a project that focuses on product development. Committee members had the opportunity to review the screening application prior to this call.

Discussion around the project included skepticism that the project will be able to produce an elastrator band that was as efficacious as the researchers hope; however this skepticism was offset by the benefit ABP would receive by being proactive with regards to pain mitigation. Members felt that a product such as this would hopefully help reduce public pressure on production practices, but also hoped that it would not encourage producers to castrate calves at older ages.

Motion by Lozeman/Wymenga:

“That Schmid work with the research team to submit the screening application for this project with ABP as the lead organization.”

Carried

5. In Camera

No In Camera as this was a conference call

6. Discussion Items

(a) Other:

No further discussion items were brought forward at this time.

7. General Reading Material

8. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events

- a) AFAC Livestock Care Conference, Leduc – March 21-22
- b) Beef Improvement Federation Conference, Georgia – May 31-June 3
- c) ABP Semi Annual Meeting, Edmonton – June 12-12
- d) UCVM Beef Cattle Conference, Calgary – June 22-23
- e) Canadian Beef Industry Conference – Aug 15-17
- f) Next meeting - TBD

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Wymenga at 4:40 p.m.