

**ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES FOR THE CATTLE FEEDER COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 18, 2017, 8:30 A.M.
AT THE ABP BOARDROOM, CALGARY, ALBERTA**

Present: Bryan Thiessen - *Chair, Zone 3*
Howard Bekkering - *Zone 1*
Jimmy Nelson - *Zone 2*
Cecil Andersen - *Zone 6*
Ken Stanley - *Zone 7*
John MacArthur - *Zone 9*
Cam McLerie - *At Large*

Staff: Rich Smith - *Executive Director*
Rosanne Allen - *Office Administrator*

Absent: George L'Heureux - *Zone 8*
Tim Sekura - *Board rep*
Jeff Havens - *At Large*
Garth Porteous - *At Large*

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

1. Adoption of Agenda

(a) Additions and Adoption of agenda:

Additions: 6(f) Grizzly bear kill;

Motion by MacArthur/Bekkering:

“That the agenda be approved with additions.”

Carried

2. Approval of Minutes

(a) Minutes of the June 14, 2017 meeting:

Motion by Stanley/Nelson:

“That the minutes of the June 14, 2017 Cattle Feeder Council meeting be approved.”

Carried

3. Financial Statement

(a) Financial Statements ending September 30, 2017:

Basically, the expenses are from the meeting at the Semi in June. There is \$6000 for a project related to carbon pricing, but the government did not provide funding for this project.

Motion by Bekkering/MacArthur:

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

Carried

4. Decision Items

(a) Industry Funding and ACFA Discussions:

Smith updated the council on the funding discussions with ACFA. The Executive approached ACFA in June with a proposal for funding allocations from a non-refundable service charge. In September, the ACFA Executive met with the ABP Executive and proposed that \$0.25 of each service charge would go to ACFA with the producers having the option of allocating the money to the Alberta Beef Industry Development Fund. The ABP Board had a conference call accepting the proposal. Smith has spoken to Marketing Council about a plebiscite and was informed that it could take up to 2 years.

The next step is to get a more formal agreement on paper with ACFA and then approach Marketing Council about a plebiscite.

The change in the National Check-off has been submitted but it has not been filed yet. Until it is filed, ABP cannot inform producers and auction markets of the change.

(b) Municipal Taxation:

There are copies of letters in the package that have been sent to the government about the need for a better solution for municipal assessment and taxation.

There does not seem to be much interest from the government to open up the assessment of farmland. The government and other municipalities are waiting to see the results of the appeal against the Lethbridge County business tax on feeding operations.

(c) Tax Changes for Private Corporations:

In response to the proposed changes, CCA contracted MNP to do a study which they have completed. ABP supported the study and have sent a letter to the government with their concerns. The government has made a few changes to the legislation.

(d) Competitiveness Study:

Bryan Walton, ACFA, has proposed that a new competitiveness study be done for the industry. The last study was done in 2006. Does the council agree that we should be looking at competitiveness in our feeding sector? There is a committee to consider the issue and Thiessen is representing ABP.

The council members agreed that we should have the conversation but wait until after NAFTA is resolved before any funds are discussed.

(c) Alberta Labour Legislation and AgCoalition Update:

Smith received an update from the AgCoalition this morning that he handed out to the council. The government is publishing the OH&S recommendations before they have received them all. Employment standards seem reasonable. Education is the best way to improve OH&S, not legislation. The government needs to be aware of the effect some of their legislation has on youth employment. We are continuing to push on the labour issue. Better than legislation is education and training and the industry is establishing an industry-led farm and ranch safety association to coordinate awareness, education, and training programs.

AgSafe Alberta has been operating for a while now and has developed quick start guides to help producers set up safety plans. They will be coming to some of our fall meetings and will have displays. As we move forward we will be looking at developing a template for a safety plan that producers can adopt.

(f) Feed Barley Task Force:

The Alberta Barley Commission wants to begin a process to bring together the entire barley industry (food, feed, malt) and are looking at engaging with partners. They want to create an action plan for the industry. Smith will attend a meeting to see what they are proposing.

(g) ILWG Funding:

There is a discussion paper in the package. The ILWG was formed in 1977 but does not have any real administrative structure. They did receive funding through ALMA and engaged Ron Axelson, but with the changes in ALMA it is unlikely that ILWG will be able to receive future government funding. Funding comes through industry and government. The ABP share of the industry funding is \$9000. There is funding in place until September 2018 and a decision doesn't need to be made until the council makes budget decisions for next year.

The ILWG will be meeting in December to discuss their future. Axelson is very good at reporting on meetings that he has attended and if he was not attending the industries would need to have some attend. If we want to keep the same level of activity with no government support, our funding commitment would triple.

The ILWG is a very beneficial organization, but ABP is not able to discuss increases in funding at this time.

DIRECTION: Until we know what the actual cost is we should wait before making a funding decision.

(h) CCA Priorities:

Thiessen has not received the list of priorities yet. CCA has changed the process they use to develop a budget. CCA will decide on a fixed rate per marketing that will be the basis for provincial assessments. Thiessen has pushed this idea

with CCA and want it to go forward with this beginning next year.

(i) Raven Feeders Association Letter (JBS):

Smith received this letter this week and there are other feeder associations that are experiencing the same problem with slow payment of accounts. ABP has the same problem receiving check-off funds from JBS.

This is the way JBS has been doing business from the beginning.

5. In Camera

6. Discussion Items:

(a) VBP+ and FLAT Tool Status:

Feedlot Level Animal Assessment Tool (FLAT) is on hold though ACFA is still pushing for it. Cargill has recognized VBP+ as long as it is in alignment with the US BQA model.

These are voluntary tools so if someone wants to do the FLAT tool they can.

(b) Fed Cattle Price Reporting:

No progress has been made on this program. Action under Section 13 by Statistics Canada could force producers to comply but would involve price reporting instead of price discovery. The information would be a couple of months old but would still give us accurate historical data.

(c) Transport Regulations Working Group:

CFIA continues to say they are analyzing the comments on the proposed regulations. Karen Schwartzkopf-Genswein is doing a project on the impacts on cattle that are continually moved on and off transport.

(d) Impact of Carbon Levy Project:

There is nothing new to report from the ILWG since the government declined funding. The ILWG has been seeking researchers willing to work on a smaller project but has not had success in finding a willing participant.

(e) Winter Manure Management:

There is nothing new on this issue. Stanley is part of a study on the effects of spreading manure on frozen or snow-covered land. Someone came to monitor him last year, but no one came this year.

(f) Grizzly bear kill:

The Whitemud Provincial Grazing Reserve is north of Grimshaw near Dixon and has been having problems with grizzlies in the area. Recently, the manager of the grazing reserve shot a grizzly that was attacking cattle in the reserve and is now facing criminal charges.

7. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events

- (a) CFC Meeting – December 4, 2017, Sheraton Cavalier Hotel, Calgary, AB

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Bekkering at 12:00 p.m.