

**ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES FOR THE COW CALF COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY OCTOBER 3, 2017, 8:30 a.m.
IN THE ABP BOARD ROOM, CALGARY, AB**

Present: Penny Patton - *Chair, Zone 7*
 Tim Smith - *Vice Chair (via phone)*
 Walt Suntjens - *Zone 4*
 Dick Wymenga - *Zone 5*
 Assar Grinde - *Zone 6*
 Lyndon Mansell - *Zone 8*
 Linda Messner - *Zone 9*
 Heinz Lemmer - *Director @ Large*
 Devon Sengaus - *Director @ Large*

\$10,000 budgeted for watershed projects that the Council was asked to support have not been invoiced for yet.

Motion by Mansell/Wymenga:

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

Carried

Staff: Fred Hays - *Policy Analyst*
 Rosanne Allen - *Executive Assistant*

Guest: Howard Bjorge - *ALUS*
 Christine Campbell - *ALUS*
 Dr. Faramarzi - *U of A*
 Dr. Masud - *U of A*
 Majid Iravani - *U of A*
 Geoffrey Braid - *AAF*
 Richard Paton - *AAF*
 Dean Dyck - *AAF*

Absent: Kevin Stopanski - *Zone 1*
 Tyler Sawley - *Zone 2*
 Kevin Krebs - *Zone 3*
 Brad Osadczuk - *Board Rep*

4. Decision Items

(a) Update Ecological Services Working Group:

The ‘*Grasslands Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity Pilot*’ is designed to demonstrate the application of market based instruments and assessing and verifying social economic and environmental sustainability. The primary outcome is to demonstrate of effective the market based instruments are in Alberta’s grasslands.

Motion by Lemmer/Grinde:

“That the CCC endorse the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute with a formal letter stating we support their course.”

Carried

(b) Agriculture plastics recommendation:

The working group sent out a survey to producers in the province asking what they do with their ag plastics. ABP needs to have a policy showing what we support. Grinde would like council members to bring it up at the fall meetings and see what resolutions the producers will suggest. There are a few counties or municipalities that recycle ag plastics. The infrastructure for certain types of plastic already exists. How do we add ag plastics to these recycling efforts?

Grinde recommends that the council get more support from the producers at the fall meetings for discussion at the AGM.

Motion by Mansell/Messner:

“That Assar Grinde represent the CCC on the Ag Plastics Working Group.”

Carried

(c) Fireguard proposal (Cailliau):

Geoffrey Braid and Richard Paton, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, gave a presentation on Alberta’s FireSmart Program. Roland Cailliau, ABP Vice Chair, sent AAF the fireguard proposal, that was approved by the ABP Board, for the Slave Lake area after a fire destroyed the area in 2011. Braid provided an overview of the program and its delivery.

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

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

(a) Additions and adoption of agenda:

Additions: 4(h) Tools to build your cow herd;

Motion by Suntjens/Mansell:

“That the agenda be approved with additions.”

Carried

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

Motion by Lemmer/Grinde:

“That the minutes of the June 14, 2017 Cow Calf Council meeting be approved.”

Carried

3. Financial Report

(a) Financial Statement ending August 31, 2017:

As of the end of August the council has spent 29% of its general budget but still has most of its projects budget. The

Motion by Mansell/Suntjens:

“That the CCC recommends that ABP supports the use of cattle and/or hay production as a tool to provide fire protection for communities in Alberta forest regions that are at risk of wildfires.”

Carried

(d) Land Transition Workshop:

Dean Dyck with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry presented information on workshops that will take place in January and February 2018 on transition planning for farmers and ranchers. Dyck was looking for sponsorship from the Council. Dyck is looking for \$2000 in sponsorship.

Motion by Mansell/Messner:

“That the CCC support the *Farm Transition Workshop* up to \$2750.

Carried

(e) Ag Mentorship Program Working Group:

There are some high-level mentorship programs such as Young Cattlemen’s. The trends in agriculture mentorship is rising. Mansell would like to encourage urban raised students in non-agriculture programs to get more practical experience with producers; non-family transition discussions; urge college students in ag studies to attend Farm Tech.

When Zone 8 had their town hall meetings this year teachers who attended wanted to see actual producers to come and speak to the students. As an organization, whenever a college approaches ABP for funding we should consider the request.

Accept the information that Mansell has presented and if a member thinks about any mentorship ideas to bring them forward to the Council. The Ag Mentorship Program Working Group is no longer needed.

(f) Beaver River Watershed:

Is putting their committee together and Bill Fox has represented ABP on the watershed. They now want something formal.

Motion by Messner/Grinde:

“That Bill Fox represent the CCC on the Beaver River Watershed.”

Carried

(g) Oldman River Watershed:

(h) Tools to build your cow herd:

This is another program for producers put on by the Alberta government. They are requesting ABP sponsor students at each of the workshops for up to \$1400.

Motion by Suntjens/Mansell:

“That the Cow Calf Council sponsor ‘*Tools to Build Your Cow Herd*’ up to \$1400.”

Carried

5. In Camera

6. Discussion Items

(a) ALUS Canada – Bjorge, Campbell:

Christine Campbell and Howard Bjorge from Alberta Land Use Services (ALUS) spoke to the council members about ALUS; what they are and what they have been doing recently.

(b) Predicting Alberta’s water:

Dr. Monireh Faramarzi and Dr. M. Badrul Masud from the University of Alberta. Dr. Faramarzi gave a presentation on ‘*Predicting Water Related Risks and Opportunities for Alberta’s Beef Industry*’ that was funded by ALMA. The goal of the study is to understand water supply and water demand. Using past historical data, they can predict future water precipitation. With this information they can predict water availability in the future.

Dr. Masud spoke about barley and the water use and availability for crop production.

How are cow calf producers connected to feeders and will a change in their pattern change the pattern for cow calf producers?

(c) Climate change and forage availability for livestock in Alberta:

Majid Irvani from Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI) spoke about modeling forage production of Alberta’s grasslands and assessing water related risks and opportunities for the beef industry.

(d) Miistakis update:

Miistakis was looking to develop a program on co-habiting with wildlife. A working group was developed with ABP. The direction back from the sub-committee was that they wouldn’t support a co-existence workshop.

Miistakis is looking for some funding for a workshop on living with wildlife.

(e) Board, Committee and Association Reports:

i. Board Report – Osadczuk:

There was a board meeting in September. One discussion was about industry funding. To date the

Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) has three proposals that they will be discussing with their members before the next meeting with the ABP Executive. The board also discussed the federal taxation changes

ii. Governance Report – Mansell:

Mansell presented the report In Camera

iii. Audit Committee Report - Wymenga:

Had a conference call on June 12th. Laura is doing a good job.

iv. Research Committee Report - Stopanski:

There are three main things going on. There is the ABP initiatives with the Science Cluster. Have two full proposals out for peer review and will be trying to make decisions in Nov. BCRC has developed a proposal for the Science Cluster. We don't know if Ag Canada will agree to the funding requested. Alberta Ag is facing budgetary pressure. Currently undergoing a review. Working on creating a strategic research plan. Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund (ACIDF) will cease to exist after March 31, 2018; after this, forage and beef research will all be funded from the same financial pool.

v. Safety-Net Subcommittee - Tim Smith:

Growing Forward will begin again April 1, 2018 as the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP).

The Federal and Provincial government will be reviewing BRM's to assess their effectiveness. Changes for BRM programs will go into effect April 1, 2018. Reference Margin Limits under AgriStability will be changed to ensure a more equitable support for producers.

Allowable Net Sales will be reduced to \$1 million; matching government contributions will be reduced to \$10,000; and, the minimum AgriInvest payment increased from \$75 to \$250.

Canadian government is investing \$4.4 million, of which \$2.2 million for projects to help support the Alberta and Canadian beef sector.

vi. Alberta Game Policy Advisory Group (AGPAC) - Stopanski:

Reviewing deer and moose tags. Also, removal or reduction of the Landowners Special Licence for antlered mule deer is being considered. This currently allows landowners a permit for them to hunt on their own land in consideration for providing habitat for wildlife. There is an AGPAC meeting on December 5, 2017 in Spruce Grove.

vii. Drought and Excess Moisture Advisory Report (DEMAG) - Wymenga:

No report

viii. Wildlife Predator and Shot Livestock Committee report – Wymenga:

No report

ix. Alberta Forages Industry Network report (AFIN) - Lemmer:

Their objective is to network throughout the forage industry & be an umbrella organization for the forage industry. Also, encourage the development of competitive varieties of forages.

Their AGM was in March. The line of speakers presenting at their AGM was quite good. Solid presentations with good take home messages.

As Lynden stated, AFIN's representative to the Canadian Grazing and Forage Association (CGFA) is having a conflict with CFGA. Ed Shaw, also a board member of CGFA representing the hay exporter, has also removed himself from the board of CFGA.

To date, I am not certain if AFIN's objectives are being achieved.

My recommendation is to complete this full year term, attend their AGM in March and then determine if ABP benefits from continuing with our participation.

x. Cows and Fish Report - Johnson:

There is a report in the package. They had their AGM two weeks ago and Peggy Strankman continues to be the Chair.

xi. AEPA Report - Hays:

The AEPA Advisory Committee (board) had a meeting mid-September to continue their review of possible effects of climate change on Alberta's agriculture sector. The Land Use Framework working group will continue this discussion in October. This is discussed in context of the GOA climate change strategy to reduce carbon emissions.

xii. Alberta Farm Animal Care Report - Mansell/Boeve:

There is nothing of substance to report.

xiii. Watershed reports:

There are reports in the package.

7. General Reading Material

(a) Criteria to determine priority issues:

8. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events

(a) Meeting – December 4, 2017, Sheraton Cavalier

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Suntjens at 4:00 p.m.