

Progress Report on 2014 Resolutions

2014 Plan Review Resolutions for AGM:

The majority of the Plan Review resolutions have been approved by the Marketing Council and the Alberta government. ABP has begun discussing the resolutions related to funding with Marketing Council and industry partners, but action on these resolutions will take more time. There will be a further report and discussion on industry funding at the AGM.

1. **“Be it resolved that** the ABP Board of Directors recommends that the ABP mandate remain as described in the ABP Plan Regulation.”

Board

Carried: No further action required

2. **“Be it resolved that** ABP Board of Directors recommend that ABP request a non-refundable Service Charge, a non-refundable Provincial Levy for marketing, promotion, research, industry communications, and industry collaboration activities, and a non-refundable National Levy.”

Board

Carried: ABP Executive has opened discussions with Marketing Council, industry partners and the Alberta government regarding industry funding.

3. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby to have the Service Charge made non-refundable.”

Motion Declared Redundant

4. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the Province of Alberta to make the entire \$3.00 check-off non-refundable.”

Zone 5

Carried: The direction from this resolution has been included in the industry funding discussions with industry partners and the government.

5. **“Be it resolved that** ABP institute a non-refundable \$1 Provincial Levy for marketing, research, industry collaboration and communications.”

Zone 4, 6, 7, 8, 9

Carried: The direction from this resolution has been included in industry funding discussions.

6. **“Be it resolved that** 30% of the proposed non-refundable Provincial Levy be designated for research.”

Zone 4

Defeated: The delegates agreed that research is very important and that the proposed amount would allow ABP to support more research but they were concerned about tying the hands of the ABP Board by designating a specific amount.

7. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby for a \$2 non-refundable Provincial Levy to be paid by all producers to be used for research, marketing, industry collaboration and communications.”

Zone 8

Defeated: At some point the delegates knew they would have to increase the National Levy and didn't feel that a \$2.00 non-refundable Provincial Levy was really in the best interest of the industry at this time.

8. **“Be it resolved that** current and future check-off dollars collected by ABP be maintained solely for the use of ABP and not directed towards other provincially based industry groups.”

Zone 5

Defeated: ABP supports a number of industry groups including Alberta Farm Animal Care, Cows and Fish, 4-H and Alberta Beef Quality Starts Here, just to name a few. Each of these industry organizations assist in strengthening the beef industry in Alberta. We would no longer be able to support them if this resolution had been carried.

9. **“Be it resolved that** ABP publicly identify those producers and/or corporations that request refunds of their check-off to the full extent allowed within that Act and Regulations.”

Zone 3, 8

Carried: The ABP Legal Council is investigating the legal ramifications of ABP releasing producer information on producers who receive a refund on the check-off.

10. **“Be it resolved that** ABP will charge individuals who are applying for a refund an administrative fee which will cover all costs associated with the process.”

Zone 7

Carried: ABP had previously asked for the authority to charge an administrative fee on refunds and this request was denied. The direction from this resolution will inform the industry funding discussions with the government.

11. **“Be it resolved that** ABP support an increase to the National Levy from \$1.00 to \$2.50.”

Zone 6

Defeated: The delegates deemed this resolution premature because parties to the National Beef Strategy have not completed their assessment of National Check-off requirements.

12. **“Be it resolved that** ABP explore a one-time check-off at the packer level reflecting each participant’s involvement in the total check-off dollar.”
Zone 2

Carried: ABP is considering a wide range of options for check-off collection during the industry funding discussions.

13. **“Be it resolved that** ABP Board of Directors recommends accepting the structural change to create a Cattle Industry Leaders Forum replacing the Cattle Industry Council to enhance the flow of critical information and industry input to the Board of Directors.”
Board

Carried: This is in progress. The Cattle Industry Council will end with the 2015 elections and AGM, while the initial meeting of the Cattle Industry Leaders Forum will take place soon after the 2015 AGM.

14. **“Be it resolved that** any person or company requesting a return of check-off dollars be excluded from the proposed Industry Leaders Council.”
Zone 9

Defeated: While the delegates understood the sentiment involved with the resolution the Cattle Industry Leaders Forum will be composed of people who do not pay any check-off. The forum will not set policy for ABP but will provide information and opinions to the Board.

15. **“Be it resolved that** ABP exert every effort possible to include all sectors of the beef industry in its decision making process through the Cattle Industry Leaders Forum.”
Zone 3

Carried: The proposal for the Cattle Industry Leaders Forum is consistent with this resolution.

16. **“Be it resolved that** ABP Board of Directors recommends that the Board of Directors consist of 9 Zone Directors, 2 Council Directors (Cow Calf Council and Cattle Feeder Council) and 5 Directors at Large.”
Board

Carried: The revised ABP by-laws reflect the change proposed by this resolution.

17. **“Be it resolved that** there be no more than 2 Directors at Large sitting on the ABP Board of Directors.”
Zone 9

Declared redundant:

18. **“Be it resolved that** neither the Cow Calf Council nor Cattle Feeder Council have a voting director on the Board of Directors.”
Zone 9

Declared redundant:

19. **“Be it resolved that** the number of delegates be increased by one per zone changing the number of delegates from five per zone to six per zone.”
AGM Floor

Defeated: The delegate body is a critical part of ABP but the members felt that increasing the number of delegates to each zone was not a good move at this time.

20. **“Be it resolved that** ABP proceed with numbers 5 and 6 on the ABP Plan Review Proposal Summary of Recommendations.”
Zone 3, 4

Carried: These recommendations proposed a limit on the time for submission of missing documents supporting a service charge refund request and collection of check-off on export cattle. The revised ABP regulations address both of these issues. There is a time limit for submission of missing documents and ABP has authority to collect a check-off on export cattle. Implementation of this collection will occur in the next fiscal year.

21. **“Be it resolved that** documentation supporting a refund request accompany said request at the time of submission or it will be automatically rejected.”
Zone 7

Carried: The ABP regulations state that documentation supporting a refund request must accompany the request, but rules of fairness require that ABP give people the chance to correct inadvertent errors or omissions in the submission of this information. As resolution 20 directed, there is a time limit for submission of missing documents.

22. **“Be it resolved that** all necessary documentation must be included with the application for refund of the ABP service charge.”
Zone 9

Declared redundant:

23. **“Be it resolved that** ABP Board of Directors undertake a thorough examination and update of their rules of governance to comply with and complement any changes that may arise through the Plan Review Process before considering or adopting the specific recommendation put forward by the Governance Committee regarding procedures to be followed in order to change or amend bylaws.”

Zone 3

Defeated:

24. **“Be it resolved that** ABP bylaw amendments require a period of 14 days for notice to delegates to be approved by a 2/3 majority of the voting delegates in attendance.”

Zone 7

Carried: Delegates approved the By-Law amendments at the Semi-Annual AGM. The required updates have been made to the ABP By-Laws.

2014 AGM General Session Resolutions:

1. **“Be it resolved that** as a result of the findings from the *‘Economic Impact of Wildlife to Livestock Producers’* ABP continue to drill down into possible solutions and include community working group meetings in areas of high concern or specific issues.”

Zone 3

Carried: This report is now complete and available on the ABP website – www.albertabeef.org – for anyone who would like to download it. The Wildlife Committee is following up on the recommendations in the report.

2. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby for compensation for the loss of horses due to predation.”

Zone 2

Carried: The delegates recognize that horses are still an essential tool for some operations. ABP will work with the Alberta horse associations to lobby for compensation due to predation.

3. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the provincial government that compensation for wildlife predation not be limited to confirmed carnivore kills. It should also include any livestock harmed by carnivores.”

Zone 2

Carried: The ABP Wildlife Committee has been working with the Fish & Wildlife and AFSC to recognize the damage carnivores do to all livestock.

4. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the provincial government to have Alberta Financial Services Corporation include damage done by ungulates to include swath grazing, bale and corn grazing and stockpiled forage including native grass stockpiled for winter grazing.”

Zone 2

Carried: The ABP Safety-Net Subcommittee has been working with AFSC on this issue and will continue to do so.

5. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the provincial government through the Alberta Financial Services Corporation to recognize swath grazing and bale grazing as an insurable management practice.”

Zone 4

Carried: This is an issue that the Cow Calf Council and the Safety Net Subcommittee are currently working on with AFSC.

6. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the provincial government and through the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association, the federal government to resolve the issue of extreme over population of elk coming from the Suffield Block.”

Zone 1

Carried: ESRD allowed hunters to remove 500 female elk from CFB Suffield during two hunting seasons in February. ESRD will allow further culling of the elk herd during the 2015 and 2016 hunting seasons.

7. **“Be it resolved that** ABP approach the necessary Government of Alberta agencies to fund 50% of the cost of self-standing portable panels to protect stored feed from problem ungulate wildlife.”

Zone 9

Defeated: Delegates felt that this would not stop the problem and that government needs to work on the wildlife problem as a whole.

8. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to communicate more clearly the need for and regulations of BSE testing.”

Zone 2

Carried: ABP has been working with the Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian to provide clearer information to producers about the importance of BSE surveillance and testing. ABP and CCA also have been discussing BSE surveillance requirements with the CFIA.

9. **“Be it resolved that** ABP recommend to the federal and provincial government that investing in Ecological Goods and Services and Agri-Environmental programs for landowners would result in more superior environmental and economic outcomes than supporting the Nature Conservancy of Canada or like groups.”
Zone 2, 1

Carried: The Environment Committee and Wildlife Committee have been focusing considerable effort on promoting viable EG&S programs.

10. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the government of Alberta that producers be compensated for maintaining Ecological Goods and Services on their privately owned lands.”
Zone 9

Carried: The Cow Calf Council is working with the Alberta Game Management Advisory Group to develop EG&S tools.

11. **“Be it resolved that** ABP direct the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association to lobby the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Canadian Border Services to reinstate safeguards at all Canadian points of entry.”
Zone 8

Carried: The discussion of safeguards at Canadian points of entry is part of conversations with the federal government, but ABP will ensure that CCA continues to press this issue.

12. **“Be it resolved that** ABP work with government to improve the communication between the Alberta Energy Regulator and Environment and Sustainable Resource Development in order to more effectively steward the land for all Albertans.”
Zone 3

Carried: ABP has been part of discussions involving the operations of the AER and EP.

13. **“Be it resolved that** ABP support the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association in championing McDonalds for working together on the “Sustainable Beef” initiative and continue countering misinformation as it might arise.”
Zone 6

Carried: ABP is supporting the work on the McDonald’s sustainability pilot project and we are preparing consumer messages to counter misinformation about our industry and our products.

14. **“Be it resolved that** the 2013-2014 ABP audited financial statements and auditor’s report be accepted.”

Board

Carried: No further action required

15. **“Be it resolved that** the firm of Kingston Ross Pasnak chartered accountants be appointed as auditors for 2014-2015 year-end audit.”
Board

Carried: No further action required.

16. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency to release ownership information.”
AGM Floor

Defeated: CCIA can only release proprietary information to the RCMP. The original intent of tagging is for disease control; using tags to identify the owners of loose cattle is outside the intent, but CCIA could phone the producers themselves.

17. **“Be it resolved that** ABP recommend to the provincial government that a review be conducted about the allocation of funds for conservation; ABP recommends that funding be based on initiatives that involve more land in conservation efforts and promote the model of Ecological Goods & Services.”
AGM Floor

Carried: ABP and CCA are supporting the use of a wide range of conservation and stewardship tools, including payments for EG&S.

18. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the provincial government to cease funding conservation organizations that use taxpayers’ dollars to compete with taxpayers in the purchase of land in Alberta.”
AGM Floor

Carried: ABP has raised concerns about the degree to which public funds are used by conservation organizations to compete with landowners and leaseholders for the control and use of land.

2014 Resolutions for Board of Directors:

1. **“Be it resolved that** ABP get an immediate meeting with Minister Olsen to make the check-off non-refundable.”
Zone 6

Redundant: Greg Bowie and Rich Smith met with Minister Olson to make him aware of the results of the check-off resolutions from the fall meetings.

2. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to change the requirements for BSE Surveillance Testing to a percentage of total cow herd instead of a fixed number.”
Zone 2

Carried: This issue has been raised with CFIA and the department officials maintain that the change in the size of our cow herd does not have a significant impact on the numbers required by the international community for BSE surveillance.

3. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to review the surveillance numbers required for BSE testing to more accurately reflect the current Canadian cow population.”
Zone 7

Redundant: There are two requirements for BSE surveillance, one set by the OIE and the other set by the CFIA. Schmid and McNab have been asking for these changes when they meet with CFIA. The OIE sets targets based on points for various ages and classes of cattle, while the CFIA has established a target number of head for surveillance. Canada is meeting the OIE point targets but not the CFIA numbers. Once we achieve negligible risk status, we should be able to get the numbers changed.

4. **“Be it resolved that** ABP direct the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association to lobby the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to do everything possible to keep Foot & Mouth out of our beef and dairy herds including frozen meat imported from South America.”
Zone 8

Carried: CCA does ongoing work with the federal government to ensure that all possible steps are being taken to keep FMD out of our herds.

5. **“Be it resolved that** ABP report all salaries and all expenses of employees and delegates.”
Zone 4

Defeated: We already report the salaries of staff as a whole, but there are major privacy issues preventing disclosure of individual salaries. Overall expenses are reported, but the benefit of reporting individual expenses does not justify the large amount of time and cost required to break out this information.

6. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the Provincial government to make it mandatory for all beef that is graded, the grade information be forwards to BIXS.”
Zone 6

Defeated: BIXS is intended to be a voluntary program that depends on supply chain participants seeing value in it. We have not supported any moves to make participation in BIXS mandatory.

7. **“Be it resolved that** ABP lobby the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Provincial regulators that rendering plants be relieved of the obligation to remove SRM’s from animals that have tested negative and pickup costs be reduced accordingly.”
Zone 6

Defeated: While this concept may appear to be viable, a negative test for BSE cannot establish with complete certainty that there are no BSE-causing prions anywhere in the animal.

2014 Resolutions for Cow Calf Council:

1. **“Be it resolved that** ABP approach the government of Alberta for shared funding formula for the testing of cowherds for Johnes Disease.”
Zone 9

Defeated: The Council felt there was no need for more accurate testing. There have been discussions with the Chief Provincial Vet but the government will not fund testing.