

**ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY MAY 1, 2019, 8:30 a.m.
AT THE ABP BOARD ROOM, CALGARY, AB**

Present: Charlie Christie - *Chair*
Kelly Smith-Fraser - *Vice-Chair (Zone 5)*
Melanie Wowk - *Finance Chair*
Garth Porteous - *Zone 1*
Sheila Hillmer - *Zone 2*
Chris Israelson - *Zone 3*
Jesse Williams - *Zone 4*
Tim Sekura - *Zone 6*
Colin Campbell - *Zone 7*
Gordon Graves - *Zone 8*
John MacArthur - *Zone 9*
Assar Grinde - *@ Large*
Fred Lozeman - *@ Large*
Tim Smith - *CCC Chair (via phone)*
Ken Stanley - *CFC Chair*

Staff: Rich Smith - *Executive Director*
Rosanne Allen - *Office Administrator*
Katelyn Laverdure - *Communications*
Laura Procnier - *Controller*
Karin Schmid - *Beef Production*

Guest: Lyle Adams - *ACFA*

Absent: Brodie Haugan - *@ Large*

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda

(a) Additions and Adoption of Agenda:

Additions: 8(e) Executive Review and Board evaluation;
8(f) School presentations; 8(g) Jim Fisher;

Motion by Graves/Wowk:

“That the agenda be approved with additions.”

Carried

2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

(a) Minutes of the March 12, 2019 meeting:

Motion by Lozeman/Hillmer:

“That the minutes of the March 12, 2019 Board of Directors meeting be approved with corrections.”

Carried

3. Financial Report

(a) Financial Statement ending April 30, 2019:

ABP spent 96% of its approved budget for last year leaving \$206,000 to be used for the current fiscal years budget. Marketings were also up from this time last year by over 200,000 head. Under Board direction, ABP was authorized to increase the level of investment risk slightly and now have a mix of low risk stocks and GICs at Nesbitt Burns. Prime rate increased and as a result, there was an increase in interest income from prior years, which is all reflected by a year end journal entry when the portfolio is adjusted to market value.

CCA is restructuring their legal assessment process for payment by the provincial organizations. As a result, ABP did not have to pay a legal assessment this spring. This leaves approximately \$600,000 to add to the budget for this fiscal year.

Motion by Wowk/St Stanley:

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

Carried

4. Staff Report, Policy and Governance

(a) Policy Manual Update:

The Policy Manual working group met at the end of March and sat down with Maggie Keil. She recommended that ABP set the policy manual aside and set up an organizational manual. They picked out the areas that they we should keep and added several polices that we needed.

The working group will be meeting again before the end of the month and hope to have a few policies ready for the Board to discuss at the June meeting.

(b) Respect, Violence and Harassment Policy:

R. Smith handed out copies of the policy and told the Directors to read and familiarize themselves with the contents and to submit any comments or suggestions to him by May 17th. The policy document has been reviewed by the Governance Committee who proposed some changes.

The directors will be approving the document at the June meeting. If the board approves the policy it will be handed out to the delegates at the Semi-Annual meeting, they will be asked to read it and sign it. This policy will become a required document for delegates to sign like the *ABP Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest* document that directors are asked to sign.

(c) Staff update:

Because of the budget uncertainty staff have not been making a lot of plans for the current year. If the budget is approved at this meeting, ABP will be able to begin making plans for the year. A lot of the meeting will be taken up with the Strategic Plan and the upcoming Regulatory Review, the results of which will need to be approved by delegates at the AGM.

R. Smith provided an update to the directors on his main activities for the first few months of the year. He was busy preparing the draft Strategic Plan, assessing the financial situation and preparing the draft budget, working with Marketing Council on the Regulatory Review, and preparing the agreements for the Ag Plastics Recycling Pilot Project. He also had extensive consultations with ACFA on our agreement and the path forward. The winter is also a busy time for him with industry meetings in Alberta and across North America. He worked with Tom Lynch-Staunton on the election briefing note and supported ABP involvement in a sustainability assessment tool and satellite-based forage insurance projects. Katelyn Laverdure will provide a communications update at the June Board meeting.

5. Council and Committee Reports

(a) Research Committee:

The funding from Agriculture and Forestry for the feed grains and forage research call has not been transferred yet, but has been approved. The Committee will be working with BCRC and inviting proposals for feed grain research.

(b) Cow Calf Council:

T. Smith gave the directors a brief update on the activities of the council and its various subcommittees. CCC has developed new Terms of Reference and a work plan for the 2019-2020 year. He touched on the MOU with Ducks Unlimited; AFAC meeting; the upcoming Miistakis conference.

(c) Cattle Feeder Council:

The council met on March 25th and discussed funding for the ILWG and the budget; discussed building public trust; CCA; manure management; prescription only dispensing; municipal taxation and planning and CFO's.

6. Decision Items

(a) Summary of Fall Meetings producer engagement:

Williams compiled the responses to the questions asked at the zone meetings and distributed a summary of the responses to the directors.

(b) ABP 2019-2020 Strategic Plan:

In the Board package was a draft of the strategic plan. The first part of the plan generally stays the same year to year, but what changes every year is our objectives. The

challenge with an organization such as ours is we don't make or sell any product and do not have formal membership fees. It is difficult for us to find areas where there are clear and tangible measures of performance. What we do is influence government, producers, consumers and the public, but it is difficult to measure the results of these activities.

The next step will be for ABP to use the objectives and translate them into an operational plan. Christie suggested that each board member make suggestions on how to measure results for each objective.

(c) ABP 2019-2020 Budget:

The budget worksheets were handed out at the beginning of the meeting and R. Smith clarified the proposed budget to the directors and where the budget will be funded from. The budget is reduced from last year, but leaves ABP key activities intact.

Christie expressed concern about the lack of awareness around the investment portfolio and suggested having the finance chair see a quarterly report; the executive seeing a report twice a year, and the Board once a year.

Motion by Grinde/Graves:

“That the ABP Finance Chair meet with the investment group annually.”

Carried

Motion by Stanley/Sekura:

“That ABP continues to support the Intensive Livestock Working Group, but not the position of the Executive Director.”

Carried

Motion by Stanley/Israelson:

“That the ABP Board of Directors approve the budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.”

Carried

(d) ABP Regulatory Review:

The Regulatory Review happens every five years and all aspects of the regulations and by-laws are open for review and revision if needed. Decisions on any changes should be approved at the AGM in December and would come into effect before June 30, 2020.

ABP is in discussion with ACFA but will also be meeting with other industry organizations. A small working group was suggested to manage the review

Campbell and Christie were named as members, as well as a possible delegate from Zone 1.

(e) Refund Request Form Changes:

The board had discussed making a clear choice for producers who would like to make specific deductions from refunds, such as items like the CCA assessment. If the new form is going to be effective, we must make it clear that producers need to use the new form.

The new form can be downloaded from the website and the directors also suggested that we add information showing how the service charge has been used.

Motion by Williams/Campbell:

“That the ABP Board of Directors approve the new ‘Refund Request’ forms with suggested changes.”

Carried

(f) ABP-ACFA Agreement and ABIDF:

A copy of the agreement was in the package for the director’s input. The board approved the document once before, but ACFA asked for a small change. With the change, the board needs to re-approve the agreement before it can be signed.

Motion by Campbell/Grinde:

“That the ‘Alberta Beef Industry Partnership Agreement’ between ABP and the Alberta Cattle Feeders Association be approved as presented.”

Carried

Stanley gave the board an update on the ACFA meeting he attended in April. Stanley felt the meeting was good and beneficial for him and found the meeting interesting. Members of the working group will take turns attending the board meetings.

There will be another meeting of the working group on May 14th at the ACFA offices. The group will be discussing potential research investments that could be the beginning of the Alberta Beef Industry Development Fund.

(g) AGM Resolutions:

The directors discussed the resolutions that were approved at the 2018 AGM and how they would be dealt with. Some of the resolutions are already being addressed by the Board and some will be added to government speaking points.

Directors asked for more information into a few of the issues before they could decide how to proceed.

The continued need for age verification was discussed and the directors agreed that ABP needed to become more vocal in encouraging producers to age verify their cattle. There is a real benefit to the industry when cattle are age verified.

Motion by Hillmer/Grinde:

“That ABP lobby for and support best practices by producers including age verification.”

Carried

Where mailing information has been provided, letters will be sent to the movers of resolutions from the 2018 fall meetings. If no mailing information has been provided, a letter will be sent to the zone directors for them to disseminate the information.

(h) Board resolutions:

1. Motion by Lozeman/Campbell:

“Be it resolved that ABP investigate the actual benefits that Canada Beef realizes for beef cattle producers in Alberta.”

Zone 2

Carried

CB publishes this information all of the time and it should be easy to get the information.

2. Motion by MacArthur/Sekura:

“Be it resolved that in order to protect affected producers and their livestock and our industry image, ABP lobby the Alberta government to require the Alberta Energy Regulator to significantly speed up response times and corrective measures whenever air pollution measurement ‘alarms’ or monitors indicate that pollution levels have exceeded approved safety levels – even when this occurs in more remote areas of the province, such as in the Three Creeks-St. Isadore area.”

Zone 9

Carried

There are a lot of emissions coming from gas plants in this area that have set off pollution alarms, but people have to come from Edmonton which takes a few days. Producers in the area felt there should be a faster response. There are issues with monitoring the air quality in this area. The resolution is reasonable and there should be a quicker reaction.

3. Motion by Sekura/Grinde:

“Be it resolved that the appropriate ABP committee encourage Alberta Meat Inspection to allow mobile slaughter of accidentally compromised animals to achieve some form of an “inspected” status that would allow healthy protein to be harvested for human consumption.”

Zone 6

Carried

They are hoping to create a situation where meat can be harvested and used from animals that can't be transported. There are issues with getting approved inspections of the animals. ABP needs clearer information on the whole issue so when it comes up again, we can answer.

4. Motion by Smith-Fraser/Christie:

“Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Alberta government to promote farm inspection for non-ambulatory animals to be slaughtered and used for human consumption.”
Zone 5

Carried

5. Motion by Wowk/Graves:

“Be it resolved that ABP reach out to post secondary education institutions to present on what ABP is about to increase awareness.”
Zone 8

Carried

6. Motion by MacArthur/Williams:

“Be it resolved that ABP reverse the agreement with Alberta Environment & Parks that one of its delegates voted in favour of, which was for bison to be listed as an endangered species.”
Zone 9

Carried

Bison have not been listed as an endangered species yet. The motion went through but did not get Ministerial approval. With the change in government, there will likely be further consideration of this issue

7. Motion by Israelson/Grinde:

“Be it resolved that ABP and the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association investigate the feasibility of the check-off being charged on all cattle entering Canada.”
Zone 3

Carried

This is already being done.

8. Motion by MacArthur/Stanley:

“Be it resolved that ABP support and lobby the Federal government to ban growth enhancing hormones in Canada in the production of beef.”
Zone 8

Defeated

(i) Governance Committee Chair appointment:

Howard Bekkering was appointed as the independent member of the Governance Committee and has been

recommended to sit as its Chair. The Board has been asked to approve his appointment as Chair.

Motion by Campbell/Stanley:

“That ABP approve the appointment of Howard Bekkering as the Chair of the Governance Committee.”

Carried

(j) LIS appointment:

Lyndon Mansell was appointed to replace Norm Hennigar when he left as a zone delegate. Mansell was then re-elected to the position, but his term will end in June. Israelson has expressed an interest in sitting on the LIS Board.

Motion by Sekura/Campbell:

“That ABP approve the appointment of Chris Israelson to the Livestock Identification Services Board of Directors.”

Carried

(k) Zone 3 Delegate appointment:

Israelson asked the board to approve the appointment of Morrie Goetjen who will finish out the two-year term for Heinz Lemmer who passed away earlier this year.

Motion by Israelson/Campbell:

“That ABP approve the appointment of Morrie Goetjen to complete a vacant 2-year term in Zone 3.”

Carried

(l) Ducks Unlimited Canada MOU:

A draft copy of the agreement between Ducks Unlimited (DU) and ABP was provided to the directors in their meeting package. The agreement would enhance the working relationship between ABP and DU. There are some polices that DU has that make it unfavourable for neighbours to graze land leased or owned by DU. The relationship between producers and DU is improving but is still contentious in some areas. Under the agreement ABP and DU will continue to discuss these concerns.

Motion by MacArthur/Graves:

“That the ABP Board of Directors approve signing the Memorandum of Agreement with Ducks Unlimited.”

Carried

(m) Sustainability Assessment Tool (CFT) Project:

R. Smith is waiting for a description of what Cool Farm Tool (CFT) is looking for before ABP moves forward with

this project. The purpose of the project is to get producers more involved in sustainability assessment and improvements.

7. In Camera

8. Discussion Items

(a) Ag Plastics Recycling Pilot Project:

Grinde gave the board a brief update on the current activities of the project. With the new government, the group is waiting to meet with the new cabinet before they make any announcements regarding a program operator. The plastics collection will begin in the fall, but producers can begin stockpiling it as long as it is done properly

(b) ABQSH Administration:

ABP has been approached to take over the administration of ABQSH – the provincial delivery agent of VBP+. The training part of the program will stay with ABQSH and this can qualify for provincial funding. The current co-ordinator will probably continue in her role. VBP+ will still be doing the auditing, but ABP would oversee the training. ABP will not administer the program until the auditing function has been separated from ABQSH.

(c) MLA Reception:

The reception will be held on May 29th in Edmonton. There will be a board meeting beginning at 3:00 p.m. with ACFA and the reception begins at 5:00 p.m.

(d) Zone Reports:

Zone 1: Everyone is seeding right now.

Zone 2: The zone met at the end of March and we are trying to reach a larger group of producers. The zone is considering holding fall meetings in more/other locations this year.

Zone 3: Met recently to discuss new delegate appointment.

Zone 4: The zone is hoping to meet soon. T. Smith attended a regional fair.

Zone 5: Met at the end of April and agreed to hold another Ronald McDonald House dinner. They discussed AgriTrade and agreed not to sponsor a booth this year as they were having difficulty getting delegates to work it.

Zone 6: No meetings recently

Zone 7: Held a meeting last week and invited past delegates and a few producers from the area who seem to have little or no interaction with ABP. Support was high once they had a better understanding of the work that ABP has done. Some suggestions that came from the meeting was for ABP to concentrate on education and communication and leave promotion and research for the national agencies.

Zone 8: Have been keeping in touch with the delegates; the zone has provided funding for the Vermilion Fair again this year; have spoken with producers who are asking for refunds; and hope to attend 4-H shows in the zones. Are planning a conference call before the semi in June.

Zone 9: MacArthur attended a trade fair in Hines Creek in April and spoke with producers.

(e) Executive Director review and Board evaluation:

R. Smith will contact Maggie Keil and begin the process.

(f) School presentations:

Smith-Fraser heard that there is a young fellow who is affiliated with the UN speaking at schools about environmental impacts and reducing meat consumption. Jill Harvey has reached out to him with Public and Stakeholder Engagement messaging. We lobby governments, but not at our school boards and they do influence curriculum. We can speak to our school boards and get more involved with our education system.

Brad Dubeau is updating the secondary education information.

(g) Jim Fisher:

Sekura was wondering where Jim Fisher gets the information that he is giving on the radio. He should be speaking about what ABP has done. Cattle Country is a producer focused tool that we use, but Laverdure can make sure that they stay focused on industry information.

9. Reading Materials

(a) BOD Resolutions & Action items:

(b) Beef Supply at a Glance:

10. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events

(a) Board of Directors Meeting – June 10, 2019 – Delta by Marriott South Hotel, Edmonton, AB

(b) Semi-Annual General Meeting – June 10-12, 2019, Delta by Marriott South Hotel, Edmonton, AB

(c) Board of Directors Meeting – July 17, 2019 – ABP Boardroom, Calgary, AB

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Stanley at 3:35 p.m.