

ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ZOOM MEETING
WEDNESDAY JUNE 16, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

Present: Melanie Wowk - *Chair, NE*
Jason Hale - *Vice Chair, SE*
Brodie Haugan - *Finance Chair*
Rod Carlyon - *CT*
Mike Nadeau - *NW*
Colin Campbell - *@ Large*
Darren Bevans - *@ Large*
Kent Holowath - *@ Large*
Lee Irvine - *@ Large*
Chris Israelson - *@ Large*
Kelly Smith-Fraser - *Past Chair*

Staff: Brad Dubeau - *General Manager*
Rosanne Allen - *Office Administrator*
Laura Procnier - *Controller*
Karin Schmid - *Beef Production*
Lindsay Westren - *Marketing & Comm*
Debra Murphy - *Field Specialist*
Katelyn Laverdure - *Stakeholder Comm*

Guest: Melissa Downing - *VBP+*
Howard Bekkering - *Governance Chair*
Assar Grinde - *Past Director*
Al Kemmere - *Chair, Ag Recycling Grp*
Kyle Forbes - *AGLA*

Absent: Fred Lozeman - *SW*

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda

(a) Additions and Adoption of Agenda:

Additions: 6(c) Bison letter:

Motion by Hillmer/Carlyon:

“That the agenda be approved with additions.”

Carried

2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

(a) Minutes of the May 19, 2021 Board of Directors meeting:

Motion by Hillmer/Irvine:

“That the minutes of the May 19, 2021 Board of Directors meeting be approved as presented.”

Carried

3. Financial Report

(a) Financial Report ending May 31, 2021:

No issues have arisen in the last 2 months since the beginning of the new fiscal year. The upspent funds are still high but once Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted that will change.

Motion by Haugan/Hale:

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

Carried

4. Staff Report, Policy and Governance

(a) Operational Report:

The report is in the package and will give the directors an idea of what staff have been doing over the last month.

5. Council and Committee Reports

(a) Research Committee:

Bevans is the new chair of the committee; the committee has narrowed down the number of projects to get full proposals on. Karin Schmid has completed the Living Labs application and it has been submitted. The next committee meeting will be held on June 22nd.

(b) ACFA Update:

The board spent a lot of the time discussing BRM's, price reporting and strengthening the cattle industry. Discussed the Class 1 licencing issues. Continuing to support ILWG; moving forward with their golf tournament.

Dubeau has spoken with Janice Tranberg and ACFA is interested in participating in the Governance training but asked if it could wait until September.

(c) CCA update:

There is a board meeting next week and Smith-Fraser and Hillmer participated in the Ottawa fly-in last month.

6. Decision Items

(a) Audited Financial statements:

The Audit Committee met with the auditors to discuss the audited financial statements. Once again the auditors complemented Procnier on the exceptional work she does maintaining the ABP accounting books.

Motion by Haugan/Nadeau:

“That the ABP audited financial statements be approved as presented.”

Carried

(b) Delegate/Director Nomination form approval:

In 2019 the Board of Directors and delegates passed a motion that going forward there would be a declaration on the nomination forms asking whether the nominee had taken a refund. But there was no direction on what should be done with that information.

The new forms state clearly that this information will be publicised during the producer meetings going into the elections. Internally the nomination forms will be checked to confirm that they were accurate. Since ABP cannot determine how much of a refund was taken we can only ask whether a refund was taken but not how much.

Motion by Campbell/Israelson:

“That the ABP Board of Directors approve the updated Delegate and Director nomination forms as presented.”

Carried

(c) Bison Letter:

The Bison industry is looking for help in changing the On Farm Slaughter Regulations for uninspected bison. Under the current regulations bison producers cannot sell an on-farm slaughtered bison to more than one person. The Bison Association is looking for support from ABP in changes to the regulations. These changes would also benefit the cattle industry.

Motion by Carlyon/Irvine:

“That ABP support the Bison Producers request for our signature on a letter regarding changes to the *On Farm Slaughter Regulations*.”

Carried

7. Discussion Items

(a) Semi-Annual Date and Producer meetings:

Dubeau proposed to the board that we move the Semi meeting to the end of September. The reason for this is so that producers will have received communications prior to the Semi.

Last year there was a lot of concern about when our producer meetings were held and the length of time between them and our AGM. Dubeau proposed that we move the producer meetings to the end of January or beginning of February. This would give us the opportunity to provide a link in the magazine where the producers can vote for delegates if they cannot make it to a face to face meeting.

Motion by Hale/Haugan:

“That ABP rescind the motion ‘*That beginning in 2021 the ABP Semi-Annual General meeting be held the second week in September.*’”

Carried

(b) 2021 Board meetings:

The July meeting is cancelled and the meeting in August was changed to August 25th. Board meetings were scheduled for October 20th and November 17th, the next meeting to be scheduled for early January 2022

(c) VBP+ update:

Melissa Downing, joined the meeting to update the directors on the current activities of VBP+. Downing gave a brief background on VBP+ and ABQSH; the purpose of VBP+ and its benefits to the industry; and, its current and future activities.

The directors discussed the importance of the program to the industry and the need to make the programs pay for the producers.

(d) CCIA report and mailing list update:

Dubeau and Anne Burgess from CCIA spoke briefly about using the CCIA mailing list. CCIA is currently in the process of reaching out to producers via mail, who purchase RFID tags through a third party. CCIA added an ABP insert in the mailout giving producers the opportunity to update their ABP information. Those producers who directly purchase their tags from CCIA will receive an insert along with the tags to update their information with ABP.

CCIA had their AGM on April 15th with no changes in the Executive. CCIA has purchased an office building with a warehouse attached. They take possession July 1st and will do some renovations before moving in. They discussed age verification and Bekkering asked the directors what they thought about the continuation of age verification. In what way can CCIA correct some of the issues that are arising from missing tags or wrong birthdates. The next ABP magazine will have an article on making sure that age verification dates are correct.

(e) Ag Plastics presentation:

Assar Grinde, past ABP Director, and Al Kemmere, Chair of the Ag Plastics Recycling Group, spoke to the members about the activities of the group. Clean Farms does all of the office work and there are currently 18 recycling sites across Alberta. The role of the group has been to advance the permanent recycling program. Saskatchewan and Manitoba already have legislation on ag plastics. It is suggested that it be a legislated EPR program. The principle of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is that the companies creating the plastics needs to have some responsibility for recycling it. With the increase in cost it is important to be upfront with producers about the increase and right now producers are paying for the disposal. The group has a series of newsletters coming out to explain what is happening.

(f) Pole Haven:

Kyle Forbes, Alberta Grazing Leaseholders Association (AGLA), spoke to the directors about what is happening at Pole Haven. Forbes gave the directors background on Pole Haven and what is happening between the local community and the association. With changes and closings of some of the

recreational areas the public activity grew and began to impact the environment. The leaseholders were told they needed to fix the problem or lose the lease. Enforcement was attempted but ineffective.

Undeveloped road allowances were targeted. Using a GPS and mulcher public users created a road without any effort to mitigate the damage to the environment. A work stop order was issued and now they are trying to determine the legality of everything. There was a meeting between the government, leaseholders and Public Lands Alliance to come to some sort of agreement or compromise. Rules for undeveloped road allowances are different for each municipality.

Precedent could be made if something is not done to address the problem. Is ABP prepared to back AGLA and to lend the ABP name to the issue. The directors recognized that AGLA is doing good work in regards to Pole Haven and undeveloped road allowances but the directors believe that ABP needs to make a broader statement.

APB is opposed to recreational use of undeveloped road allowances on lease land.

Motion by Hale/Irvine:

“That ABP will develop policies and align with other producer groups or organizations addressing property rights, land use and undeveloped road allowances that are compatible with sustainable cattle production.”

Carried

(g) Per Diem report:

The working group met to review the per diems and honorariums to discuss any changes. The potential issues were discussed but the committee determined that no changes need to be made and that this be reviewed every year or 2-years.

The only changes made were around alcohol and limiting the number of drinks that ABP will cover. In the past ABP has hosted the bar at the Semi-AGM and the AGM and the working group agreed to limit drinks to 2 per person. This would apply to all delegates, directors and staff.

(h) Alberta Water Council (AWC):

Hale has been approved as the ABP representative to the AWC and Ron Axelson will remain as the alternate when Hale cannot attend.

The AWC is responsible for all of the different aspects of water use in Alberta. It is extremely important for ABP to sit at the table to make sure the rights of cattle producers are being looked after.

(i) Agency resolutions & delegates:

Information on the Agency AGM is in the package and we need to have our information in by July 19th. The AGM will be held on August 17th and will be virtual again this year. If directors want to see some type of change ABP would submit a

resolution to the Agency for the AGM. This is an opportunity for anyone who has concerns with the Agency to make a resolution.

ABP can send up to 15 delegates but we offer 5 to ACFA. If we don't fill our ten spots from the board than we will send out the invitation to the delegate body. Anyone who is interested can let Dubeau know.

Doug Sawyer's term as the ABP representative on the Agency board is coming up. Sawyer is prepared to serve another 2 year term but he suggested that the Board might prefer if one of the current Directors sat on the Agency board. A current director would give the Board a more direct update from the Agency.

Bevans nominated Hillmer to be the ABP representative on the Agency and was acclaimed by the directors.

Campbell said that he would like to attend the AGM and anyone else who is interested was asked to contact either Dubeau or Allen.

(j) Ottawa fly-in:

Hale, Wowk, Smith-Fraser and Hillmer attended the fly-in and gave the directors an update on the issues that were discussed with the MP's.

(k) Rural Caucus:

Will be meeting with the north Rural Caucus on June 30th.

(l) Grasslands Carbon Project:

Dubeau had follow up meetings with the group and had a discussion about where the relationship began. The project has resubmitted the carbon recommendations to the government and we will see what happens. In Saskatchewan the SGA are advocating with their government and are acting as the land trust agent. In Alberta they currently have 6000 hectares that have been registered and most already have easements. Producers have volunteered the land to participate in the pilot project.

They are also waiting for a decision from CRA around tax receipts and carbon offset revenue. ABP was a part of the original application and we are listed as a supporter for inkind support up to \$15,000. We need to have more conversation about the boards hesitancy around the project.

(m) Presentation to Coal Committee:

Dubeau, Lyseng and Schmid will be presenting to the Coal Committee on June 30th. ABP will be presenting along with Stock Growers and CCA.

(n) Alberta Environment & Parks meeting:

The Executive met with Environment & Parks and their staff on June 3rd to discuss: increased regulations; the Operational Grazing Disposition Holders Committee Group; asked that leaseholders have the ability to deny incompatible use that impacts grazing leases; asked that the government maintain the leaseholders rights to control access; the importance of lease

land to cattle producers and asked to be included in the discussions for grazing lease succession planning.

Wowk also met her MLA and talked about BRMS, carbon tax and the veterinary shortage. Also spoke about opening up the Veterinary Act to make some changes to address the shortage such as having nurse practitioners to give vaccines or put in prolapses. Wowk also met with Minister Dreeshen for a quick 10 minutes. Dreeshen asked how ABP felt about what the Ag Ministry has been doing over the last few years. Wowk talked about the Livestock Price Insurance program; carbon tax; we need to maintain a competitive industry; discussed Pole Haven and recreational land use issues.

(o) Platform and magazine update:

Dubeau gave a review of what has been happening with ABPDaily website hub; website sales; development of podcasts; the ABPDaily App; phase one dealt with push notifications; phase two will allow producers to customize their app accounts; the ABP magazine.

(p) Packer Price reporting update:

Dubeau spoke to the board on the efforts that are being made by CCA and NCFA regarding price reporting.

(q) ABP/CCA delegate and officer meetings:

The ABP Executive and Dubeau have met with the ABP delegates sitting as CCA Directors to update them on the decisions that the board has made regarding the CCA assessment. The Executive also met with the CCA officers to discuss the assessment and what will happen moving forward. CCA was also told that Dubeau and Adrienne Waller, ABP Legal Counsel, will be developing a strategy to bring this message to producer meetings. There was some discussion about going back to non-refundable but ABP made it clear that we are not looking at that option right now.

(r) ESA update:

NCC and DU are very interested in participating with ABP in the award. Dubeau hopes to confirm in the next couple of weeks.

(s) Zone reports:

SE: Nothing to report at this time. Once the regulations are relaxed the zone will meet to discuss what it can support moving into the fall

CT: Will be arranging a conference call with the zone delegates next week to bring them up to date.

SW: Met and spoke about the zone budget, sponsorship for zone shows. Will be having a zone call next week. Hoping to meet face to face in July.

NE: Disappointed in the difficulty in getting the delegates to respond to meeting requests.

NW: Nothing to report at this time

8. In Camera

9. Reading Material

- (a) BOD Resolutions and Action Items:
- (b) Beef Supply at a Glance:

10. Next Board meeting & Upcoming Events

- (a) Board of Directors meeting – Wednesday August 25, 2021
- (b) Semi-Annual General Meeting – TBD
- (c) Board of Directors meeting – Wednesday October 20, 2021
- (d) Board of Directors meeting – Wednesday November 17, 2021

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Hillmer at 4:30 p.m.