

ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ONLINE MEETING
WEDNESDAY MAY 20, 2020, 8:00 a.m.

Present: Kelly Smith-Fraser - *Chair*
Melanie Wowk - *Vice Chair*
Brad Osadczuk - *Finance Chair/Zone 1*
Darren Bevans - *Zone 2*
Jim Bowhay - *Zone 3*
Shawn Freimark - *Zone 4*
Cathy Sharp - *Zone 5*
Assar Grinde - *Zone 6*
Colin Campbell - *Zone 7*
Mike Nadeau - *Zone 9*
Brodie Haugan - *@ Large*
Kolton Kasur - *@ Large*
Fred Lozeman - *@ Large*
Jason Hale - *CCC*
Chris Israelson - *CFC*
Charlie Christie - *Past Chair*

Staff: Rich Smith - *Executive Director*
Rosanne Allen - *Office Administrator*
Karin Schmid - *Research & Production*
Brad Dubeau - *Marketing & Education*
Katelyn Laverdure - *Communications*
Laura Procnier - *Controller*
Tom Lynch-Staunton - *Government Relations*

Absent: Emil Dmytriw - *Zone 8*

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda

(a) Additions and Adoption of Agenda:

Additions: 5(d) Chronic Wasting Disease Working Group update:

Motion by Friemark/Wowk:

“That the agenda be approved with additions.”

Carried

2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

(a) Minutes of the April 22, 2020 meeting:

Motion by Bowhay/Campbell:

“That the minutes of the April 22, 2020 Board of Directors meeting be approved as presented.”

Carried

3. Financial Report

(a) Financial Statement ending April 30, 2020:

The financial statement showed the adjustments to the Trade Advocacy Reserve Fund, the Operating Reserve Fund, future

years, and the Unrestricted net assets as a result of the decisions made by the Board at the April 22, 2020 meeting. The statement also showed the final budget for the 2020-2021 year and indicated that 8% of this budget has been spent. The COVID-19 pandemic has created immense uncertainty for our industry, and this could affect ABP over the next year.

Motion by Osadczuk/Lozeman:

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

Carried

4. Staff Report, Policy and Governance

(a) Monthly Operations Report:

The monthly operations report was in the package for the information of the directors.

(b) Plan Regulation and ABP Bylaw Amendments:

Smith and Adrienne Waller, ABP Legal Counsel, have been making changes to the ABP Bylaws and Regulations in accordance with the resolutions that were carried by the delegates at the 2019 AGM. The Board package included a document explaining the changes that were made to the By-Laws and the Regulations, the amended Bylaws, and the notice of the special resolutions that will be voted on at the Semi-Annual General meeting on June 9, 2020. In order to finalize the changes to the By-Laws and Regulations the delegates will need to carry the special resolutions at the Semi-Annual meeting.

Due to the large number of changes in the bylaws due to the elimination of the councils, Waller has updated the numbering. She has also added the ability for the Board of Directors to remove a delegate in exceptional circumstances for serious breaches of codes of conducts or policies. Most of the changes will come into effect at the beginning of the fall producer meetings. A full slate of seven delegates will be elected in each of the five new zones with approximately half of the delegates serving one-year terms and the other half serving two-year terms. The new zone delegates will determine which delegates will serve the one-year terms. All directors will retain their positions until the AGM in 2021.

The proposed changes have been submitted to Marketing Council for approval.

5. Council and Committee Reports

(a) Cow Calf Council:

The Council met on May 12, 2020. The Council held an election by email and text and Lori Kinnee became the Alberta Forage Industry Network representative. The representative for the Alberta Range Stewardship Course Steering Committee is Shane Hansen; The Alberta Conservation Association (ACA)

approached the council about participating in a survey on hunting and hunting access; there were updates on various projects that the council has been involved in.

There will be a Safety Net Subcommittee meeting May 21, 2020 to discuss changes in Business Risk Management programs.

(b) Cattle Feeder Council:

Have not had a meeting since the last Board meeting.

(c) Research Committee:

Most of the work is around the 2020-2021 research call and will be done in conjunction with the BCRC. Joint call in early June and look to receive letters of intent and review them; then choose letters for further information and a call in January to make final decisions.

Lozeman updated the Board on the BCRC meeting.

(d) Chronic Wasting Disease Working Group:

The working group was organized right after the 2019 AGM with Lozeman, Osadczuk, Bevans, Kasur and Wowk sitting on the group and Karin Schmid and Tom Lynch-Staunton acting as staff support. Lozeman briefly spoke of the activities of the working group over the last 5 months. Lynch-Staunton was invited to a meeting with Alberta Environment & Parks to develop a new strategy on controlling the disease. The number of animals with the disease is increasing and so is the area where it is being found. The working group had a conference call last week to discuss the issue and determine if they should stay involved. They agreed that this was an issue that ABP should stay informed about.

6. Decision Items

(a) COVID-19 update and actions – Feed Cost Offset Program, cow calf and backgrounding support, town hall meetings:

ABP will be joining ACFA and CCA on a call with AF and AFSC staff to discuss terms and conditions for the fed cattle set-aside program. We hope that the program will be close to the proposal prepared by the CCA and that it will actually reduce the flow of finished cattle to market. ABP has submitted a proposal for the Government of Alberta to provide funding to reduce premiums for Western Livestock Price Insurance Program (WLPIP) contracts on calves and feeder cattle. The proposal was included in the Board package. The Saskatchewan government has announced funding for premium support, but we have not received a response to our request.

Smith-Fraser gave an update on the various issues that came up during the week. She has been invited to speak at the CCA Town Hall meeting on May 21st. The U.S. is doing a bill on COVID-19 assistance and some senators are trying to make mCOOL a part of it. Some APP payments have been slow in Saskatchewan, but this has not been an issue in Alberta.

Smith has spoken to ACFA about hosting a townhall meeting, but after speaking with CCA about the logistics involved in the

meetings, decided to wait until after Smith-Fraser participated in their townhall meeting. ABP should be a part of each of the CCA townhall meetings and we should push for that.

ABP worked with ACFA on a video showing cattle producers across the province thanking the processing plant workers. ABP is also installing billboards thanking the workers near each of the three main plants.

Directors discussed the effect that COVID-19 is having on the discrepancy between what cattle producers are paid for their cattle and what consumers have to pay in the stores for beef.

(b) ABP Plan for 2020-2021:

The plan was presented at the last meeting but not approved. The directors wanted to have time to review the plan before they approved it. Smith has also prepared a Strategic Objectives Performance Report for the plan and this report will be used to track progress on the objectives through the year.

Motion by Grinde/Wowk:

“That the ABP 2020-2021 Strategic Plan be approved as presented.”

Carried

(c) Semi-AGM Plans:

The Semi-AGM will be held June 9th from 8:30 to noon. Smith gave a brief update on the agenda. The Semi-AGM will be online. Smith is finalizing the agenda for the meeting.

(d) BSE Surveillance:

ABP had a call from the chief provincial vet on BSE surveillance. The government has been making the payments to producers who participate in the surveillance and then getting reimbursed by CFIA. Now, the government is considering having the payments go directly from CFIA to producers, but CFIA only provides funds through electronic banking. ABP was asked whether the requirement for producers to provide CFIA with their banking information would reduce participation in the BSE surveillance program. The consensus is that this requirement could cause substantial reductions in participation and ABP asked whether a better alternative would be for ABP to pay the producers and then get reimbursed by CFIA. The government may consider this offer as they move toward a decision on this issue.

7. In Camera

8. Discussion Items

(a) Results Driven Agriculture Research:

Smith-Fraser has been appointed to the interim Board of this research entity and the Board has been meeting very regularly. The entity has also held four different stakeholder calls. There is an interim Executive Director and the entity is hiring a

communications firm shortly to help develop a logo and website, as well as writing press releases.

(b) Cattle Industry Leaders Forum:

The inaugural meeting of this forum was held in December of 2018. The forum meets twice each year and the next meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2020. There were questions about having the meeting with the COVID-19 pandemic, but there will be an online meeting. The forum includes leaders from Alberta cattle and beef organizations, auction marts, dealers, LIS, ABVMA, packers, and the government.

(c) Zone Reports:

Zone 1: delegates are calving and farming. No recent zone meetings.

Zone 2: Have spoken with the delegates about the Fall Meetings; there is concern about keeping ABP presence in front of producers. We need to be more vocal.

Zone 3: Producers are hoping for rain. Have spoken with some of the delegates.

Zone 4: Have spoken with the delegates about the Fall Meetings; looking at getting speakers who have concerns about small packing plants. It is very dry and are hoping for rain.

Zone 5: Had a zone conference call on May 5th; updated the delegates on the Boards activities; spoke about the Semi and the Fall Meetings.

Zone 6: Had a zone conference call to discuss the Fall Meetings; possible locations; small processors to speak.

Zone 7: Delegates are harvesting, calving and planting, expecting some rain. Had a zone conference call last week and discussed the Semi; All of the delegates have attended the CCA town hall meetings.

Zone 8: Had a zone meeting to discuss the Fall meetings; speakers will be small processors and how they have survived.

Zone 9: Visited with the zone delegates about the Fall meetings; the zone is considering having their meeting in conjunction with the Peace Country Beef and Forage Association meeting. Delegates are busy harvesting, calving and seeding.

9. Reading Materials

(a) 2020 BOD Resolutions Report:

(b) Beef Supply at a Glance:

10. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events

(a) Board of Directors Meeting – June 8, 2020, online meeting

(b) Semi-Annual General Meeting – June 9, 2020, online meeting

(c) Board of Directors Meeting – July 22, 2020, ABP Board Room, Calgary, AB

(d) Board of Directors Meeting – September 2, 2020, ABP Board Room, Calgary, AB

(e) Board of Directors Meeting – October 14, 2020, ABP Board Room, Calgary, AB

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by Bowhay at 10:05 a.m.