

**ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 21, 2015, 8:30 a.m.
AT THE ABP BOARD ROOM, CALGARY, ALBERTA**

Present: Judy Fenton - *Chair*
John De Groot - *Zone 1*
Bob Lowe - *Zone 2*
Chris Israelson - *Zone 3*
Greg Bowie - *Zone 6*
Ron Wieler - *Zone 9*

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

Absent: Gary Seutter - *Zone 6*
Les Greir - *Zone 8*

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

Carried

4. Decision Items

(a) Resolution updates:

The ABP Policy for Environment was included in the package with the changes highlighted in yellow. The chair will bring them forward to the next board meeting for approval by the board.

Motion by Lowe/Wieler:

“That the amendments to the Environmental Policy be approved.”

Carried

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

(a) Adoption of Agenda:

Additions: 4(d) Wetlands Restoration Research request; 6(l) Formation of a new committee;

Motion by Bowie/de Groot:

“That the agenda be approved with changes.”

Carried

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

(a) Minutes of the June 10, 2015 meeting:

Motion by Israelson/Wieler:

“That the minutes of the June 10, 2015 Environment Committee meeting be approved as amended.”

Carried

3. Financial Report

(a) Financial Statement ending September 30, 2015:

Expenses for the ESA video have not been deducted yet from the budget. At some point in the future we need to do an updated video of all past winners of the award. It doesn't necessarily come out of the EC budget. The last one was done in 2012 and will need to be done in the next couple of years.

Motion by Lowe/Israelson:

(b) Farming for Tomorrow-Sponsorship Review – Tom Bradley:

Tom Bradley and Ron Glaser developed *Farming for Tomorrow* in 1996. A number of ag industry organizations helped create the magazine including Ducks Unlimited and the Alberta Wheat Pool. The magazine was used to communicate agriculture news for producers in Alberta. The ESA winners are usually portrayed in the magazine. ABP has sponsored the magazine in the past for \$9000 annually. The majority of their income derives from advertising.

The committee had been asked to re-evaluate sponsoring *Farming for Tomorrow* going forward. Hays believes that the decision is broader than this committee because it's an overall organizational decision. Delegates agreed that the discussion should take place on the committee level and a recommendation made to the board who then makes the final decision.

Katelyn Laverdure, ABP Communications Manager, joined the discussion and suggested we only pay for publication space as we need it. If the committee feels the publication is worthwhile and that people are reading the magazine and we have enough information to supply articles to three publications then continuing to sponsor the magazine is worth the cost. The cost for this year is already in the budget and the committee sees value in the publication and

recommended that the sponsorship continue. Members also recommended that we better utilize the tool more.

(c) Watershed Representation Review:

Bill Fox has been representing ABP on the North Saskatchewan River Watershed since he stopped being a delegate. Fox has been submitting expense reports.

(d) Wetlands Restoration Research Request:

The U of A is looking for producers who are interested in being participants in a survey that is part of a wetland restoration project. If any of the members are interested in participating or know someone who might be interested to contact Peggy Strankman. Fenton suggested sending out this information on with weekly grass routes.

5. In Camera

6. Discussion Items

(a) GHG Global Warming Strategy: Panel Review – Tom Goddard:

Tom Goddard, Agriculture & Forestry, spoke to the committee on Climate Change. Goddard is with the Environmental Stewardship Division and advises a number of government departments on climate change and greenhouse gases. He has also dealt with the wetland policy. Canada has one of the highest percentages of greenhouse gas emissions. Alberta is the number one emitter in Canada. Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan account for more than 70% of emissions. Since 1990 Alberta agriculture production has increased but emissions have stayed the same since 2000. Goddard also spoke on carbon sequestration in Alberta and globally.

(b) Ecological Services - Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI) Video:

There was no time to watch the video so Hays sent the link to committee members to watch if they were interested.

(c) Review of Ecological Services Program- Fawn Jackson:

Fawn Jackson, CCA, spoke to the group on Ecological Goods and Services. Developed programs around producer rights and compensations. Currently

the federal government has a no policy on EG&S. CCA put together a document explaining what an ecosystem services program is and how it will be sustained. There are a number of ecosystem projects across Canada that are currently running in Alberta there is one in Vermillion County and another in the Nose Creek Watershed in Rocky View County that is paying landowners to restore wetlands that have previously been drained.

The CRSB AGM was held this month and was a great success. The Roundtable has 40 different members from Costco to Cows & Fish. There is a large number of producer organizations and consumer organizations working together to develop a sustainable program. There are three pillars: Sustainability assessment; this includes economic, social and environmental indicators that are assessed every 5 to 8 years. Indicator and Verification system; assessment protocols that verify set parameters for producers to follow to show sustainability. Projects; this is still being developed and will move forward over the next couple of years to help support sustainability. Some projects that Jackson expects to be proposed are on greenhouse emissions and water use.

Alberta Biodiversity (ABMI) – a number of researchers, government people, producers. Trying to effectively measure biodiversity of different landscapes across Alberta and try to calculate the economic viability of those landscapes.

(d) NAWMP Wetlands and Prairie Habitat Joint Venture (PHJV), Stewardship and Migratory Birds Program- Hugh Hunt:

The committee discussed becoming members of the PHJV. Fenton and Israelson are both interested in attending the meeting in November.

(e) ESA update:

A winner has been chosen and will be announced at the AGM in December

(f) Wildlife Committee Report:

The committee is meeting in Edmonton about the second week of November to determine their focus and will be bringing that to the November board meeting.

(g) Cows and Fish update:

There will be a planning meeting in Airdrie on November 10th.

(h) Canadian Round Table for Sustainable Beef (CRSB) update:

Updated under 4(c).

(i) Alberta Watershed updates- Rosanne's reports; John de Groot:

Reports are in the package. De Groot attended the Oldman Watershed AGM and reported to the committee. The watershed is doing a video on the watershed and asked about a sponsorship. They are doing a *Holding the Rains* again next year which ABP has sponsored in past years. They have a watershed legacy program that anyone can donate to.

The Red Deer River Watershed has come out with their draft.

(j) Property Rights Land-Use. Alberta Land Use Institute (2014) Video:

The video is 55 minutes long and can be found on YouTube for anyone who is interested in watching it.

(k) Formation of new committee:

The CCA Environment Committee applied for funding through the federal government to be used to study species at risk and their habitats. CCA will receive \$2.5 million over 5 years about \$900,000 will go to Cows and Fish and the rest will be administered by CCA. Fawn Jackson, CCA, suggested developing an oversight committee with the CCA Environment Chair, the ABP Environment Committee Chair, someone from MULTISAR and Cows and Fish.

7. General Information

(a)

8. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events

(a)

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Fenton at 2:25 p.m.