

**ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES FOR THE COW CALF COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY JUNE 12, 2019, 8:30 a.m.,
AT THE DELTA SOUTH HOTEL, EDMONTON, AB**

Present: Tim Smith - *Chair*
Shane Hansen - *Vice Chair, Zone 2*
Keith Chitwood - *Zone 3 (via phone)*
Shawn Freimark - *Zone 4*
Katlyn Benedict - *Zone 5*
Kolton Kasur - *Zone 6*
Martin Clausen - *Zone 7*
Mike Nadeau - *Zone 9*
Jodi Flaig - *@ Large*

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

Carried

Staff: Tom Lynch-Staunton - *Government Rel & Policy*
Rosanne Allen - *Office Administrator*

Guest: Gordon Graves - *Zone 8*

Absent: Kevin Stopanski - *Zone 1*
Emil Dmytriw - *Zone 8*
Kody Traxel - *@ Large*
Brodie Haugan - *BOD representative*

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

1. Adoption of Agenda

(a) Additions and Adoption of Agenda:

Motion by Hanson/Flaig:

“That the agenda be approved as presented.”

Carried

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

(a) Minutes of the March 4, 2019 Conference Call:

Motion by Clausen/Nadeau:

“That the minutes of the March 4, 2019 Cow Calf Council conference call be approved.”

Carried

(b) Matters arising:

3. Financial Report

(a) Financial Statement ending May 31, 2019:

Lynch-Staunton gave the financial update to the council. The council has had no large expenses yet in the new budget year.

Motion by Freimark/Benedict:

4. Discussion Items

(a) New CCC Member Welcome:

Smith introduced the new member from Zone 3, Keith Chitwood. Chitwood joined the meeting via phone.

(b) 2019-2020 Workplan Review:

Lynch-Staunton discussed the status of the work that has been completed or is still being worked on.

(c) Watershed Updates:

Beaver River Watershed: Through government regulations this watershed has become defunct. Efforts were made to speak with the Premiers office but could not get an appointment. Graves is looking for support from the council to speak to the new government about the watersheds and how the watershed boards were set-up.

Oldman Watershed Council: Hansen mentioned that the OWC will have its AGM on June 27th. He will try to attend

DIRECTION: Lynch-Staunton to ask ADMs in Alberta Environment and Alberta Agriculture if they have any plans for watershed groups and if there is funding support available.

DIRECTION: Lynch-Staunton to follow up with Greg Bowie to see if there is an update from the Battle River Watershed

(d) Board, Committee and Association Updates:

(i) Board Update:

The board discussed the Wildfire Working Group activities. Some of the recommendations that the working group made to government include applying best practices to reduce conflict that have been used in SW Alberta and implement them in other areas like the NW region. Graves also spoke about a possible outbreak of Salmonella Dublin in dairy cattle to monitor.

(ii) ABP Research, Audit, Governance Committees:

Governance: Had a meeting on June 10th and did final revisions to the workplace harassment and violence policy. Most of the work had been done via email. Once the policy is approved it will be brought to the delegates at the AGM. Also looking at by-laws for delegate removal.

Research: The committee is still waiting for the funds that the previous government committed to contribute to ABP research

projects. With the new government all funds are frozen until they get sign off from the Minister.

(iii) Safety-Net Subcommittee Update:

Lynch-Staunton was directed to write a letter to AFSC with recommendations for the next suite of AgriStability insurance programs. Lynch-Staunton has sent a briefing note to AFSC which was found in the package. Lynch-Staunton gave a quick update on the changes that were being made to the program based on conversations with Ken Handford. Because we are past the AFSC yearly planning, some will be worked on in 2020. However, they continue to work on an established benefit program for newly seeded perennial forage acres and will hopefully include the cost of trucking in perennial price options. These changes will still need to go through the corporate approval process which can sometimes take a long time. AFSC will continue to work on our other priorities such as improving the hay program, exploring how to implement a dryland corn heat unit insurance, improving accuracy of moisture deficiency and developing a Feed-need model and advocating the Federal government to change rules that would allow for a feed-need model.

(iv) Ecosystems Working Group:

The working group has been active. The group was asked by government to provide comment on its *Ecosystem Services Policy Framework* document that explores ways to recognize the value of ecosystem services.

Hansen and his family have made a deal with NCC to preserve his land. He explained to the members what that entailed.

The group also reviewed the DU MOU before sending it to the board for approval.

(v) Grasslands Carbon Credit Protocol:

Karen Haugen-Kozyra spoke to the council on carbon credit offsets of grasslands. She gave context to carbon credits offsets from conserved grasslands. Haugen-Kozyra presented a two-year pilot project that would test the carbon offset protocol and develop the framework for extension across the prairies. The land must have been in grasslands for a minimum of 10 years. Lynch-Staunton will share a 2-page summary of the pilot project to the Council in case anyone wants to participate in the project.

(vi) CCC Extension:

Have not done anything yet. Nothing is planned at this time, however if government continues to plan the Cow Calfenomics workshops, this committee can help advise on content and logistics.

(vii) Cull Cow Working Group:

Lynch-Staunton has started exploring options that the group can discuss and bring forward to the government. He will prepare a draft document outlining some proposed recommendations for the committee to consider.

AFAC is hosting a roundtable dealing with compromised cows. Flaig sits on the AFAC advisory council through her role with Alberta Milk and will provide some feedback.

(viii) Cows and Fish Board:

Emil Dmytriw is the ABP board member. They have been redoing their strategic plan to focus more on what they do well. UCP have promised to up their government funding to Cows and Fish. Lynch-Staunton has been working with C&F and the government to make this happen.

(ix) Drought and Excess Moisture Advisory Group (DEMAG):

Have not met since last year but have reached out to ABP to get our next designate. Dmytriw is our designate though Dick Wymenga is still on the board. This group will be making recommendations to the government on disaster recovery if the drought continues in some areas.

(x) Endangered Species Conservation Committee Update:

Have received an update of species on the threatened or endangered species list. Update on the state of the prairie project and from MultiSAR. Waiting for updates on recovery plans for endangered species and on the bison.

(xi) Wildlife Working Group Update:

Last meeting was a conference call on May 6th. LS compiled a document on suggestions. The government has not yet committed to the pilot project, but it seems positive. LS is looking at this fall or next spring to get the project started.

Miistakis workshop is June 25th and the Wildlife Working Group is invited. Hansen would like to invite Angela Morehouse to attend as well.

(xii) DU/NCC Discussions:

The MOU has been approved by the board and signed by Rich and we will probably follow up with a press release. LS is part of a group working with NCC to make their program more user friendly. Also looking at succession planning program with young ranchers and partner with ranchers when they are interested in purchasing a property.

DIRECTION: Smith asked Lynch-Staunton to see if NCC would share information on how much land they have put easements on or purchased.

(xiii) Alberta Forage Industry Network (AFIN):

Benedict attended the AGM in March and is now a member of the board. Reviewed position on genetically modified alfalfa. Still not allowed into western Canada. Would like support from ABP that there is a feed shortage and there are no more reserves. LS will work with Laverdure and Benedict to draft something for their newsletter.

(xiv) Alberta Farm Animal Care Conference (AFAC):

Flaig attended the conference and felt it was good. Covered wildfires and actions for dealing with animals in distress during fires or disasters such as a rollover.

(xv) North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP):

New coordinator and Lynch-Staunton will be meeting June 13th in Leduc

(xvi) Upcoming Events:

Grasslands Conservation Markets Symposium, November 19 & 20, 2019, Calgary, AB. More to come.

5. In Camera

6. Reading Material

(a) Cow Calf Council Committee Participation List 2019:

7. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events

8. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned on a motion by Hanson at 11:45 a.m.