

**ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
AGENDA FOR THE COW CALF COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY JANUARY 30, 2018, 8:00 a.m.
IN THE ABP BOARD ROOM, CALGARY, AB**

Present: Tim Smith - *Chair*
Shane Hansen - *Zone 2*
Kevin Krebs - *Zone 3*
Walt Suntjens - *Zone 4*
Devon Sengaus - *Zone 5*
Martin Clausen - *Zone 7*
Linda Messner - *Zone 9*
Heinz Lemmer - *at Large*
Mike Nadeau - *at Large*
Assar Grinde - *Board rep*

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

Absent: Kevin Stopanski - *Zone 1*
Kolton Kasur - *Zone 6*
Blair Anderson - *Zone 8*

Guests: Danah Duke - *Miistakis*

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda 8:00 a.m.

Additions: 4(h) Caribou testing:

Motion by Suntjens/Hansen:

“That the agenda be approved with additions.”

Carried

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

(a) Minutes of the October 3, 2017 meeting:

Motion by Suntjens/Hansen:

“That the minutes of the October 3, 2017 Cow Calf Council meeting be approved as presented.”

Carried

(b) Minutes of the December 4, 2017 meeting:

Motion by Grinde/Clausen:

“That the minutes of the December 4, 2017 Cow Calf Council meeting be approved as presented.”

Carried

(c) Matters arising:

No matters arising from the council.

3. Financial Report

(a) Financial Statement ending December 31, 2017:

Financials are reported as projects, but the statements do not break it down by projects. The statement is organized by budgets but does not show which project the money is going to.

Motion by Suntjens/Messner:

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

Carried

4. Decision Items

(a) CCC Terms of Reference:

The Council developed the Terms of Reference last year when the Environment and Wildlife Committees were integrated into the Council. Hays added the Terms for the members information and asked that they let him know if they had any questions or concerns.

Hays also added information on future direction for the Council’s Terms of Reference. There is also a criterion to determine priority issues in order to help keep the Council focused on what is important.

(b) Oldman River financial request:

The Oldman River Watershed has made a request for funding to help with their legacy program. The program is aimed at highlighting agricultural producers who are restoring their riparian areas. The watershed is looking for \$10,000 from ABP towards the legacy project.

Motion by Suntjens/Grinde:

“That the CCC fund the Oldman River Legacy Program up to \$5000.”

Carried

(c) Membership to Committees, Working Groups and Associations:

i. Watersheds:

The council discussed the representatives who are currently sitting on the various watersheds that ABP is a member of agreeing that they could remain if they are still interested but they need to submit reports to the council.

DIRECTION: Hays to review the watershed members at the next meeting and approve any new members that are found for the Bow River Watershed and the Milk River Watershed.

ii. Safety-Net Subcommittee:

Carried

Do we want to continue with this committee and if so who do we want to represent the council on the committee? The members mostly deal with AFSC and with the new funding program coming out it may become more active again.

Smith would like to continue being on the sub-committee, Grinde agreed to continue being on if Brodie Haugan couldn't do it. Gordon Graves is also interested in staying on. Hansen is also interested in becoming a part of the sub-committee. Hays will contact Haugan to determine his interest.

iii. Ecosystems Working Group:

This working group was struck last year, and they developed a list of ecosystem services available in Alberta. Lemmer, Smith, Grinde and Suntjens are currently members of the working group. Lemmer and Suntjens expressed interest in staying on the working group. The list of services needs to be promoted as much as possible and get it out to the producers. Grinde agreed to stay on as well. Smith asked the members to ask the delegates in their zones to see if anyone else is interested in taking part.

iv. Cows & Fish:

Peggy Strankman, Garth Johnson and Devon Sengaus are our representatives. Strankman has been our representative for number of years and has agreed to stay on until the end of June. Johnson has said that he would like to stay on but has been having trouble getting there. Sengaus was asked if he would be interested in staying on and, if so, would he be interested in being the next chair. Johnson has been the ABP representative and Sengaus has been the alternate.

Smith suggested that Sengaus become the rep and Johnson the alternate. Sengaus would like to stay but is not familiar enough with the organization to become the chair.

Motion by Grinde/Messner:

“That the CCC approve the appointment of Devon Sengaus as their representative at Cows & Fish with Garth Johnson as the alternate.”

Carried

v. Drought and Excess Moisture Advisory Group (DEMAG):

Dick Wymenga is the current representative with Messner as the alternate. The council agreed for Wymenga to stay but ask that he submit reports to the council.

Motion by Grinde/Lemmer:

“That the CCC approve the appointment of Dick Wymenga as their representative on the Drought and Excess Moisture Advisory Group with Linda Messner as the alternate.”

vi. Endangered Species Conservation Committee (ESCC):

Grinde nominated Gordon Graves

Hansen nominated Walt Suntjens

Gordon Graves was elected as the CCC representative on the Endangered Species Conservation Committee and Suntjens agreed to act as the alternate.

vii. AEPA Water Working Group:

Greg Bowie has been the CCC representative on the working group and expressed interest in remaining. The Council agreed, and Hays will ask Bowie to submit reports to the Council.

viii. Wildlife Predator and Shot Livestock Committee:

Set up by government of Alberta to deal with issues that come up wildlife predation or shot livestock. Dick Wymenga will continue as the CCC representative.

ix. Alberta Forage Industry Network (AFIN):

x. Problem Wildlife Working Group:

This came out of the ABP Wildlife Forum that took place in 2016 through the Wildlife Working Group. The Working Group would be an industry-GOA collaboration to address problem areas and issues for predators, ungulates and birds. The WG would need to provide solutions to be able to move ahead with this file. Fish and Wildlife Policy Branch is requesting funding for this group from the Minister of Environment and Parks. Shane Hansen and Mike Nadeau agreed to be ABP's representatives.

xi. Other Working Groups to be considered:

No discussion on this topic

(d) Enhanced Stockman's Course Steering Committee – Karen Raven:

Karen Raven is with Alberta Agriculture and has been involved with the Enhanced Stockmen's Course. This was first developed by Cows and Fish. Looking at ways to resurrect this course and the first step is putting together a steering committee. She is looking for a few ranchers or stakeholders to sit on the steering committee to help determine if this is a viable course.

Assar Grinde and Martin Clausen are interested in taking part on the committee. Allen will send an email to Raven with their names and contact information.

(e) AFAC Conference attendee:

Will be held in Olds. ABP will pay for registration and hotel but not per diem. Heinz Lemmer and Kevin Krebs.

Allen will register them for the conference and book a hotel room for Lemmer.

(f) ABP AGM resolutions:

1. Motion by Grinde/Krebs:

“Be it resolved that ABP promote environmental reuse of Ag Plastic and promote the awareness of its increasing danger to livestock and encourage research on a solution.”

Zone 2

Carried

2. Motion by Grinde/Messner:

“Be it resolved that ABP in an effort to support our ranchers in areas affected and experiencing issues with wolves, that ABP hold workshops to assist those producers in wolf management. Topics could include experiences with wolf management and education, marksmanship, trapping education and explanations of tools available for use in the control of wolves.”

Zone 5

Carried

Mark Heckbert, Fish & Wildlife, spoke with the council on the various programs and controls that have been used to address the growing wolves issue in Alberta. Many producers are looking for more options dealing with wolves than just control. The current number is 4,000 wolves for Alberta with very few packs with collared wolves. One option that has been discussed is a multiplier application for wildlife kills. Any program needs to apply province wide. If the council sees value in stakeholder meetings on protection against wildlife Heckbert suggested ABP organize it and bring the government on board to assist. Manning, Rocky. Grinde suggested that we speak to the Zone Directors and if they have a problem then have them get in contact with Mark Heckbert.

3. Motion by Messner/Suntjens:

“Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Alberta government for protection against prosecution for producers or their paid workers in the event of a predator attack of the livestock they protect including but not limited to protected species. If an injury or kill has occurred and the initial incident has been reported and a case file opened with Alberta Environment and Parks.”

Zone 9

Defeated

There was a lot of support for this until it was pointed out that there were no parameters on the time limit for the. We would like the procedure and intent to be more defined.

4. Motion by Messner/Grinde:

“Be it resolved that ABP lobby the provincial government that: i) suspects of alleged illegal actions shouldn't have to wait more than 2 months to know if they will be charged with regards to a possible infraction dealing with wildlife; and ii) Fish & Wildlife officers should be made to deal with the removal of the predator(s) at the time of the original investigation.”

Zone 9

Defeated

It is understood that the Alberta government has up to two years to bring forward charges. The council felt this was an unacceptable length of time for someone to have to wait to find out.

(g) VBP+ follow-up:

Melissa Downey spoke to the Council about the VBP+ program and the increased number of producers who are now being trained in the program. There are still many producers who are not in the program or don't know about it. There was some assistance with funding under GF3 but they are not sure there will be any under the new CAP program. It costs \$680 for an audit with an 8-year auditing cycle. The council needs to recommend to the Board that the government's new Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) program provide producers assistance with the auditing fee to make it viable.

VBP+ has begun working on all the modules that would make the program work. Virgil Lowe spoke to the council about the program and the pilot project that is currently underway before answering questions from the members.

Two paths: i) hitting the 6% of consumer who will buy verified sustainable beef. ii) improve the confidence in all Canadian beef.

(h) Budget 2018-2019:

The council discussed the budget for the next fiscal year. Last year we had a budget of \$53,000.

Motion by Suntjens/Grinde:

“That the CCC fund the Miistakis ‘Practitioners Workshop Managing Human and Wildlife Coexistence on Agricultural Lands’ up to \$10,000.”

Carried

Increase meeting expenses to \$28,000. Support Oldman River Watershed \$5,000. Take Dean Dyke \$2,750 funds from this year's budget forward to next year. Miistakis project provide \$10,000 from this year's budget and look at another \$10,000 added to next year's budget (to be reviewed).

Hays will prepare a budget under the ABP format for presentation at the next Board meeting.

Motion by Suntjens/Hansen:

“That the CCC accept the proposed 2018-2019 budget with changes as discussed.”

Carried

(i) Caribou issue:

Gordon Graves, Zone 8 delegate, spoke to the council about the problems arising from the increase in the caribou population. There is concern that the caribou has not been tested for TB or Brucellosis. Graves would like to see testing done on caribou. There is no efficient means to test the caribou without causing it distress. Graves recommended a request should go to Alberta Agriculture & Forestry and Alberta Environment & Parks to have them test the caribou for brucellosis and TB.

DIRECTION: for Hays to get in touch with Alberta Fish & Wildlife to discuss monitoring the caribou.

5. In Camera

6. Discussion Items

(a) Biosecurity – Dr. Karin Orsel:

Dr. Karin Orsel, UCVM, spoke to the council about foot and mouth disease (FMD) and disease transmission. Dr. Orsel discussed the hazards Alberta and Canada face if FMD were to happen here. Biosecurity is about everything that producers can do to stop the transmission of infectious disease. In short, in Dr. Orsel’s opinion, producers and the industry are not presently prepared to deal with a disease outbreak such as FMD. There is an expectation that the Governments of Canada and Alberta have things in control!

(b) Succession Planning – John Peske:

John Peske spoke to the council on transitioning his ranch. Peske’s family was not interested in returning to the farm to continue with the business. In 1992 he met with a family friend who expressed interest in going into farming. It was 2009 before they could agree on a partnership. If your succession plan is between you and someone outside the family, you need to be able to trust them, but you still need to talk to a lawyer so that everyone is working from the same plan and so that everybody is protected. It is not enough to go to a seminar about this; a formal transitioning plan needs to be in place.

(c) Miistakis Coexisting with Workshop Program – Tracy Lee:

Tracy Lee and Danah Duke discussed the workshop program dealing with Coexisting with Wildlife to the council.

They asked if ABP is interested in being a part of the program, in principle and financially, and whether they would be able to have council members sit on the steering committee. They will submit a proposed budget to Fred Hays. Shane Hansen and Mike Nadeau indicated they would serve on a program committee.

(d) AFSC update – Ken Handford, Stu Mckie:

Ken Hanford and Stuart McKie spoke to the council members about the experience they had with the forage insurance program, update on the safety net program and an update on the feed need program. Hanford gave a brief background on the feed need program before giving a more updated report. Information was also provided about the current Western Canadian Livestock Price Insurance program results.

(e) Board, Committee and Association Reports:

The meeting ran out of time and no reports were presented. These would be sent to the members.

7. Next Meeting

As required.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Messner at 5:15 p.m.