

ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
AGENDA FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MONDAY DECEMBER 4, 2017, 8:30 a.m.
AT THE SHERATON CAVALIER HOTEL, CALGARY, AB

Present: Bob Lowe - *Chair*
Roland Cailliau - *Vice Chair*
Kelly Fraser - *Finance, Zone 5*
Howard Bekkering - *Zone 1*
Fred Lozeman - *Zone 2*
Chris Israelson - *Zone 3*
Tim Smith - *Zone 4*
Tim Sekura - *Zone 6*
Colin Campbell - *Zone 7*
John MacArthur - *Zone 9*
Brad Osadczuk - *At Large*
Garth Porteous - *At Large*
Ken Stanley - *At Large*

Staff: Rich Smith - *Executive Director*
Rosanne Allen - *Executive Assistant*
Fred Hays - *Policy Analyst*
Laura Procnier - *Controller*

Guests: Cecilie Fleming - *AGM Chair*
Ryan Beierbach - *SCA*
Sheila Hillmer - *Zone 2*
Heinz Lemmer - *Zone 3*
Cecil Andersen

Absent: George L'Heureux - *Zone 8*
Penny Patton - *CCC Chair*
Bryan Thiessen - *CFC Chair*

The chair called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda

(a) Additions and Adoption of Agenda:

Additions: 6(h) Zone 7 Delegate Appointment; 8(e) Rural Crime; 8(f) Evacuation Entry Working Group;

Motion by Porteous/Osadczuk:

“That the agenda be approved with changes.”

Carried

2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

(a) Minutes of the November 16, 2017 meeting:

Motion by Bekkering/Lozeman:

“That the minutes of the November 16, 2017 Board of Directors meetings be approved.”

Carried

3. Financial Report

(a) Financial Statement ending November 30, 2017:

Fraser presented the financial statement to the Board, we are two-thirds of the way through our fiscal year and have spent 62% of the budget. In key areas we have spent 109% of the seasonal expenses due to our increase in funding to ABQSH. There is a large difference in the year to year marketings due to the early cut off for the statement.

Motion by Fraser/Osadczuk:

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

Carried

4. Policy and Governance Issues

(a) Executive Director evaluation:

R. Smith has been working with Maggie Kiel from MNP to develop an evaluation for the Executive Director. The first task they have discussed is creating a self assessment and a staff assessment and then an assessment for the current board to fill out.

5. Council and Committee Reports

(a) Cow Calf Council:

There has not been a meeting, but Hays has completed compiling an Ecosystem Services Program list for across Alberta which has been added to the Board package. T. Smith suggested that before the election for Cow Calf Council Members at Large someone give a more complete picture on what the Council does.

(b) Cattle Feeder Council:

Nothing to report

(c) Research Committee:

Nothing to report

6. Decision Items

(a) Selection of nominating committee:

Normally we ask people who will be leaving the board to be on the committee. Bob Lowe and Howard Bekkering will not be running for directors in the election and have agreed to be the nominating committee.

Motion by Stanley/Porteous:

“That Bob Lowe and Howard Bekkering are approved as the Nominating Committee for the Board of Directors.”

Carried

(b) Selection of zone election ballot counters:

In the past Laura Procnier and Rich Smith have been ballot counters. If the Board agrees we need a motion for them to do so again this year.

Motion by Porteous/Sekura:

“That Laura Procnier and Rich Smith be approved as ballot counters.”

Carried

(c) Review of AGM agenda, elections, and resolutions:

R. Smith highlighted areas of the agenda and the need for a resolution from the AGM for a plebiscite, after an agreement with ACFA and Terms of Reference for the Alberta Beef Industry Development Fund are completed. We also need action on the Grazing Lease Framework and need a resolution to finish the process.

Motion by Israelson/Lozeman:

“Based on an agreement between ABP and the Alberta Cattle Feeders Association on allocation of funding and approved Terms of Reference for the Alberta Beef Industry Development Fund,

“Be it resolved that ABP submit a formal request to the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council for a plebiscite on a non-refundable service charge model for the Commission.”

Carried

This resolution will be placed in the resolutions as 4(a) and be designated as a Board resolution.

Motion by Cailliau/T. Smith:

“Be it resolved that ABP supports the Framework for Grazing Lease Rental Rates and assignment fees that was outlined in the letter sent to public land grazing leaseholders this fall.”

Carried

This resolution will be placed in the resolutions as 10(a) and be designated as a Board resolution.

(d) Review and input on CCA priorities:

In the package were three documents detailing the priorities that CCA prepared for the board. The last document goes through nine priorities and a breakdown of how each priority is funded. There are asking for feedback from ABP before their Executive meets in two weeks. The Board generally accepted the priorities and funding as outlined by CCA and appreciated receiving the information.

(e) Strengthening Investment in R&D:

The directors were presented with the document from the implementation committee and they are asking for a letter of support. There were some concerns raised about some of the statements particularly the research area. ABP had also raised an issue with the reference to the Australian Livestock and Meat Agency which has since been removed. The government has undertaken a review of their research priorities. If the Board approves the document Lowe will take it to Bev Yee with the signatures of all of the organizations who have supported it.

Motion by MacArthur/Stanley:

“That the ABP Board of Directors approved the ‘Strategic Statement on Investment in Research and Development from Alberta’s Livestock and Poultry Producers’.”

Carried

(f) Ecosystems Services Working Group Document:

Fred Hays has created a document showing all of the Ecosystem Services available in Alberta. Hays would like this to become a living document in which the information is kept current and available to producers. Once the board approves the document Laverdure can put it on our website.

Motion by T. Smith/Osadcuk:

“That ABP approved the document ‘Ecosystems Services Programs in Alberta’ for distribution with the changes discussed.”

Carried

(g) Montana Stock Growers Association Convention:

Their convention is December 13th and 14th in Billings, typically we have not sent anyone there but if anyone is interested to go they can go as an ABP representative.

(h) Zone 7 Delegate Approval:

After the fall meetings Martin Clausen came forward saying he was interested in attending. He did attend the New Delegate Orientation

Motion by Campbell/Israelson:

“That the ABP Board of Directors approve the appointment of Martin Clausen as delegate for a two-year term.”

Carried

Zone 9 has a delegate that has not taken part in any of the zone activities in over a year. There is a process to remove delegates, but the easiest way is to ask him if he will resign.

7. In Camera

8. Discussion Items

(a) Report on ACFA meeting:

R. Smith spoke about the agreement and the Terms of Reference for the Beef Industry Development Fund. They hope to have an agreement with ACFA before their next board meeting. It was a productive and positive meeting. Going forward it will be interesting to see who takes part in the working group developing the Terms of Reference. Timelines are tight, so we need to get everything in order, so Marketing Council can move forward with the plebiscite.

(b) Report on Check-Off Agency meeting:

Lowe and Cailliau met with Heinz Reimer and Linda Allison and discussed the letter that ABP sent regarding the changes in ABP's allotment. There will be a meeting tonight with them, Melinda German and Adrienne Waller, Legal Counsel. Talked about removing the Check-off Committee and the current board becoming the Check-off Agency. There was some confusion on the structure of the Agency. The Directors discussed whether we hold firm that all of the members on the Marketing Division be elected by the delegates at the AGM.

(c) ABQSH update:

Cecilie Fleming provided a written update for the directors and briefly spoke to some of the information in the report. The funding crisis did bring them to a reality that ABQSH needs to become sustainable. There should be a balance between producer funding and government funding going forward. Fleming was elected Chair again and was confirmed as ABP representative on their board. 229 operations that are fully registered, 81 operations in the transition phase. There are also many producers in the queue to be audited. Once the Sustainability Acceleration pilot is over, if all the end users ask for verified sustainable beef at the same time ABQSH will not have registered enough operations.

VBP+ will be fully equivalent to CRSB Certified Sustainable, but there needs to be negotiations on some of the points. There needs to be some negotiation on some of the points. Greg Bowie is the representative to the VBP+ National Management Committee. The revamped online training is being launched nationally today.

Producers who are interested in taking part in the program can find information by going to VBP online and following the links that come up.

The acceleration pilot is a chance for retailers to pay up for what they are asking of producers. We as an industry need to recognize that VBP+ is our program and if we believe in what we have we need to become a part of it.

(d) Zone reports:

Zone 1: The Medicine Hat Pen Show will be held on December 15th and 16th.

Zone 2: Nothing to report

Zone 3: Received a call from a tenant at Glenbow Provincial Park about conveying to the public why cattle are in the park and how they are beneficial to the environment.

Zone 4: It was suggested that CFIA go to auction marts the day the cattle are off-loaded rather than the day they are sold in order to more effectively determine whether a steer should be sold at auction.

Zone 5: Nothing to report

Zone 6: Nothing to report

Zone 7: Nothing to report

Zone 8: Nothing to report

Zone 9: A fund has been set up for legal fees and can be sent directly to the rangeland manager.

(e) Rural Crime:

Last week a group organized out of the Red Deer area went up to Edmonton to talk about rural crime. Fraser wanted to bring it forward to ask if there was something the ABP can do to give them support. Rural crime has become an epidemic and there is a very real concern that this could escalate. The RCMP is federal with some provincial funding, but there is no clear course for the government to take. Farmers and ranchers need to communicate in their area about suspicious or unusual activity. It was also suggested that the producer take really good pictures of any objects that can be stolen and if it is put the information on social media such as Facebook.

(f) Evacuation Entry Working Group:

Lowe will be speaking to each zone at their tables to put together a working group on how to get producers entry back to their operations for animal care after an evacuation.

9. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events

- (a) Annual General Meeting – December 4 – 6, 2017. Sheraton Cavalier Hotel, Calgary, AB
- (b) Board of Directors Meeting – December 5, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. Sheraton Cavalier Hotel, Calgary, AB
- (c) Board of Directors Meeting – December 6, 2017 at Noon. Sheraton Cavalier Hotel, Calgary, AB

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Fraser at 11:10 a.m.