

**ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS  
MINUTES FOR THE CATTLE FEEDER COUNCIL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY JUNE 14, 2017, 8:30 A.M.  
AT THE DELTA SOUTH HOTEL, EDMONTON, ALBERTA**

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**Present:** Bryan Thiessen - *Chair, Zone 3*  
Howard Bekkering - *Zone 1*  
Jimmy Nelson - *Zone 2*  
Cecil Andersen - *Zone 6*  
Ken Stanley - *Zone 7*  
George L'Heureux - *Zone 8*  
Tim Sekura - *Board rep*  
Cam McLerie - *At Large*  
Garth Porteous - *At Large*

**Staff:** Rich Smith - *Executive Director*  
(by phone for part of the meeting)

**Absent:** John MacArthur - *Zone 9*  
Jeff Havens - *At Large*

**Guest:** Kolton Kasur - *Zone 6*

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

Carried

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**4. Decision Items**

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(a) Industry Funding and ACFA Discussions:

The council discussed the direction that had been established by the ABP Board of Directors and the ABP delegates at the Semi-AGM. The council members believe that the Cattle Feeder Council must be maintained even if an agreement is reached with ACFA on industry funding. If there is an agreement, the CFC could have an ACFA representative sit on the council.

Motion by Stanley/L'Heureux:

**“That an agreement in principle with the Alberta Cattle Feeders Association needs to be in place by fall or ABP needs to move on with the industry funding issue.”**

Carried

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

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**1. Adoption of Agenda**

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(a) Adoption of agenda:

Additions: 4(g) BCRC Representative; 6(d) Processor Updates;

Motion by Porteous/Sekura:

**“That the agenda be approved with changes.”**

Carried

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**2. Approval of Minutes**

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(a) Minutes of the February 21, 2017 meeting:

Motion by Anderson/L'Heureux:

**“That the minutes of the February 21, 2017 Cattle Feeder Council meeting be accepted.”**

Carried

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**3. Financial Statement**

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(a) Financial Statements ending May 31, 2017:

The council has a budget of \$15,000 for program expenditures. Of this amount, \$9,000 is set aside for the Intensive Livestock Working Group (ILWG) Executive Director and \$6,000 was approved for a carbon levy project through the ILWG.

Motion by Bekkering/Porteous:

(b) Fed Cattle Price Reporting Alternatives:

The meeting package included a report from the CCA Price Reporting Task Force and a fed cattle price reporting survey that Brenna Grant is asking cattle feeders across Canada to complete.

(c) Municipal Taxation and Infrastructure Levies:

The court challenge against the Lethbridge County business tax on Confined Feeding Operations (CFOs) was not successful, but the group who brought the legal action are appealing the decision. ABP has joined ACFA in opposing the Lethbridge business tax and encouraging the provincial government to find a more reasonable solution to the issue of infrastructure deficits by updating and improving the system for assessment and taxation of agriculture land and agricultural operations.

There was direction from the CFC that ABP should send a letter to the Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture and Forestry in support of fixing the Municipal Government Act to fairly and properly assess CFOs.

(d) AgCoalition and Labour Codes:

The Government of Alberta introduced Bill 17, the *Fair and Family-friendly Workplaces Act*, on May 24, 2017. This bill includes a number of wide-ranging provisions designed to make changes to Alberta's employment standards and labour codes, including provisions that give farm and ranch workers the right to form a union. The AgCoalition issued a news release expressing concerns over the introduction of

Bill 17. The AgCoalition believes that this bill has the potential to seriously disrupt the agriculture sector's unique culture of cooperation and family-style relationships between employees and employers. The introduction of the bill also undermines the consultation process that was established for Bill 6 and still has not been completed.

The CFC questioned the status of the reports from the OH&S working groups under Bill 6 and the position of the AgCoalition on these reports. There was direction that ABP should send a letter to the Ministers of Labour and Agriculture and Forestry expressing our concerns with Bill 17 and put the letter in our weekly update and on our website.

(e) VBP+ and Feedlot Animal Care Assessment (FLAT):

Thiessen provided an update on the current state of development of VBP+ and application of the FLAT tool.

(f) Transport Regulations Working Group:

The CFC wondered what happened when CCA appeared before the House of Commons Agriculture Committee in April. There was nothing to report beyond the comments provided by Reynold Bergen at the Semi-AGM. The CFIA is analysing the extensive comments received during the Canada Gazette 1 process.

The council expressed the view that a working group should have been convened before ABP submitted comments, not after the comments had been submitted. This process needs to be corrected in the future.

(g) BCRC Representative:

The CFC is entitled to appoint one of ABP's four representatives on the Beef Cattle Research Council. Bryan Thiessen is currently the CFC representative and is the Chair of the BCRC.

Motion by Stanley/Sekura:

**“That Bryan Thiessen represent the CFC on the Beef Cattle Research Council.”**

Carried

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## 5. In Camera

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## 6. Discussion Items:

(a) Impact of Carbon Levy Projects:

The ILWG submitted a proposal to Alberta Agriculture and Forestry for funding of a study on the impact of the carbon levy on agricultural operations. We were proposing a 50/50 match with 50% of the funding from industry and the rest from government. BCRC is supporting a Canfax study looking at the national implications of carbon pricing. Smith reported that we were hoping to connect the ILWG project with the Canfax project, but the Alberta government is not willing to provide funding for the project.

(b) Winter Manure Management:

Stanley provided an update on the Winter Manure Management project. The project continues, but he expressed concern because he did not think any samples were taken from his land this year. There were questions about the status of the project with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.

(c) NRCB Appointment:

Page Stuart, former Chair of ACFA, has been appointed as a member of the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB).

(d) Processor Updates:

The CFC had a discussion about the status of JBS and the investigation into the Batista brothers.

There also was a discussion about the current operations at Harmony Beef. The council heard that the plant is processing around 300 head per day.

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## 7. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events

(a) A meeting is proposed for the fall on a date to be determined:

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## 8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Porteous at 11:45 a.m.