

ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 15, 2020
AT THE ABP BOARD ROOM, CALGARY, AB

Present: Kelly Smith-Fraser - *Chair*
Melanie Wowk - *Vice Chair*
Brad Osadczuk - *Finance Chair/Zone 1*
Darren Bevans - *Zone 2*
Jim Bowhay - *Zone 3*
Shawn Freimark - *Zone 4*
Assar Grinde - *Zone 6*
Colin Campbell - *Zone 7*
Emil Dmytriw - *Zone 8*
Mike Nadeau - *Zone 9*
Brodie Haugan - *Director at Large*
Kolton Kasur - *Director at Large*
Fred Lozeman - *Director at Large*
Jason Hale - *CCC*
Chris Israelson - *CFC*
Charlie Christie - *Past Chair*

Staff: Rich Smith - *Executive Director*
Rosanne Allen - *Office Administrator*
Laura Procunier - *Controller*
Karin Schmid - *Research & Beef*
Brad Dubeau - *Marketing & Education*
Katelyn Laverdure - *Communications*
Tom Lynch-Staunton - *Government Relations*

Absent: Cathy Sharp - *Zone 5*

Guest: John Buckley - *Producer*

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

1. Adoption of Agenda

(a) Additions and Adoption of Agenda:

Additions: No additions or changes

Motion by Bowhay/Bevans:

“That the agenda be approved as presented.”

Carried

2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

(a) Minutes of the December 2, December 3, and December 4, 2019 meetings:

Motion by Campbell/Haugan:

“That the minutes of the December 2, 2019, December 3, 2019 and December 4, 2019 Board of Directors meeting be approved as presented.”

Carried

(b) Minutes of the December 20, 2019 conference call:

Motion by Dmytriw/Grinde:

“That the minutes of the December 20, 2019 Board of Directors conference call be approved as presented.”

Carried

3. Financial Report

(a) Financial Statement ending December 31, 2019:

We are at 75% through the fiscal year and are on track with the budget. Staff have begun to receive refund requests. The Executive explained the changes to the refund forms and the reasoning behind it to the new directors. The directors also discussed the CCA assessment and the motion the Board carried to pay only from retained funds.

Motion by Osadczuk/Israelson:

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

Carried

4. Staff Report, Policy and Governance

(a) Review of Board of Directors binder:

Smith briefly spoke about the Governance Excellence Model and the role of the board in relation to the producers (owners) that we are responsible to.

(b) Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy:

Part of the Director’s information package is the document explaining the policy for a Directors conduct and required actions if he/she faces a conflict of interest. Each director was asked to read the policy and sign the acknowledgment sheet.

5. Council and Committee Reports

(a) Cow Calf Council:

The council met on January 14th to discuss the budget for the next fiscal year; they filled the open positions in the outside organizations that they participated in; worked on the Terms of Reference; heard updates from working groups and subcommittees. Discussed having a current board member to sit on the Operational Grazing Lease Committee.

(b) Cattle Feeder Council:

No meeting since the AGM. The government is moving forward with a temporary exemption for spreading manure on frozen or snow-covered ground, but we still need a long-term

plan. Discussion about transport and liner clean out. The council will meet sometime the beginning of March. Smith spoke of the competitiveness study and regulatory issues; about municipality plans and the exclusion zones that are being developed; Lethbridge County business tax that confined feeding operations are being assessed.

(c) Research Committee:

The committee met on January 10th and the main business was to review proposals for final approval. There was a subset of about 15 projects on feed and forage that the committee for funding using money the government provided. The committee will fund 5 projects from the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) funds, and the remaining will be funded in partnership with BCRC. The current Research Committee will be disbanded and will be repopulated and meet to discuss new research in the next couple of weeks.

BCRC will be meeting on January 28th to make their research decisions.

Schmid asked the directors to talk with their delegates to see who would be interested in sitting on the committee.

6. Decision Items

(a) Regulation and By-law Amendments:

Smith has begun to look at amendments that will need to be made to the Regulations and By-Laws to fulfill the resolutions that were passed at the AGM. The Commission Regulation just requires a new expiry date. The Plan Regulation will require amendments regarding the size and composition of the Board of Directors and the zone boundaries. The major amendments will be in the By-laws and these will cover director elections, delegate numbers, director term limits, and elimination of the councils. The Board agreed to add a process in the By-laws for the Board to remove a delegate in exceptional circumstances. The regulation and by-law amendments will need approval of the delegates at a general meeting and we would like them in place by the end of June. The Board discussed transition issues, filling director vacancies, and the Executive terms of office.

(b) Semi-AGM and Fall Meeting plans:

ABP cannot go more than 12 months without a general meeting and our next AGM is not for another 15 months. We need a general meeting of delegates to approve changes to the Plan Regulation and By-Laws. The delegates also need to determine whether they will continue to have a Semi-AGM. Discussion on when to hold fall meetings will need to be held as well.

The Semi would be a one-day meeting with a short Board meeting the morning of the Semi. Tuesday June 9th at the Delta South in Edmonton has been reserved.

If we continue to have a Semi-Annual meeting, do we make it a one-day business meeting? Directors were asked to go back to their zones and talk to their delegates about the Semi and what it should look like.

(c) Service Charge refunds and CCA assessment:

ABP has received its assessment for the next CCA fiscal year. CCA uses marketing information from the Agency that is based on marketings from 2018. Based on those marketing numbers, ABP is being assessed \$1,797,000.

(d) Farmer-led research consultations:

A notice was sent to all of the delegates about the consultations along with key messages. Delegate are encouraged to sign up for the consultations in their area. We are sending Christie and Smith to an All Board and Commissions meeting on research.

Lozeman briefed the directors on the meeting he attended at the University of Lethbridge.

(e) Simpson Centre Announcement:

ABP made the decision to provide funding and we have received an invitation to attend the official launch on February 7th at the downtown campus beginning at 7:30 a.m. Schmid will be going, and we would like a Director if to attend as well. Lozeman will attend.

(f) Surface access payments:

This discussion was based on activity from the Action Surface Rights Group, led by Daryl Bennett. There are concerns about the government stepping in on contracts between oil companies and landowners and leaseholders. The Minister of Red Tape Reduction is believed to be in support of reducing compensation from oil and gas industry. It is estimated that it will cost \$100 billion to clean up orphaned or abandoned wells in Alberta. Municipalities are owed over \$150 million in unpaid taxes from oil companies and have no ability to get the funds. Banks will no longer give mortgages for land that has environmental liabilities.

It was suggested that we start a working group to stay in touch with the Action group. Haugan, Osadczuk and Hale will sit on the group. If there is anyone in the northern zones who is interested, they should pass their name along to the working group.

This issue will impact landowners and producers in a number of ways, from a producer's ability to determine what happens on their land to affecting land real estate values.

(g) Audit Committee chair:

The Audit Committee is made up from a CCC member a CFC member, a BOD member and an independent member chosen by the committee. The Committee has selected Howard Bekkering as its non-delegate member. The Chair is appointed by the BOD.

Motion by Grinde/Campbell:

“That the ABP Board of Directors appoint George L’Heureux to be the Audit Committee Chair.”

Carried

(h) Governance Committee chair:

The Governance Committee is also made up with a member from each Council and one from the BOD. The Committee selected Howard Bekkering as their non-delegate member.

Motion by Lozeman/Israelson:

“That the ABP Board of Directors appoint Howard Bekkering as the Governance Committee Chair.”

Carried

(i) AGM resolutions:

The AGM resolutions have already been carried and as a board the directors need to determine how they are handled. Most of the resolutions are already being addressed.

The resolutions relating to the Regulatory Review are already being dealt with by Smith.

The resolutions from the fall meetings that were sent to the AGM for discussion and carried by the delegates are already being addressed by staff. More detailed information will be sent to the original movers of the resolutions.

(j) Board of Directors resolutions:

1. Motion by Grinde/Campbell:

“Be it resolved that with the lifting of the 30-month regulation with Japan that supplying birthdate information is no longer necessary. The program was never fully complied with and causes more problems than it solves.”

Zone 4

Defeated

The producer who made the motion wants to get rid of the age verification. There are programs where producers need to age verify such as VBP+ or BIXs.

2. Motion by Grinde/Kasur:

“Be it resolved that ABP lobby the government to explore more effective and efficient alternatives to the current Canadian Cattle Identification Agency tags.”

Zone 6

Motion by Campbell/Israelson:

“That the motion be amended to read ‘lobby the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency’ and ‘alternatives to the current tags’.”

Carried

“Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency to explore more effective and efficient alternatives to the current tags.”

Carried

3. Motion by Grinde/Kasur:

“Be it resolved that ABP take out an ad to inform Alberta consumers that A&W is not selling Alberta beef.”

Zone 6

Defeated

There are Alberta producers who sell beef to A&W.

4. Motion by Friemark/seconded:

“Be it resolved that ABP lobby to establish the principle that any extra cattle handling requested by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency be compensated for to the producers affected.”

Zone 4

Carried

5. Motion by Nadeau/Dmitriw:

“Be it resolved that ABP lobby the provincial government to be more progressive with eliminating more bureaucracy in regards with grazing leases, fish and wildlife, eliminate one-third of staff.”

Zone 9

Defeated

6. Motion by Osadczuk/Freimark:

“Be it resolved that ABP will provide a short semi-annual document stating its progress in achieving its goals and objectives to better inform the cattle producers of Alberta.”

Zone 1

Carried

7. Motion by Nadeau/Kasur:

“Be it resolved that all ABP functions have all attendees pay for their own liquor refreshments.”

Zone 9

Carried

8. Motion by Nadeau/Bowhay:

“Be it resolved that the annual report be made available to those producers that request it in paper copy.”

Zone 9

Carried

9. Motion by Nadeau/Osadczuk:

“Be it resolved that ABP sends to all livestock producers in Alberta a ‘hard copy’ of the Annual Report in the post office, less expensive format.”

Zone 9

Defeated

(k) Board meeting dates:

At the last Board meeting there was discussion on setting meetings for the year. April 22nd; May 20th; June 9th; July 22nd; September 2nd; October 14th.

7. In Camera

8. Discussion Items

(a) Grazing leases as Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECM):

Since the AGM there has been no discussion at the government level on OECMs. What does ABP feel about this and where do we place it in our priorities? Is this an option do keep us grazing on public land? The federal government is committed to conservation and protecting biodiversity on 17% of the land and inland water areas in Canada. ABP wants to determine the value of recognizing grazing leases as OECMs to help meet this commitment.

Osadczuk received a call from the chair of the AGLA who was concerned about ABP's stand on OECMs.

(b) ABP-ACFA working group update:

Currently Ken Stanley, Haugan and Fraser-Smith are on the working group. Stanley is no longer a director, Haugan has agreed to remain and Smith-Fraser is looking for two Directors to replace Stanley and herself on the working group. Israelson will sit as CFC chair and Osadczuk will sit for the Board.

A meeting has been scheduled for January 21st for the purpose of identifying next steps in the ABP-ACFA collaboration.

(c) MNP IDP-ICF training sessions:

ABP and ACFA engaged MNP to provide training for producers and advice to our organizations on Intermunicipal Development Plans (IDP) and Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks (IDF). Propose to ACFA that MNP present to both boards on March 4th.

(d) Ottawa Fly In:

Typically, we do two fly-ins in the year. The fly-ins are organized by CCA and the first date available is January 28th. Smith-Fraser, Wowk, Osadczuk and Grinde will be attending. If necessary, we can book a second fly-in in the spring

(e) McDonald's P.L.T. test announcement:

McDonald's has been testing a plant, lettuce and tomato (P.L.T.) sandwich in southwestern Ontario and are now expanding testing in this area. The original pilot was a 12-week trial on operations and the expanded test will be an assessment of consumer demand.

McDonald's has reaffirmed their commitment to Canadian beef and stated they will remain a burger company.

(f) Livestock Care Conference – March 19-20, 2020, Olds:

This is put on by AFAC and they will be having their yearly conference in March in Olds. ABP also sponsors two students to attend the conference and with the sponsorship ABP should receive a free registration. Wowk and Schmid will be attending and anyone else who is interested would be welcome to attend.

(g) ABP conference attendance – ABIC, SBIC, NCBA, MBP, BFO:

The Alberta Beef Industry Conference is held in March. For directors who would like to attend the conference, ABP will cover their registration and hotel, but will not provide a per diem. The Saskatchewan Beef Industry Conference will be held in Saskatoon on January 29th and 30th. Israelson, Lozeman and Schmid will be attending. NCBA will be held in San Antonio from February 5th to 7th. The Executive are scheduled to attend this year. Manitoba Beef Producers meeting is February 6th and 7th in Brandon. Freimark has said he would like to go and will let Allen know once he has confirmed. Beef Farmers of Ontario meet on February 19th and 20th and Smith and Smith-Fraser will attend.

(h) Montana Stock Growers Association meeting:

Hale gave the directors a full report on what he described as a very good meeting. He provided an update on the information sessions that he attended and the issues that face the producers in Montana.

(i) AgSafe AGM:

Christie passed around manuals for farm safety that have been prepared by AgSafe. The Farm Freedom Safety Act has been passed and there are significant changes coming in OH&S. As information changes, producers can add new documents to the binder. Christie attended the first AGM and AgSafe has received a grant from the government to support operations.

(j) Zone Reports:

Zone 1: Will be calling for a delegate meeting in February

Zone 4: Asked about the resolution letters and whether the movers get more information other than carried or defeated.

Zone 6: Will be participating in the Bull Congress again this year.

Zone 7: Will be having a delegate meeting on January 22nd.

9. Reading Materials

(a) Board of Directors Resolutions & Action Items:

(b) Beef Supply at a Glance:

10. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events

(a) Board meeting – March 4, 2020, Cambridge Hotel, Red Deer, AB

(b) ABIC – March 4-6, 2020, Cambridge Hotel, Red Deer

- (c) Livestock Care Conference – March 19-20, 2020, Olds
- (d) Board meeting – April 22, 2020, ABP Board Room, Calgary, AB
- (e) Board meeting – May 20, 2020, ABP Board Room, Calgary, AB
- (f) Board meeting – June 9, 2020, Delta South, Edmonton, AB
- (g) Semi-Annual Meeting – June 9, 2020, Delta South, Edmonton, AB
- (h) Board meeting – July 22, 2020, ABP Board Room, Calgary, AB
- (i) Board meeting – September 2, 2020, ABP Board Room, Calgary, AB
- (j) Board meeting – October 14, 2020, ABP Board Room, Calgary, AB

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Lozeman at 3:00 p.m.