

**ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
WILDLIFE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 3, 2019, 8:30 am**

Present: Shane Hansen - *Zone 2*
Mike Nadeau - *Zone 9*
Jodi Flaig - *@ Large*
Jeff Bectell - *Waterton Biosphere*

Staff: Tom Lynch-Staunton - *Gov R & Policy*

1. Discussion Items

(a) Miistakis Workshop Results:

Everyone agreed that the Miistakis Workshop on June 25th in Edmonton was very good, and the meeting summary that was circulated "Path to Co-existence" also captured the comments very well.

The WWG agreed that there were several very good takeaways from the workshop including Fish and Wildlife officers strong support for increasing the number of verifiers and improving the predator compensation program. It was also noted that it was good to hear perspectives of other wildlife groups, and that they seem to be aligned with our thinking.

It was thought we should reach out to the wildlife groups to get them on board with our initiatives.

For potential verifiers we could use local veterinarians, also use photos/videos for verifying. Flaig mentioned there are many unconfirmed kills in their community pasture and predator issues seem to be getting worse. Nadeau mentioned issues are increasing in the NW as well, and more producers are talking about it.

Nadeau mentioned they worked with a landowner in BC who has been verified to confirm kills and said it was excellent. Could also incorporate a training course on how to do a post mortem with photos, like vets do today.

(b) Discussions with Government Update

TLS gave an overview of discussions with government over the summer, after the Miistakis Workshop, on the proposed pilot project. Meetings with Pam Livingston, Chief of Staff to Minister Nixon, and Dean Miller, Special Advisor to Minister Nixon were very positive. They liked our approach that the first goal is to reduce conflict from occurring, followed by proper support when it does occur. Very much like the idea of training additional verifiers.

Many MLAs are talking about increasing predator and wildlife problems, which is elevating the priority to address these issues. This could help support our project.

TLS noted that funding for the pilot could still be an issue since government is focussed on reducing spending.

Also offhand discussions with Nature Conservancy that they may be a partner to help fund the project.

Bectell mentioned he will be meeting with MLA Roger Reid, and this will be a top discussion topic.

ABP is having another meeting with Minister Nixon on Sept.24 to primarily discuss the wildlife project and predator problems

(c) Next Steps with Project

All agreed that we need to reach out to hunting groups to address some of the conflict between hunters and landowners (since hunting could help mitigate presence of predators, and hunting license fees pay for predator compensation). Need to work with hunters to keep the good hunters and penalize the bad behaviour.

Flaig noted we should try to work with many different partners. Community groups/associations could have a strong role to play.

Hansen emphasized the need for more in depth discussions with ACA. All agreed this was an important next step.

The group discussed the need for a project coordinator/ group that could take on leading the project in the NW. Nadeau said the Peace Country Beef and Forage Association showed some interest and he and TLS should follow up.

Bectell noted that they are currently trying to extend their government grant funding since they are at the end of their 3yr funding (in 2020), and will try to submit a proposal by December. They were still waiting on their payment for this year.

Hansen posed the question to whether we should push for coyotes to be on the predator list. While the group agreed coyotes should be included in improvements to the predator compensation program, even if it hasn't been a priority.

Direction: Nadeau to organize a conference call with PCBFA and Lynch-Staunton to discuss the pilot project and to see if they will get involved.

(d) In-person Meeting with Government end of September

All agreed we need to keep the momentum going with Alberta Environment and should re-group with government team. Also agreed that we need to include ACA as soon as we can. Suggested we set up a meeting end of Sept or early Oct

Direction: Lynch-Staunton to organize meeting with Travis Ripley for end of Sept or early Oct. Should invite ACA to the meeting.

2. Adjournment

Call ended at 9:45am.

