

ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONFERENCE CALL
FRIDAY DECEMBER 20, 2019, 1:00 p.m.

Present: Kelly Smith-Fraser - *Chair*
Melanie Wowk - *Vice Chair*
Brad Osadcuk - *Finance Chair/Zone 1*
Darren Bevans - *Zone 2*
Jim Bowhay - *Zone 3*
Shawn Friemark - *Zone 4*
Cathy Sharp - *Zone 5*
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*

When the call reached quorum, the Chair called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

1. Simpson Centre for Agricultural and Food Innovation and Public Education

The primary purpose of the conference call was for the ABP Board of Directors to consider funding for the Simpson Centre at the University of Calgary. The Simpson Centre is a redirection of funding from the Simpson family that was originally supporting the Simpson Chair in Beef Health and Welfare at the University of Calgary Veterinary Medicine school. Now, the funding endowment will be directed toward the Simpson Centre which will conduct targeted and timely exploration of issues related to food and agriculture and provide fact-based information to various policy makers and the public.

In advance of the conference call, the directors had received the most recent proposal for the Simpson Centre that ABP had received from the University of Calgary, along with two documents containing answers to questions about the proposal that were raised by PSE and ABP after we reviewed the proposal. The University of Calgary was seeking industry funding of \$200,000 per year for five years, likely with the idea that the funding would be divided among PSE, BCRC, ACFA, and ABP. The proposal does not meet BCRC requirements, but PSE and ACFA have committed to providing \$50,000 per year for two years, with the ACFA commitment contingent on ABP and PSE also providing funding.

The directors were considering a similar funding commitment to those made by PSE and ACFA. There was a thorough discussion of the decision with all directors providing their views. While there were concerns about the

quality and depth of the proposal, there was general agreement that this was an important initiative and that producers would want ABP to be part of it.

Motion by Friemark/Osadcuk:

“That ABP provide funding for the Simpson Centre in the amount of \$50,000 per year for two years.”

Amendment proposed by Bevans/Campbell:

“That the funding for the second year of the commitment by incorporated into the ABP budget for that year.”

Carried

Amended motion:

“That ABP provide funding for the Simpson Centre in the amount of \$50,000 per year for two years with the funding for the second year incorporated into the ABP budget for that year.”

Carried

If there is no money available for the funding commitment in the current budget, the funding for the first year of the commitment would come from the Operating Reserve, future years fund.

2. Search Firm for Executive Director Recruitment

The previous Board of Directors had discussed the process for recruitment of a new Executive Director and decided in camera to engage a search firm to manage this process. The Executive wanted a motion from the current Board authorizing the expenditure of funds for this purpose.

Motion by Grinde/Campbell:

“That ABP authorizes the Executive to engage a search firm for recruitment of a new Executive Director at a cost of up to \$35,000.”

Carried

In other business, Christie informed the Board that he had participated in the interviews for the new Assistant Deputy Minister of Primary Agriculture for Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. He found it a valuable and rewarding experience. Hale reported that the Montana Stock Growers Association meeting was good, and he would prepare a report for the next Board meeting.

The conference call was adjourned on a motion by Bowhay just after 2:00 p.m.