

**ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2021, 8:30 a.m.**

Present: Melanie Wowk - *Chair, NE, Virtual*
 Jason Hale - *Vice Chair, SE*
 Brodie Haugan - *Finance Chair, @ Large*
 Chris Israelson - *@ Large*
 Colin Campbell - *@ Large, Virtual*
 Darren Bevans - *@ Large*
 Fred Lozeman - *SW*
 Kelly Smith-Fraser - *Past Chair, Virtual*
 Kent Holowath - *@ Large, Virtual*
 Lee Irvine - *@ Large*
 Sheila Hillmer - *@ Large*

Regrets: Mike Nadeau - *NW*
 Rod Carlyon - *CT*

Staff: Brad Dubeau - *General Manager*
 Laura Procnier - *Controller, Virtual*
 Lindsay Roberts - *Marketing & Comm. Virtual*
 Debra Murphy - *Editorial Content, Virtual*
 Megan McLeod - *Field Specialist, Virtual*
 Katelyn Laverdure - *Stakeholder, Comm, Virtual*
 Karin Schmid - *Beef Production and Extension, Virtual*
 Mark Lyseng - *Government & Policy, Virtual*
 Paolina Nocera - *Executive & Accounting Assistant; Recording Secretary*

Guest: Jody Wacowich - *Executive Director, AgSafe*
 Lyle Adams Alberta - *Cattle Feeders Association, Virtual*

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda

(a) Additions and adoption of agenda:

Additions: Decision items: (6a) Irvine had a conflict and will step out for the vote. Discussion items: 7 (d) RDAR AGM discussion (e) Business Arising from the Minutes (f) Election Discussion (g) Zone Reporting

Motion by Irvine /Lozeman:

“That the agenda be approved with additions.”

Carried

2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

(a) Minutes of the November 17, 2021, Board of Directors meeting:

Revisions:

5 (a) Research Committee: The Research Committee will meet next week and will discuss several proposals of interest that were submitted to the Ag Funding Consortium.

5 (c) CCA update: Lowe made a presentation at the FPT meeting of Environmental Benefits and the importance of agriculture on the economy.

5 (n) AgSafe Funding: AgSafe is looking for additional funding sources to maintain current budget. AgSafe is investigating a plebiscite to access a cost share under WCB.

7 (i) ABP AGM – ABIC: Alberta Beef Industry conference dates incorrect. Change to March 2 – 4, 2022.

7 (q) Water Council Update: The study on improved drought resistance is being done February 2022. Water Smart is holding a panel discussion to discuss a 3-year drought simulation; suggested a livestock rep should be on the panel.

Motion by Hillmer / Israelson:

“That the minutes of the November 17, 2021, Board meeting be approved with changes”

Carried

3. Financial Report

(a) Financial Statement ending November 30, 2021:

Haugan presented the financial statements noting that we would normally be at approximately 67% spend. We are currently 61% of spend mostly due to Covid-19 restrictions. ABP investments are positive of just over 300K in unrealized gains. The annual report was over a bit due to the new format.

Motion by Haugan / Hillmer:

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

Carried

4. Staff Report, Policy and Governance

(a)

5. Council and Committee Reports

(a) Research Committee:

Bevans reported:

- The research committee met twice in November for research funding decisions, and a decision was made to support four projects at \$20K each from the Research Committee Budget.
- Decisions were also made to fund two other projects:
 - \$250K using the remaining AF research funds for both projects.
- Work continues on the Living Labs application which will be submitted in January.

(b) ACFA Update:

Adams reported:

- The ACFA MLA reception took place on November 22, 2021. 12 Ministers attended including Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Economic Development. It went very well.
- ACFA & ABP met with Minister Horner on December 15 to review priority issues for each organization.
- ACFA is meeting with Omar Alghabra, Minister of Transport; ABP is attending.
- ABIC is almost sold out. A reduction in the number of registrants has been reduced due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Wowk reported:

- Attended the MLA reception and it went very well.
- Veterinarian shortage was a topic of interest.
- The ACFA Board meeting covered: additives to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions & AB Council gave a presentation regarding Government Lobbying.
- Presentation regarding a Feedlot Program which may have overlap with the VBP+ program. Still in development.
- Cattle Feeders concerned there may be delay issues with rail feed supplies. Adams added:
 - Movement is good at the moment but could become a concern.

(c) CCA update:

Smith-Fraser reported:

- Director meeting was held in Ottawa last week; Minister Bibeau attended. Interview with Bob Lowe president of CCA is available on social media for viewing.
- In the past CCA held a BBQ lobby event, this year a Steak and Egg event with the agriculture caucus was held.
- Staffing update: David Moss's position has not been replaced. Brady Stadnicki is leaving CCA.

6. Decision Items

(a) Access to Producer Names and Addresses:

Dubeau reported:

- Met with Viewtrack and ABP Legal Counsel to determine what steps would be required for ABP to acquire an updated mailing list. Some changes would be required to our commission regulation.
- Need a decision from the Board to agree to a process we would like to initiate:
 - Draft Commission Regs (Legal)
 - Present at Producer meetings and receive feedback
 - Present to the delegate body at the AGM
 - If accepted at the delegate body, work with Marketing Council to implement new commission regulations.
 - The data would be transferred/uploaded to our internal system.
- Processors are currently not subscribed to Viewtrack. Need to reach out and negotiate with them directly. Annual cost associated with this is approximately 4K.
- It would bring ABP in line with other commissions.

Motion by Campbell/ Israelson

“That ABP Board would instruct ABP Legal Counsel to draft a proposed amendment to our commission regulation to accomplish the purpose of obtaining accurate producer contact information.”

Carried

(b) Updated Refund Form:

Dubeau presented the updated refund form template. Dubeau asked the Board to consider supporting the addition of ABP as a contribution option in the “allocate monies” portion of the form.

- Will launch the new template in 2022. Instruction videos will be available.
- The form will be on the ABP business website at .org.
- Suggestion that the new form should be the only option on refunds and that we give those who send in the old forms a 2-week extension to provide with the new format.
- This will allow supporters of ABP to contribute who do not have a check-off.

Motion by Dubeau/Hillmer:

“That the ABP Board of Director endorses the new format to the refund form and the added ABP contribution line item.”

Carried

Action item: Dubeau to send Adams contact name for VBP+.

7. Discussion Items

Motion by Hillmer/Hale:

9:28 a.m. **“ABP Board to go into In Camera.”**

Carried

Motion by Hillmer/Irvine:

12:20 p.m. **“ABP Board to come out of In Camera.”**

Carried

Motion by Lozeman/Bevans:

“That ABP strike the motion from the minutes of August 25, 2021” relating to 6 (a),

“That the ABP Board of Directors accept the presented draft document to enter negotiation with Alberta Provincial CCA Members and the CCA on Provincial Assessments as presented.”

Carried

(a) CCA Assessment- Executive/Dubeau in Camera:

“Net Check-off Revenue” means the amount of ABP’s check-off (service charge and levy) less all service charge refunds, and levy paid to the Canadian Beef Cattle Check-Off Agency. ABP’s Net Check-off Revenue will be calculated as of December 31 of each year, after ABP has processed the service charge refunds for that calendar year.”

Motion by Haugan/Irvine:

“That the ABP Board decided that CCA’s annual assessment for ABP effective July 1, 2023, will be set at one quarter (1/4) of ABP’s net check-off revenue in the calendar year immediately prior to CCA’s next fiscal year.”

Carried

Motion by Hale/Haugan:

“ABP will not recognize a CCA’s assessment resulting in arrears effective July 1, 2023.”

Carried

(b) AgSafe Funding Presentation:

Jody Wacowich, Executive Director of AgSafe presented on potential funding option for their organization.

- AgSafe is requesting assistance with messaging on a potential plebiscite to beef producers.
- Would ABP support the plebiscite in principle?

Action item: Dubeau to reach out to Tranberg to discuss mutual support of the AgSafe initiative.

Action item: Israelson to take back to AgSafe that ABP Board supports this initiative in principle.

(c) Minister Horner Meeting:

ABP and ACFA met with Minister Horner on December 15th, 2021.

Key issues included:

- Feed availability, MELT concerns
- Business Risk Management Programs
 - Moisture Deficiency Program, AFSC is making some good changes.
- Lyseng and Dubeau will be having discussions regarding LPI and AgriStability.
- Ag Recovery: The American payments started in May 2021. We need to try to develop a system in Canada that is similar to the American system to get payments to producers in a timely fashion.
- Ag Stability: Cow/Calf margins do not work and there are issues with those.
- Margin insurance will not be a potential until 2028.
- Wowk met with ABVMA including Greg Andrews head of Mosaic as well as Dr. Chalik and will be meeting with the Dean at UCVM in the next few weeks regarding the Vet shortage issue. There is a need to increase the number of seats designated for Rural students.
- The applications will be available January 5 for AgriRecovery portion of the Assistance Program for producers.

(d) RDAR Update:

Lozeman reported the RDAR AGM will be held on January 18, 2022, Dubeau is the representative for ABP. They will be discussing two key issues including:

- Change in bylaws regarding being elected in March 2021 with the term beginning January 2022.
- Delay RDAR’s AGM by six months from their fiscal year end.
- Any comments from the Board to be provided to Dubeau prior to January 18.

(e) Update to Election:

Dubeau reported:

- NE Zone candidate has withdrawn from the election.
- We are down in the NW and require four reps
- No elections required at our Producer meetings.
- Everyone is acclaimed

(f) Business Arising from The Minutes:

Lozeman informed the Board that George Cuff sent him a Board Evaluation for the Board to fill out along with general recommendations.

Action Item: Lozeman to send Board Evaluation to Howard Bekkering, Governance Chair, and cc: Dubeau.

Action Item: Dubeau to set up governance meeting.

(g) Zone Reports:

SE (Hale):

- Medicine Hat pen show will be going forward on December 17&18.
- Continues to collaborate with SW on Producer meetings.
- Working on finding a Chair for the Brooks meeting for the SE; Cherie Copithorne-Barnes is a possibility.

SW (Irvine) (working with SE):

- Planning for their Producer meeting continues with a potential economic discussion around price discovery.
- Mike Mutton to lead the High River packer's discussion.
- Suggested a QR code on the website so that Producers can see the agenda and registration. Wants to ensure we have a good agenda. Dubeau confirmed that specific zones can manipulate the agenda.
- Hale reported Westlock Veterinary Clinic asked him to be on a Zoom call to discuss packer prices discrepancy. He is looking to Board for suggestions on what to say in his presentation.

Central (Campbell):

- The next zone meeting will be in early January 2022.

NW/NE (Wowk):

- They are continuing with monthly meetings: attending December meeting this evening.
- Suggested tour of the Vermillion Lakeland College will not be feasible due to college Covid-19 lockdown.
- Suggests that Sliders are served at their producer meeting to get more interest.

8. In Camera

9. Reading Material

- (a) BOD Resolutions and Action Items:
- (b) Operations Report:
- (c) Beef Supply at a Glance:
- (d) Request for Decision:

- (e) 1. Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) Memo
- 2. Clean air Strategic Alliance (CASA) Document

10. Next Board meeting & Upcoming Events

(a) Board of Directors meeting – January 19, 2021

(b) Producer Meetings:

Central: Monday, January 24, 2022 – Stony Plain
Northwest: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 – Fairview
Northeast: Thursday, January 27, 2022 – Vermilion
Southeast: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 – Brooks
Southwest: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 – High River
Producer Town Hall: Thursday, February 10, 2022 – Virtual - 6:30 p.m. -8:00 p.m.

(c) Board of Directors meeting – March 1, 2022

(d) AGM – March 2, 2022

(e) Board of Directors Meeting – to follow AGM

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion from Hillmer at 2:30 p.m.