

ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ZOOM MEETING
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2020, 8:30 a.m.

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

Staff: Brad Dubeau - *General Manager*
Rosanne Allen - *Office Administrator*
Mark Lyseng - *Government Relations*

Guest: Brian Koberstien - *Contractor*

Absent: Shawn Freimark - *Zone 4*
Cathy Sharp - *Zone 5*

“That the minutes of the October 13, 2020 Board of Directors meeting be approved as amended.”

Carried

(c) Minutes of the November 9, 2020 conference call:

Motion by Lozeman/Bevans:

“That the minutes of the November 9, 2020 Board of Directors conference call be approved as presented.”

Carried

3. Financial Report

(a) Financial Statement ending October 31, 2020:

Osadczuk updated the directors on the current financial standing for ABP. We have spent almost 49% of our budget, lower than expected because of Covid-19. We are in arrears with our CCA assessment. Calf prices are down significantly and as a result, sales are also down reducing the amount of service charge received.

Motion by Osadczuk/Lozeman:

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

Carried

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

1. Adoption of Agenda

(a) Additions and Adoption of Agenda:

Additions: 7(k) Ag Plastics representative; 7(l) Animal health vs. Public health initiative; 7(m) Pole Haven update;

Motion by Bowhay/Osadczuk:

“That the agenda be approved with additions.”

Carried

2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

(a) Minutes of the September 9, 2020 conference call:

Motion by Dmytriw/Israelson:

“That the minutes of the September 9, 2020 conference call be approved as presented.”

Carried

(b) Minutes of the October 13, 2020 meeting:

Motion by Grinde/Wowk:

4. Staff Report, Policy and Governance

(a) Operations Report:

The operations report was added to the package for the Directors. Mark Lyseng, the new Lead, Government Relations and Policy, joined the meeting and was introduced to the Directors.

5. Council and Committee Reports

(a) Cow Calf Council:

Nothing to report

(b) Cattle Feeder Council:

Nothing to report

(c) Research Committee:

Full proposals are in from peer review. The committee will meet in January to discuss proposals.

(d) ACFA update:

Dubeau is working with ACFA to restart the working group. The next ACFA board meeting is December 2nd.

6. Decision Items

(a) Appointment for ILWG representative:

Dubeau spoke to the directors about the Public Trust Project that was initiated by the ILWG. Phase 1 of the project was completed in October 2020 and Phase 2 will begin once funding is approved. A copy of the project proposal was in the board package. ABP will provide 30 hours of in-kind manpower and there is an industry cash contribution of \$10,000 of which ABP would pay \$2000.

Ken Stanley and Rich Smith were the ABP representatives, but the board needs to appoint replacements for them. Dubeau will take over for Smith and Craig Lehr has expressed an interest but would like to know more about the responsibilities or the post. Dubeau will speak to Lehr about the working group. The final decision was deferred until Dubeau could speak with Lehr.

7. Discussion Items

(a) Cool Farm Tool Interim Report Presentation:

Brian Koberstein presented the interim report for the Cool Farm Tool (CFT) to the board. Koberstein gave a brief background and the reasoning behind the project. Koberstein is trying to determine whether the CFT will help Alberta producers deal with greenhouse gases (GHG). Potentially they were looking for outcomes in: education and awareness; market access – McDonald's has made some very real GHG commitments; reducing our carbon footprint; economic feasibility; and, a pilot program that will work in Alberta and give producers confidence in the outcome.

To this end Koberstein did a beta test on the CFT and came to one obvious conclusion. Cow calf producers are interested in profit. Will this save them money, make them money, or lose them money. Producers have already made changes to make their operation sustainable and productive. If they have not made a change, there will be a viable reason.

This has been an unexpected finding. We are looking at refining the CFT but we are not sure what we need from it.

(b) Temporary Foreign Workers:

Dubeau gave the directors a quick update on the situation. In the package was a letter that was sent from the Business Council of Alberta to the Minister of Advanced Education. The idea was to encourage more education and more training in the agriculture sector. ILWG agreed to send a letter to the government thanking them for keeping agriculture exempt unfortunately retail butchers are not exempt.

(c) M.E.L.T. reply from Premier:

In September we sent a letter to the Premier that ABP was a signatory on regarding the Mandatory Entry-Level Training for farmers and farm workers. The response to the letter has been added to the package.

(d) Grazing Lease Contract discussions:

ABP met on October 8th with Minister Nixon and the Grazing Lease working group met on November 10th with Assistant Deputy Minister Sadownik. On November 16th, the members of the working group met to discuss the contracts and some clauses they would like to change. ABP needs to stay involved otherwise the government could move in their own direction and that could be detrimental to the industry. If we move forward with any agreement, we will need to make sure that it is in line with ABP. The grazing lease issue does not directly affect producers that have deeded land, but this could affect them in other ways. We need to remain collaborative with AGLA. The largest hurdle was the wording on the first page and that seems to have been resolved.

(e) Agriculture in the curriculum:

ABP sent a letter to the Minister of Education supporting the Medicine Hat Chamber of Commerce initiative to add agriculture to the curriculum. CCA has also offered their support.

(f) Delegate issue:

This has been wrapped up, the agreement is held in trust with Adrienne. If there is any contact between the past delegate and directors, please contact Dubeau immediately.

(g) Fall meeting agenda:

The agenda for the fall meeting was in the package. Dubeau went through the agenda briefly and then opened for questions from the directors. Dubeau will make a few suggested changes and additions to the agenda.

(h) RDAR update:

Have put out the first call for funding. Staff are moving into their new offices in Edmonton. A copy of the Bylaws has been sent out for comment. Will be looking for a board member to sit on the RDAR board in January.

(i) Platform and magazine update:

Dubeau updated the directors on the development of the Platform and the magazine. There have been conversations on names for the magazine and Platform that was going to be voted on during the Resolution meetings. Dubeau suggested that we simply call everything ABP to keep the message consistent, and to avoid additional rebranding costs. The board agreed to keep the name as ABP but decided to wait until the next board meeting before making a formal decision.

Dubeau will be having final interviews with two candidates for the Marketing and Communication Manager next week and has identified a person for the Content Specialist.

(j) Zone Reports:

Zone 5: Had a zone meeting last week. Talked about holding an exit interview with delegates who did not submit nomination forms as delegates moving forward.

Zone 6: A delegate spoke to Grinde about the lack of progress he has seen on issues since he was last a delegate.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Bowhay at 1:10 p.m.

Zone 7: Having a zone meeting on November 19th.

Zone 8: Had a zone meeting on October 23rd. Concerns from producers about cull cow prices. Campbell will send information on cull cows to directors.

Zone 9: Held a conference call, talked about the fall meetings and magazine. Looking for delegates to fill empty positions.

(k) Ag Plastics representative:

We are having the Ag Plastics annual meeting and we should have a representative to sit on it. Grinde is willing to continue though he will not be a delegate anymore, so it is the Boards decision.

Motion by Campbell/Israelson:

That the ABP Board of Directors approve the reappointment of Assar Grinde as the ABP representative on the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group (APRG)."

Carried

(l) Animal health vs. public health:

A delegate brought up this issue. He is concerned about his employees and was wondering if there were any guidelines. There is concern on how they will feed and care for cattle if they are once again in lockdown and workers cannot come in. Dubeau will check in with ACFA. Directors suggested that ABP should indicate that they will help if there is pushback from the government on producers closing down.

(m) Pole Haven update:

Pole Haven Community pasture is a grazing lease and is popular for camping, four-wheeling and snowmobiling. The members of the leasing co-op closed it down to walk in access only. There has been a petition to get it opened back up. A group of people got permission to open up the road allowances. Mowing and clearing was taking place causing an uproar and Alberta Ag issued a stop work order. There are two issues: i) the use of the land. ii) the use of road allowance. This is an issue we need to be aware of and keep an eye on. There are some options that the leaseholders are looking at.

8. In Camera

9. Reading Materials

(a) Beef Supply at a Glance:

10. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events

(a) Board of Directors Meeting – TBD

11. Adjournment
