

ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 17, 2018, 8:30 a.m.
AT THE ABP BOARD ROOM, CALGARY, AB

Present: Charlie Christie - *Chair*
Kelly Smith-Fraser - *Vice-Chair/Zone 5*
Melanie Wowk - *Finance Chair/Zone 8*
Chris Israelson - *Zone 3*
Jesse Williams - *Zone 4*
Colin Campbell - *Zone 7*
Tim Sekura - *Zone 6*
John MacArthur - *Zone 9 (via phone)*
Assar Grinde - *@ Large*
Fred Lozeman - *@ Large*
Brad Osadczuk - *@ Large*
Cathy Sharp - *@ Large*
Tim Smith - *CCC Chair*
Ken Stanley - *CFC Chair*

“That the minutes of the September 5, 2018 Board of Directors meeting be approved as presented.”

Carried

Staff: Rich Smith - *Executive Director*
Rosanne Allen - *Office Administrator*
Katelyn Laverdure - *Communications*
Laura Procnier - *Controller*

(b) Business arising:

R. Smith was asked about the regulations for traceability but CFIA has not published the regulations yet. ABP has made suggestions but we cannot comment until CFIA has published the proposed regulations.

3. Financial Report

(a) Financial Statement ending September 30, 2018:

Marketings are up from last year and our budget expenditures are on track for the year.

Motion by Wowk/Stanley:

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

Carried

Absent: Garth Porteous - *Zone 1*
Sheila Hillmer - *Zone 2*
Bob Lowe - *Past Chair*

Guests: Robert Forsstrom - *AFSC*
Ken Handford - *AFSC*
Shad Thevenaz - *AFSC*
Michael Vadnais - *AFSC*
Doug Steinhauer - *AFSC*
Andrea Brocklebank - *BCRC*

4. Staff Report, Policy, and Governance

(a) Financial Statement Training for Fall Meetings:

In the package was a report for the directors that explained all the expenses and revenue that ABP spent and collected during the last fiscal year. Procnier went through the report explaining the various sections showing how the funds had been distributed.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

5. Council and Committee Reports

(a) Cow Calf Council:

Not much new activity, but Tom Lynch-Staunton has a good discussion with Ken Handford about forage and pasture insurance.

(b) Cattle Feeder Council:

Discussed forming a committee with ACFA about spreading manure on frozen ground; discussed ILWG funding and approved it; spoke about beaver control; fed cattle pricing; discussion on CFOs and Municipal Development Plans.

(c) Research Committee:

There is a meeting scheduled for Monday October 22nd to discuss which research proposals to go ahead with.

There was a report in the package summarizing the BCRC conference call on September 28th.

1. Adoption of Agenda

(a) Additions and Adoption of Agenda:

Additions: 6(j) Funding for Peace Forage Association; 6(k) Fish & Wildlife issue; 8(i) Balzac Fly Larvae Plant;

Motion by Lozeman/Grinde:

“That the agenda be approved with additions.”

Carried

2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

(a) Minutes of the September 5, 2018 meeting:

Motion by Campbell/Lozeman:

6. Decision Items

(a) ACFA agreements and plebiscite update:

ABP has a signed agreement with ACFA and a copy was provided in the Board package. The agreement basically follows the spirit of past agreements with ACFA. A more detailed dispute process was added. ACFA asked for a more detailed process on the redirection of their allocation. The Executive approved the final documents, but Directors should have seen the final documents before the decision.

The plebiscite will have about 100 people involved with the voting at the Fall meetings and about another 90 at AFSC offices across Alberta. Voting opens on October 19th and ends on November 13th and counting will be done the weekend of November 17th.

MacArthur asked if we knew how the voting would be broken down. R. Smith was not sure how specific the voting results would be or if all of the ballots would be amalgamated into one. There was some discussion about the conduct of directors and delegates during the fall meetings.

ACFA hired Janice Tranberg to replace Bryan Walton when he retires in January 2019. Tranberg will start on November 1st.

An Auction Mart has offered to insert a letter to producers from ABP in the envelope with their payments. The letter will come from the ABP Executive and be completed by October 19th.

(b) Fall meeting plans and producer engagement:

R. Smith handed out an outline for the producer engagement exercise during the fall meetings. If the directors approve the two questions, then the PowerPoint will be loaded on to the zones iPad. The questions and PowerPoint can be adjusted.

Motion by Campbell/Wowk:

“That ABP accept the presentation for the producer engagement exercise as presented.”

Carried

In the package was a list of which meetings staff members and Executive would be attending.

(c) Drought working group recommendations:

Stanley provided the directors with the recommendations that the working group generated during their conference call. A written report was prepared and added to the Board package.

The directors discussed the recommendations and the issues that they face in their areas. The prevalent discussion was rainfall or the lack of it.

The Working Group is recommending that ABP not ask the government for financial assistance. They think the solution is better insurance programs and it would be hard to make a credible request for direct financial assistance. Some of the Municipalities are asking for support for drought and bad crops.

The Safety-net Subcommittee has been working on forage and pasture insurance programs but has not had much success in getting positive program changes.

Motion by Grinde/Stanley:

“That ABP support the Saskatchewan Cattlemen’s Association effort to make the ‘Livestock Tax Deferral’ a permanent option for producers.”

Carried

Motion by Osadczuk/Lozeman:

“That ABP support the expansion of prescribed areas for the tax deferral coverage.”

Carried

Christie thanked the members who participated in the working group and for coming back so quickly with recommendations.

(d) AFSC AgriStability and insurance update:

Ken Handford, Rob Forsstrom, Shad Thevenaz, Michael Vadnais and Doug Steinhauer from AFSC joined the meeting to discuss the changes to AgriStability and work on improved forage and pasture insurance. They discussed reference margin limits; minimum payments; late participation; and, simplified participation.

Christie called for volunteers to head up a working group to develop comments on AgriStability changes and recommendations for forage and pasture insurance.

Tim Smith, Assar Grinde and it was suggested asking Chris Simpson and Brodie Haugan. Any comments they have need to be brought to the November board meeting.

(e) Farm Implement Board Nomination:

In the package was the letter ABP received from the Farm Implement Board (FIB) to nominate a member to the board. Brian Chomlak has been representing ABP on the board and was elected as the chair of the FIB, but his three-year term will expire February 2019. Chomlak has expressed interest in sitting for one more term.

Motion by Sekura/Grinde:

“That the ABP Board of Directors approved the nomination of Brian Chomlak to the Farm Implement Board for a three-year term.”

Carried

(f) CASA Project Funding:

R. Smith distributed the funding information to the directors explaining the project and funding required. ABP is the agriculture representative on CASA and R. Smith has been representing ABP for 10 years. The budget for the project is \$75,000 and are looking for industry support. R. Smith suggested that ABP fund the project at \$2500.

Motion by Sekura/Israelson:

“That ABP support the Clean Air Strategic Alliance ‘Electricity Framework Review Project’ in the amount of \$2,500.”

Carried

(g) Harvest Gala attendance:

ABP sponsored the beef at the gala and in return for the sponsorship has a table for 8 on October 26th. There is a spot for one more couple if anyone would be interested. Israelson expressed his interest in attending and will confirm with R. Smith.

(h) Ottawa Fly In – November 27, 2018:

Christie and Fraser are going and would like two more Board members to join them in Ottawa. Sharp and Osadczuk said they would go.

(i) ACFA MLA Dinner – November 7, 2018:

ACFA has joined us in the past for our MLA Reception and have invited a few of our Board members who would be interested in coming to attend their dinner.

Campbell, Wowk and Stanley will attend for ABP.

(j) Funding for Peace Forage Association:

MacArthur asked if there was a budget set for zone activities other than for Fall meetings. After attending a forage meeting last week MacArthur determined that zone monies would be better spent sponsoring the Northeast Forage Association than the large trade show they have sponsored in the past. MacArthur was informed that Fall Meeting expenses come out of a separate budget and that the Zone can spend their budget wherever they decide is best.

(k) Fish & Wildlife issue:

At the last board meeting, Fraser updated the members about a situation in the Rocky Mountain House area where cattle are being killed by wildlife and producers are being told by Fish & Wildlife Officers that it is something else. Cattle producers in the area are having an issue with their judgements. Fraser is suggesting that ABP discuss the issue with Fish and Wildlife to address producer concerns.

Motion by Osadczuk/Sekura:

“That the ABP Executive request a meeting with Alberta Fish & Wildlife to discuss

predator kill and loss decisions in the Rocky Mountain House area.”

Carried

7. In Camera

8. Discussion Items

(a) Prescription Only Antibiotic Dispensing:

Schmid joined the board to discuss the prescription process that will come into affect on December 1st. Schmid attended a meeting yesterday and was informed that producers and suppliers will need to work within the current prescription model. At this time, the ABVMA and the AB government will not look at any other options. One of our challenges will be communications and letting everyone know what this means to producers.

It was suggested that Schmid write an article for Western Producer or Alberta Beef Magazine outlining what ABP has done and what we are suggesting. ABP will write a letter to the Ministers of Agriculture & Forestry and Labour expressing our disappointment in the lack of action on producer concerns.

(b) VBP+ Report:

Andrea Brocklebank updated the board on the advances that VBP+ has made since the last report. The program is important for supporting our consumer facing program but also for supporting our social license. The way the program is financially financed has been inconsistent in the past and they are now working on becoming a credible and financially sustainable program. Moving forward the program is looking at funding and data management by organizing the information nationally instead of provincially. Over the next two years training programs will be rolled out that will be accessible through webinars and online. We expect training will be required for feedlots sometime in the future, but audits will be part of a marketing program.

VBP+ is working with BQA, their counterpart in the US.

(c) CCA Town Hall meeting:

The meeting is October 17th in Red Deer at the Quality Inn and Conference Centre. The presentation begins at 6:00 p.m.

(d) Grazing disposition holders’ letter:

In the package was a copy of the letter that was sent from the grazing organizations to the Minister of Environment & Parks regarding the lack of action on the grazing lease rental rate framework. ABP also committed that we would work with Lindsye Dunbar on a whitepaper outlining our objectives for grazing lease management and administration.

(e) NCC Meeting/Conservation Group Relationships:

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) is hosting a full day meeting on November 1st. NCC wants to build a better relationship with the cattle industry and sometime in the next 2 weeks, there will be a major announcement regarding conservation funding.

(f) LIS Fee Increase:

ABP received a letter in September stating they had increased their fees to \$1.50 per head; a copy of the letter was included in the package.

(g) Indigenous and Métis Consultation:

ABP received an invitation asking to take part in sessions regarding the development of a Métis Consultation Policy on land and natural resource management. This is part of a broader Indigenous Relations initiative to renew First Nations and Métis settlement consultation policies, explore options to enhance the consultative capacity of First Nations and Métis settlements, and develop a strategic Traditional Ecological Knowledge policy.

It was suggested that this be added to the next board agenda for further discussion.

(h) Zone reports:

No zone reports at this time.

(i) Balzac Fly Larvae Plant:

Schmid and R. Smith investigated this issue and it is only for fish and poultry and right now it is not approved for cattle feed.

9. Reading Materials

- (a) BOD Resolutions & Action Items
- (b) Beef Supply at a Glance:

10. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events

- (a) New Delegate Orientation – November 21, 2018 – ABP Office, Calgary, AB
- (b) Board of Directors Meeting – November 22, 2018 – ABP Office, Calgary, AB
- (c) Staff Appreciation Event – November 23, 2018
- (d) Board of Directors Meeting – December 3, 2018 – Sheraton Cavalier Hotel, Calgary, AB
- (e) Annual General Meeting - December 3-5, 2018 – Sheraton Cavalier Hotel, Calgary, AB

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Osadczuk at 4:20 p.m.