

**ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 10th, 2024 – 8:30am – 1:00pm Virtual**

Present: Brodie Haugan - *Chair, SE*
Sheila Hillmer - *Vice Chair, SW*
Fred Lozeman - *Finance Chair, SW*
Nanita Blomquist - *@ Large*
Jay Hager - *@ Large*
Kent Holowath - *@ Large*
Lee Irvine - *@ Large*
Doug Roxburgh - *@ CT*
Miles Wowk - *@ NE*
Gary These - *@NW*

“That the minutes from the November 22nd, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting be approved.”

Carried

(b) Issues arising from the minutes.

Regrets:

3. Financial Report

(a) Financial Reporting ending November 30th, 2023, and December 31st, 2023.

Staff: Brad Dubeau - *General Manager*
Donald Poitras - *Controller*
Kathy Jardine - *Executive Assn.*
Karin Schmid - *Lead Beef Production and Extension*

- ABP’s expenses are at 63.9% of an expected budget of 75%. Still under budget so far this year but we are gaining. Our spread is 11% below budget, where last month we were at 14% spread.
- ABP’s expected allocation for Research Projects of \$208k, as approved by the Research Committee on December 1st, 2023. We are now at 97.8% in that category.
- Marketings are higher this year to date by 206k head.

Guests:

Jason Wilson – WSGA
Dr. Natasha Kutryk – ABVMA
Lyle Adams – ACFA
Chance Martin – AAMA

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

1. Adoption of Agenda

Motion by Lozeman / Irvine:

Additions to the agenda:

“That the ABP November 30th, 2023, and December 31st, 2023, financial statements be approved as presented.”

(l) 150 years of Alberta Beef

Motion by Wowk / L’Heureux:

Carried

“That the agenda be approved as amended.”

Carried

(a) Conflict of Interest

4. Staff Report, Policy, and Governance

2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

(a) Staff Update

(a) Minutes of the November 22, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting.

- ABP’s November 2023 and December 2023 Staff Operations reports are included in the board package.
- One ABP staff member will be included in the in-persons meeting to give an update on their departments.

Motion by Lozeman / Hillmer:

5. Council and Committee Reports

(a) ACFA Update:

- ACFA MLA Reception meeting on November 29th was a positive well attended event.
- Working on the finalization of the MNP impact on the Agri Stability policy document.

(b) CCA Update:

- ABP's CCA directors reported the biggest issue at the CCA board meeting on January 8th was the Grasslands initiative, it was explained that it was still in the concept phase.

(c) Western Stock Growers Association:

- Western Stock Growers AGM is on February 28th 2024.
- There is a recreational access review coming up and require leaseholder participation for the review.

(d) Alberta Grazing Leaseholders Association:

- No representative present

(e) Feeders' Association of Alberta:

- No representative present.

(f) Alberta Veterinary Medical Association:

- ABVMA AGM is on February 25th, 2024, in Calgary.
- ABVMA is focused on continuous advocating the Provincial Government for funding of the University of Calgary's diagnostic lab, also lobbying for funding for a bridging program to help foreign trade veterinarians to come in at a quicker rate.

(g) Alberta Auction Markets Association:

- Fall run was excellent with record breaking numbers.
- Discussions on Alberta Auctions Markets helping ABP communicating the upcoming producer meetings through the auction markets.

(h) Research Committee: RDAR

- Research committee met at the beginning of December to allocate the funding to projects out of the Ag- funding consortium call. The committee selected five projects allocating \$108,000.
- Living labs has thirty participants as well as three Indigenous communities, the baseline sampling is completed as well as the fall sampling which was completed after the best management practice implementation.
- March 11th, 2024, there will be a research showcase hosted by the research committee at Old's College Alumni Centre.

6. Decision Items

(a) CCA – Spring Fly Ins

- ABP board of directors discussed the past motion that was passed by the ABP board February 15th, 2023, in regard to hosting an event in Alberta and invite Alberta MPs to the function rather than traveling to Ottawa.
- The discussion concluded that in the event of a situation that requires ABP's attendance in Ottawa, appropriate representatives will be sent to advocate on behalf of the Alberta producers utilizing the Trade Advocacy fund for travel.

7. Discussions Items

(a) Montana Sock Growers Association Update

- Great turn out for the event, various topics were discussed by different committees as they are also dealing with many of the same issues as we are specifically around BRM program improvements.

(b) 2023 Producer Engagement Session – Medicine Hat Bull Pen Show. Peace Country Beef Congress

- Both events were well attended. Great feedback on ABP being engaged and present.
- A young producer from the Grande Prairie area approached the ABP group on becoming a delegate in the area.

(c) Grasslands Initiative Letter – CCA Presentation

- CCA spoke to the Grassland Initiative.
- Questions and discussions following presentations. Concerns remain around a concept with out details by ABP board.

(d) VBP+ / CRSB

- Concern around the number of operations coming due for audits in Alberta in 2024.
- Discussions were held by the board on the financial outlook of VBP+ and viability of going forward.
- Public Trust has opened the grant process and ABP is working diligently on the grant to ensure that VBP+ is funded.

(e) Producer’s Meetings

- Upcoming producer meetings start in La Crete on January 15th, it is extremely important that each zone selects a chair and someone to record at the meeting.
- The resolutions need to be filled out properly by the producers, we need a proper whereas and be it resolved so the resolution can be properly debated.

(f) PSE Working Group Update

- PSE working group has had a couple of meetings and is chaired by Chad Ross from Saskatchewan.
- Terms of reference has been agreed upon within the working group and the group is charged with looking at the existing Governance.
- Discussions were held by the board.

(g) Alberta Farm Animal Care Update

- Concerns around AFAC not raising enough funds. Kaylee Chizawsky resigned from AFAC.
- AFAC is nearly defunct and there are not enough funds to cover the staff cost to the end of January. Our challenge with AFAC being in such difficulty puts the alert line at significant risk.
- Discussions were held by the board to approve \$20,000 to save the alert line, the funding will allow the alert line to run for one year enabling all the members to determine if AFAC will remain or stop operation all together.

Motion by Wowk / These:

“That Alberta Beef Producers Board of Directors supports up to a maximum of \$20,000 funding the alert line managed by AFAC and actively source funding from other groups in the Alberta livestock industry.”

Carried

(h) BRM Meeting with MP John Barlow

- Members of ABP met with MP John Barlow on December 18th discussing business risk management tools specifically for the cattle industry (cow/calf).

(i) Live Horse Export Letter

- Discussions were held by the ABP board on the letter of support sent by ABP against the legislation of Live Horse Export.

(j) Agri Recovery Update – AFSC

- Deadline line for applications is January 15th, 2024.

(k) Feedlot Alley Whiskey

- ABP board had discussions on the concerns of the use of the ABP Logo for advertising on a whiskey bottle but there may be opportunities for other marketing efforts.

(l) 150 Years of Alberta Beef

- Discussions were held on the opportunities to celebrate 150 years of beef in Alberta.

Action: Dubeau to explore what kind of event coordinators are out there and present a preliminary plan at the next board meeting.

Northwest Zone

- Attended the Bull Pen Show in Grande Prairie
- Looking forward to attending the Grande Prairie Producer meeting on January 16th.

Southwest Zone

- Zone has been discussing the upcoming Producer Meetings in their area.

Southeast Zone

- Zone is quiet until the Producers meetings.

Central

- No zone representative.

Northeast Zone

- Sponsorships for the Lloyd Show
- Engaging producers in their zone

9. In Camera

(a) The Board went in-camera at 1:06 pm.

Motion by Holowath / Hillmer:

“ABP Board to go into In Camera.”

Carried

10. Reading Material

The reading material is included in the Board package and was reviewed as part of the Board meeting.

11. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events

TBA

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion from Holowath at 1:24 p.m.