

DRAFT
ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES FOR THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2017, 1:00 p.m.

Present: Darren Bevans - *Chair, Zone 2*
Rick Friesen - *Zone 1*
Fred Lozeman - *Zone 2*
Heinz Lemmer - *Zone 3*
Dick Wymenga - *Zone 5*
Ralph Buhler - *Zone 6*
Danny Hozack - *Zone 8*
Howard Bekkering - *CFC*
Kevin Stopanski - *CCC*

Staff: Karin Schmid - *Beef Prod Specialist*

Absent: Stuart Somerville - *Zone 5*

- FRG.22.17 (Lardner): question whether the land is dryland or under irrigation – it is dryland. There are many outcomes wrapped together in a logical progression. There is a need in industry to determine annual/perennial economics, ROI on our research dollars is excellent, determine when in the year the grazing will occur. Slight downside is that it's only one location. Score: committee members voted unanimously in favour of supporting this project.
- ANH.31.17 (Feedlot Health Management Services): general comments were concern regarding technology transfer plan, lack of response to followup questions, lack of Bayer contribution, accurate detection of DON. Score: committee members voted unanimously to decline this project.

Chair called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda

(a) Adoption of Agenda:

Hozack requested the addition of a meeting with Concordia College regarding their machine learning program. This item was added as (6)(f)

Motion by Hozack/Buhler:

“That the agenda be approved with additions.”

Carried

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Schmid summarized the minutes from the last meeting

(a) Minutes of the July 4, 2017 conference call:

Motion by Hozack/Lozeman:

“That the minutes of the July 4, 2017 conference call be approved as presented”

Carried

3. Financial Report

(a) Financial Statement report:

Motion by Friesen/Hozack:

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

Carried

4. Decision Items

(a) Full proposal decisions:

DIRECTION: Schmid to coordinate with next year's research committee in order to retain the mycotoxin focus as one of the research priorities for next year.

Motion by Stopanski/Wymenga:

“That ABP support FRG.22 (Lardner) in the amount of \$24,000 as long as SCA also agrees with this decision.”

Carried

ADDENDUM TO MINUTES: After consultation with SCA, they also agreed to fund FRG.22.17, and declined ANH.31.17

5. In Camera

No In Camera as this was a conference call

6. Discussion Items

(a) Elastrator Project Update:

This project has been approved for funding and will run until December 1, 2018.

(b) Rancher Researcher Pilot Update:

Schmid also informed the committee that this project is approved, and the project team is working on confirming pilot producers, creating a list of possible innovations and creating a consultant job ad for the project.

(c) UCVM Announcement:

Schmid informed the committee about the decision of the provincial government to withdraw funding from WCVI in favour of UCVM. ABP has written a letter concerned about enhancing one program at the expense of the other.

DIRECTION: Schmid to circulate letter

(d) AF Research Funding

Schmid provided an overview of the current provincial situation regarding research funding; the budget has been decreased but it is unclear how much. In addition, with ACIDF becoming defunct in March 2018, crops and livestock will be competing for the same pool of funds. AF has also completed a research review, the results of which are not available yet, and is close to finishing the extension review. Committee agreed that we need to keep a close watch on the situation and look for opportunities to improve both the funding amounts and the transparency of provincial funding programs.

(e) Transport Rest Stop Project:

Schmid informed the committee that Dr. Karen Schwartzkopf-Genswein was looking for a contribution of \$25,000 from ABP for her Cluster project examining the effect of rest stops (duration, condition, etc.) on cattle welfare due to increased trucking costs. The committee felt this was a worthwhile project to obtain data that would help to inform transport regulations around rest stops.

Motion by Hozack/Wymenga:

“That ABP support BCRC Cluster project ANH.06.17 for \$25,000, on the condition that the Cluster application is successfully funded.

Carried

(f) Hozack Concordia College Meeting:

This group’s focus is on artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotics, etc. in various industries. It seems like they are just getting started and looking for partners. Bevans suggested that Hozack get his contacts there to forward more specific information to Schmid for follow up.

Schmid thanked Bevans for his leadership and guidance as chair of the research committee.

7. General Reading Material

8. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events

- (a) Canadian Forage and Grasslands Conference, Guelph, ON – Nov. 14-16
- (b) ABP AGM, Calgary, AB – December 4-6
- (c) Western Canadian Conference on Soil Health and Grazing, Edmonton, AB – Dec. 5-7
- (d) Saskatchewan Beef Industry Conference, Saskatoon, SK – Jan. 24-25
- (e) Alberta Beef Industry Conference, Red Deer, AB – Feb. 21-23
- (f) Next meeting - TBD

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Buhler at 2:46 p.m.