

**ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 2, 2020, 8:30 a.m.
ABP BOARD ROOM, CALGARY, AB**

Present: Kelly Smith-Fraser - *Chair*
Melanie Wowk - *Vice Chair*
Brad Osadcuk - *Finance Chair/Zone 1*
Darren Bevans - *Zone 2 (via Zoom)*
Jim Bowhay - *Zone 3 (via Zoom)*
Shawn Freimark - *Zone 4*
Cathy Sharp - *Zone 5 (via Zoom)*
Assar Grinde - *Zone 6 (via Zoom)*
Colin Campbell - *Zone 7*
Emil Dmytriw - *Zone 8 (via Zoom)*
Mike Nadeau - *Zone 9 (via Zoom)*
Brodie Haugan - *@ Large*
Kolton Kasur - *@ Large (via Zoom)*
Fred Lozeman - *@ Large*
Jason Hale - *CCC*
Chris Israelson - *CFC*
Charlie Christie - *Past Chair*

Staff: Brad Dubeau - *General Manager*
Rosanne Allen - *Office Administrator*

Absent: Howard Bekkering - *Governance Chair*
John Buckley - *Past Director (via Zoom)*

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda

(a) Additions and Adoption of Agenda:

Additions: 7(j) Operational Grazing Lease Holders update; 7(k) Lobby Documents; 7(l) Covid-19 Harmony update; 7(m) BRM Request response; 7(n) Class 1 Drivers license update;

Motion by Osadcuk/Lozeman:

“That the agenda be approved with additions.”

Approved

2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

(a) Minutes of the July 15, 2020 meeting:

Motion by Hale/Freimark:

“That the minutes of the July 15, 2020 Board of Director meeting be approved.”

Carried

3. Financial Report

(a) Financial Statement ending August 31, 2020:

Osadcuk updated the directors on the finances, we are currently at 34% of our yearly budget. Refunds are down from this period last year; this is due to Covid-19 and the lack of sales

during the past few months. Marketings are also down from prior years. Fed Cattle marketings are expected to stay high. The Directors discussed the refunds and the impact on ABP of releasing the names of large refunders to CCA. Dubeau went through the financial statements new set-up and how it relates to our strategy and our plan.

Motion by Osadcuk/Israelson:

“That the Financial Report be accepted for information purposes only.”

Carried

At the top of page 4 is the CCA Assessment Fee. Producers were given an option to send \$0.53 cents from each marketing to CCA. When the ABP Board decided to reduce their CCA assessment to \$0.48 a decision made to deduct the extra .05 cents. Dubeau is of the opinion that ABP should be paying the total deductible to CCA.

Motion by Campbell/Freimark:

“That ABP pay the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association the remaining \$10,002.87 retained from the funds set aside by producers requesting refunds.”

Carried

Directors suggested changing the refund form to reflect the change from \$0.53 to \$0.48.

4. Staff Report, Policy and Governance

(a) August operations report:

The report was in the package. Fraser asked about an update on RDAR.

5. Council and Committee Reports

(a) Cow Calf Council:

Nothing to report.

(b) Cattle Feeder Council:

Nothing to report

(c) Research Committee:

The committee will be meeting on September 3rd to look over letters of intents on calls that were held jointly with BCRC. Schmid has been very involved with RDAR it is progressing quickly. Fraser gave an update on the progress of RDAR.

(d) ACFA Update:

Osadcuk attended the ACFA board meeting that was held in Kananaskis and gave the directors an update. The ABIC has

been canceled in person and will be going virtual. The Board still wants to hold an in-person AGM so we will have to look at how our AGM will be done.

(e) Crisis Management Working group update:

The first meeting was on July 30th and the working group discussed how ABP initially reacted to the pandemic and what we need to do moving forward. ABP did have a Crisis Management document that the Board and Executive were not aware of at the beginning of the crisis. The members were asked to look through the document and it was discussed during the August 31st Zoom call. The biggest message that came out was that ABP needs to be more proactive in letting producers know what is happening and we need to take the lead in Alberta. The Crisis Management document should be part of the AGM package as well as the information package given to Board at the beginning of each board year. The document should be reviewed every 5 years.

(f) AFAC:

Wovk spoke to the members about AFAC. ABP sponsors AFAC for \$40,000 each year. The board asked their directors to help lobby the government to continue to provide funds. AFAC received government funding this year but there is no guarantee that they will receive any funding for 2021.

ACTION: Dubeau to push out the message that vet clinics should be filling prescriptions from other vets.

6. Decision Items

(a) Fall Meetings:

There was another planning meeting between staff and the Executive around the fall meetings. In the SW we are looking at Airdrie and Okotoks. NW – Grande Prairie or Fairview; central is Ponoka, Anselmo or Hazel Bluff; Devon or Leduc; NE is Vermillion.

We are still looking at the last week of November or first week of December for the fall meetings. We are determining online voting and allowing producers to attend online. We are looking at national organizations; some to present live and some to present online or through pre-recorded presentation with representatives available to answer questions. All the planning for the zone meetings will be done through the office.

There are some issues on determining how people vote and had thought to vote by postal code, but Marketing Council determined that this was not going to work. Adrienne Waller, ABP Counsel, agreed and has come up with another option for determining which zone a producer can vote in.

The nomination forms have been pulled from the website and are being updated. We have not received any nominations yet because no one is sure what zone they are in. The change in zones has not yet been approved by the Minister and we are possibly looking to the end of September or beginning of October before he will sign the approval. Everybody is up for election this fall but the Board will continue to sit until the

AGM in March. The deadline for nominations needs to be extended from the end of September to October 15th.

Motion by Freimark/Israelson:

“That the ABP Delegate nominations deadline be extended from September 30, 2020 to October 15, 2020.”

Carried

ABP will also be ordering the same amount of stock as they ordered last year for fall meetings. Dubeau will bring the materials to the fall meetings.

(b) Clean Air Strategic Alliance appointment:

Rich Smith has been representing ABP on the CASA board and has indicated that he would be interested in staying on the board. This committee is very technical, and with Smith’s engineering background he suits this role well.

Motion by Grinde/Campbell:

“That the ABP Board of Directors approve the appointment of Rich Smith as the ABP representative on the Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) and to receive compensation of \$150/per day plus expenses.”

Carried

(c) Technical Advisory Group appointment:

Rich Smith has been representing ABP on the Technical Advisory Council since it was first set up and is interested in continuing in his roll.

Motion by Israelson/Hale:

“That the ABP Board of Directors approve the appointment of Rich Smith as the ABP representative on the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and to receive compensation of \$150/per day plus expenses.”

Carried

(d) AgSafe representative appointment:

Charlie Christie has been representing ABP for the last year but is stepping down and we need a new representative. It is a good board to sit on, it should be a board member and someone who is familiar in dealing with staff.

Motion by Grinde/Osadczyk:

“That the ABP Board of Directors approve the appointment of Chris Israelson as the ABP representative on the AgSafe Committee.”

Carried

(e) Upcoming Board Meeting dates:

The meeting will be October 14th and November 19th. Staff will look into holding meeting at other venues.

7. Discussion Items

(a) ABP Plan Regulations Update:

Dubeau updated the directors under 6(a) fall meeting discussions.

(b) Lloydminster Auction Mart – Levy:

There is contention with some of the Alberta producers in Lloydminster area who can not get a refund from this market because it is on Saskatchewan side. Dubeau asked the directors to consider the Lloydminster Auction Mart an Alberta market. Whatever the board decides ABP would still need to speak with the Agency and the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association.

The directors agreed that the border is the border and will remain a non-refundable market.

(c) CCA update:

Sharp gave the directors an in-depth update on CCA Semi-Annual meeting in August. CCA is partnering with CFA in their urban campaign; discussed China and their ask for assurance that products are free of Covid-19; discussion about the EU in the Foreign Trade committee and a resolution was brought forward to seek access with the UK for beef; CTPP has been a good trade deal for Canada and CCA acknowledged the 5th anniversary of our trade deal with south Korea; EU Farm to Fork Strategy was unveiled in Spring 2020. The strategy includes front-of-pack labelling, origin for certain products. Food policy committee had a presentation from Finoa Windle, Chair of the International Meat Secretariat Nutrition Committee who provided a global lens on Food Policy, specifically going through challenges the beef industries in other countries are going through from plant-based products using meat terminology to the environmental messaging against red meat, to front of pack labelling. Here in Canada we have similar challenges. Food Policy Committee is working towards ground beef to be exempted from "Front of Pack Labelling" regulations.

CFIA is developing a Canadian Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine Bank. Humane Transport regulations: CCA is working with CFIA to make sure any changes do not affect transport adversely; Department of fisheries and ocean have begun discussions with cattle organization on their codes of practice and how they will affect cattle producers and landowners in regards to beaver dam removal, culvert maintenance and end of pipe screening. CCA has submitted a formal notice of Objection to the re-evaluation decision by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency to terminate the registered use of strychnine for the control of Richardson's ground squirrels. Significant expansion of wild pigs across the prairies was also discussed. Canadian Youth Council was announced and will be advising the AAFC Minister on issues. ABP to provide some Alberta resources to Canadian Youth Council member(s). Canadian Beef Improvement network came out of the Canadian Beef Strategy. Michael Latimer is looking for a letter of support from ABP and is willing to speak towards the network.

Christie updated on the Domestic Ag Committee. MNP presented on AgriStability and the modeling they have done for CCA. The reference margin limit is modeled more towards the cow calf operator. With the removal of the reference margin limit cow calf producers would trigger around 12% to 15%. There was some discussion about changes to the reference limit and CAP. Christie spoke about the changes to the BRM's and about a potential heifer hold back program that is being looked at by CCA.

(d) Municipal Tax increase:

Proposed increases are occurring across the province. The Alberta government has changed the formula on how oil and gas companies pay their linear assessments reducing the amount of funds received by Counties and Municipalities in the province. The Executive has suggested reaching out to RMA and Alberta Council. We recognise that the system is decades old and needs to be modernized. But the government needs to recognize that agriculture operations are small, and any significant tax increase will negatively affect them.

ACTION: Dubeau to reach out to Ministry of Municipal Affairs and RMA regarding proposed changes.

(e) Public Lands and Urban Encroachment:

Dubeau was asked to bring more information on the open pit coal mine to this board meeting. We typically don't want to get involved with another industry, but this does impact the cattle industry in Alberta. The issue came to PSE. Dubeau asked the directors how they wanted to move forward. We don't want to stop the coal mine, but we do want to support the producers being affected by the mine.

ACTION: Dubeau to do more research on the impact of the coal mine on producers in the area and bring forward to the next board meeting.

A producer near Camrose moved black dirt and dumped it on a waterway without a permit. A neighbor is concerned about the change of flow of water onto his land. There is a consultant involved. This is not an issue that ABP should be involved in.

Urban people are being encouraged to visit Crown lands to get out into nature. People have been going into crown land and destroying corrals for firewood and dumping trash. This is getting worse with people trespassing onto private land and leaving behind a mess. The suggestion now is to coordinate with RMA to get the message to consumers that they need to respect private land and to clean up after themselves. If you are going onto private or lease land, make sure you have permission.

ACTION: bring this back to the next board meeting.

(f) Government Relations & Policy Manager update:

The deadline for resumes was August 31st and Dubeau has received almost 175 resumes. Dubeau will be reviewing them over the next week.

(g) COOL Farm Tool update:

There was an update in the package. Koberstein will be giving a full presentation in October. He would then like to strike a working group with producers. In the last week Dubeau has had calls from VBP+ asking where we were in this and how this tool complements what we are doing with CRSB and VBP+.

(h) Disaster relief – flooding in northern Alberta:

Dubeau spoke with L’Heureux about the flooding in northern Alberta. Dubeau spoke with Ryder in Saskatchewan to work together about relief from flooding. Premiums are being refunded. Suggested tripling the payment on unseeded acres. Maybe the government should consider a margin-based program. Thornhill County is already claiming a disaster. We need to show support for the counties that have declared an emergency.

(i) Zone Reports:

Zone 1: Have a meeting on September 21st with the Medicine Hat Chamber of Commerce; will buy a membership.

Zone 3: Zone has been quiet

Zone 4: Have answered a few questions from producers about the set aside program.

Zone 5: Zone is quiet, in the past we sponsored some events, but everything is quiet. The delegates haven’t met recently.

Zone 6: everything is quiet, have answered a few questions about losing Tom Lynch-Staunton. Will be having a conference call in the next week or so.

Zone 7: Zone meeting Monday night; Ken Stanley is stepping down from ILWG; Kummer brought up RFID tags staying with carcass; asked about stopping emails about set aside program; price of live cattle lower and beef prices at store dramatically higher.

Zone 8: Zone is quiet. Asked about extended dates; what are eligible expenses; and communicate with producers regarding CEBA \$40,000.

(j) Operational Grazing Lease Holders:

John Buckley, a past delegate and director, joined the meeting to discuss the changes to the grazing leases. This process has been challenging, there is no communication between the government and committee. The committee has just been seeing versions of the contract for comment and each contract seems to be making vast changes to a lease holders’ contract. Originally this was intended to homogenize the contracts across the province. Lease were written up to fit a specific lease or specific area of land. They wanted to remove some duplication and phrases that were not legally appropriate. There is a concern that this will end up in court.

Can any of the organizations who sit around the table help with the costs. Buckley is requesting the board consider contributing something to help defray the costs. 5.2 million acres, 5700 grazing leases; 20% of the total number of cattle. Over 200,000 head grazing from May to October. That the board consider developing a strategy which will require funding to defend

something in litigation if it arises. Western Stock Growers and AGLA will be asked to submit a formal request. Removing the legal terms turn the document from a lease to an agreement and an agreement is not a binding contract.

Action: Dubeau to book meeting with the Minister Nixon; Dubeau and Procnier to look into funding a war chest.

(k) Lobby Documents:

Dubeau spoke to the directors about the changes to the lobby documents.

(l) Covid-19 at Harmony:

Harmony has had an outbreak with 66 cases as of August 31st. There communications during this event has been better than the first time.

(m) BRM request response:

Included in the package was a copy of the letter that the chairs of the provincial organizations sent to the Ag Ministers. Fraser received a response and it was added to the package. There will be a meeting with the Federal government and that they are looking at doing something. CCA and provincial representatives are looking at meeting with government officials.

(n) Class 1 Drivers License update:

ABP went to the Transportation Minister asking for an exemption for farmers. The Minister considered relaxing the regulations but received a backlash and this will no longer be considered. There was some willingness to look at technology to help with the training.

8. In Camera

- (a) Presentation **10:00 a.m.**

9. Reading Materials

- (a) Board of Directors Resolutions & Action Items:
(b) Beef Supply at a Glance:
(c) Respect, Violence and Harassment Policy & Procedure
(d) AgriStability Letter and Minister Response

10. Next Meeting and Upcoming Events

- (a) Board of Directors Meeting – October 14, 2020, Location TBD
(b) Board of Directors Meeting – November 19, 2020, Location TBD

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Bowhay at 5:00 p.m.