

ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
MINUTES FOR THE CATTLE FEEDER COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY MARCH 25, 2019, 8:30 a.m.
IN THE ABP BOARD ROOM, CALGARY, AB

Present: Ken Stanley - *Chair, Zone 7*
Craig Lehr - *Zone 1*
Jimmy Nelson - *Zone 2*
Walt Suntjens - *Zone 4*
Cam McLerie - *Zone 5*
Cecil Andersen - *Zone 6*
George L'Heureux - *Zone 8*
John MacArthur - *Zone 9 (via phone)*
Jeff Havens - *@ Large*
Glen Kummer - *@ Large*

Staff: Rich Smith - *Executive Director*
Rosanne Allen - *Office Administrator*

Absent: Tim Sekura - *Board rep*

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

1. Adoption of Agenda

(a) Additions and Adoption of Agenda:

Additions: 4(i) Resolutions to RMA and Ag Service Board; 6(f) Save on Foods; 6(g) CFIA update; 6(h) Carbon levels;

Motion by Suntjens/Andersen:

“That the agenda be approved with changes.”

Carried

2. Approval of Minutes

(a) Minutes of the December 3, 2018 meeting:

Motion by Suntjens/Havens:

“That the minutes of the December 3, 2018 Cattle Feeder Council meeting be approved as presented.”

Carried

3. Financial Report

(a) Financial Statement ending February 28, 2018:

With this meeting we will be slightly over budget. The Council has already committed \$33,660 for ILWG membership and covered the ILWG deficit \$6,461.

Motion by Kummer/L'Heureux:

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

Carried

4. Decision Items

(a) ILWG funding and direction:

The Council needs to make a decision on whether they want to continue funding the Intensive Livestock Working Group. Stanley, who sits on the ILWG Board, believes that there is a benefit to ABP participating in ILWG. The funding for the group is split among the eight groups that make up the working group with 45% of the funding coming from the cattle industry. During the 2018 budget discussions, the council approved paying the ILWG membership of \$33,660 for their current fiscal year which ends August 31st.

The delegates discussed different options if ABP continues to participate in ILWG or if they pulled their funding. The council agreed they should remain members, but ABP would no longer contribute to the Executive Directors salary.

Motion by L'Heureux/Suntjens:

“That the Cattle Feeder Council withdraw funding for the Intensive Livestock Working Group Executive Director and provide more in-kind work.”

Carried

(b) Building Public Trust Project:

The purpose of this initiative is to repair the widening gap between CFO's and their neighbours and municipalities. The multi-phase project will identify critical issues between CFO's their neighbours and municipalities and then develop a template to rebuild public trust. The ILWG will be working with the Rural Municipalities of Alberta to identify the testing ground.

The total cost for the project is \$128,000 and ILWG has requested some funding through the CAP program and the rest, hopefully, would be covered by in-kind contributions from industry partners.

Motion by Suntjens/Havens:

“That CFC support the *Building Public Trust in the Confined Feeding Industry* project in principle without providing further funding.”

Carried

(c) Cattle Feeder Council budget 2019-2020:

The CFC budget for the current fiscal year is \$50,000. The council members agreed that reducing the budget to \$20,000 would provide meeting expenses and cover any other unexpected expense that should arise.

Motion by L'Heureux/McLerie:

“That the CFC request a budget of \$20,000 for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.”

Carried

(d) Winter manure management project and actions:

Smith has been waiting for the report from the pilot project that is still not ready. The project has been extended for one more year. There are ten CFO's from the north and ten from the south who are participating in the project.

Stanley, Nelson, and Suntutjens have agreed to participate in a working group with the ACFA to pursue government policy changes on winter manure management. The pilot project allows CFO's to spread manure over frozen or snow-covered land if they have an approved manure management plan.

(e) CCA Assessment and refund requests:

One of the things that the board has been looking at is the CCA's assessment based on the fixed rate of \$0.53 per marketing. ABP is in the process of changing their refund forms allowing producers to direct \$0.53 per marketing towards the CCA assessment. This change will be in place for June 2019 and producers will have to use this form going forward. If this does not work, then ABP will have to speak with CCA about funding the assessment.

The auction marts are willing to include a letter with their cheques explaining how the check-off money is divided.

Two issues the board is looking into are whether we should begin publishing the names of producers who take a refund and whether producers who take a refund should be eligible to vote for or become a delegate. Marketing Council is reluctant to allow names to be released. There have been several motions in the past asking for producers' names to be released.

(f) ABP-ACFA agreement:

ABP and ACFA agreed that one board member from each organization will sit as a nonvoting member on each board. Areas that have been identified where the two organizations can collaborate are: shared services on communication to producers and consumers; board governance and media training; involving ACFA in fall meetings; sharing staff responsibilities; contributions to CCA and ABIDF and funding for them. Both organizations want to keep the momentum of the collaboration going. ABP will also look at moving the AGM to coincide with ABIC at some point.

The two organizations will be lobbying the government directly with one voice with the idea that shared advocacy will keep the industry strong.

(g) Provincial election priorities:

ABP distributed a briefing document to delegates for the election. Top priorities for ABP include: labour legislation; grazing leases; labour; carbon levy. This information is being shared with all the parties in the election.

(h) AgSafe Alberta funding and representation:

This is an industry led farm and ranch safety organization. ABP was a founding member of the association and this was something that should have been done before Bill 6 was proposed and passed. Garth Porteous has been our representative there, but he needs to step away and we need someone to replace him. ABP's share of the funding is \$60,000 a year. They are also looking for farm and ranch employees to sit on a Worker's Advisory Committee.

L'Heureux is interested in sitting on the board.

(i) Resolutions to Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) and Ag Service Board Conference:

L'Heureux will be bringing a resolution forward to the RMA to bring agriculture into the school curriculum. ABP is already working on including agriculture into the school curriculum. The connection between agriculture and society needs to be made. L'Heureux is looking for support from ABP for the resolution.

Lehr is a member of the Chamber of Commerce in his area and they strongly support agriculture.

Motion by Andersen/Kummer:

“That the CFC support the Rural Municipalities of Alberta and Agricultural Service Board Conference resolutions to include more agriculture in the school curriculum.”

Carried

5. In Camera

6. Discussion Items

(a) Competitiveness Study:

ABP and ACFA have engaged Serecon to assess the competitiveness of the beef industry. Smith is waiting for the results of the study in order to inform discussions during and after the provincial election.

(b) Prescription only antibiotic dispensing:

Smith asked if the members have heard or experienced any negative impacts since the regulations came into effect on December 1, 2018. The UFA is still looking into getting a pharmacy in their stores.

ABP met with the ABVMA during ABIC to discuss the dispensing of prescription only antimicrobials.

(c) Municipal taxation:

We will not be able to make any headway on this issue until after the provincial election and a possible Supreme Court ruling on the Lethbridge business tax.

(d) Municipal Development Plans and CFO Exclusion Zones:

Discussed during 4(b).

(e) Fed cattle price reporting:

Smith recently became aware that members of ACFA are giving pricing information directly to AFSC instead of going through Canfax.

(f) Save on Foods:

Save on Foods would like farmer or rancher representation at Alberta stores on May 18th from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

(g) CFIA update:

Producers have been hearing rumours on traceability and members were wondering if there were any facts available yet. ABP and CCA fought hard to make these regulations acceptable to the cattle industry, including the definition for community pasture. As soon as Smith hears anything, he will inform the delegates. The new transportation regulations can be found on the internet. Moving compromised cattle will also become more difficult.

(h) Carbon levels:

Carbon levels are relatively low compared to the history of the earth and we may need to increase them to maintain healthy growing cycles. We need to inform the government on facts of carbon levels and get the research groups involved. Carbon taxes are not the way to address this.

There is already a lot of research being done on carbon.

7. Next Meeting

- (a) Cattle Feeder Council meeting – June 12, 2019 – Delta by Marriott South Hotel, Edmonton, AB

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by L'Heureux at 12:20 p.m.